

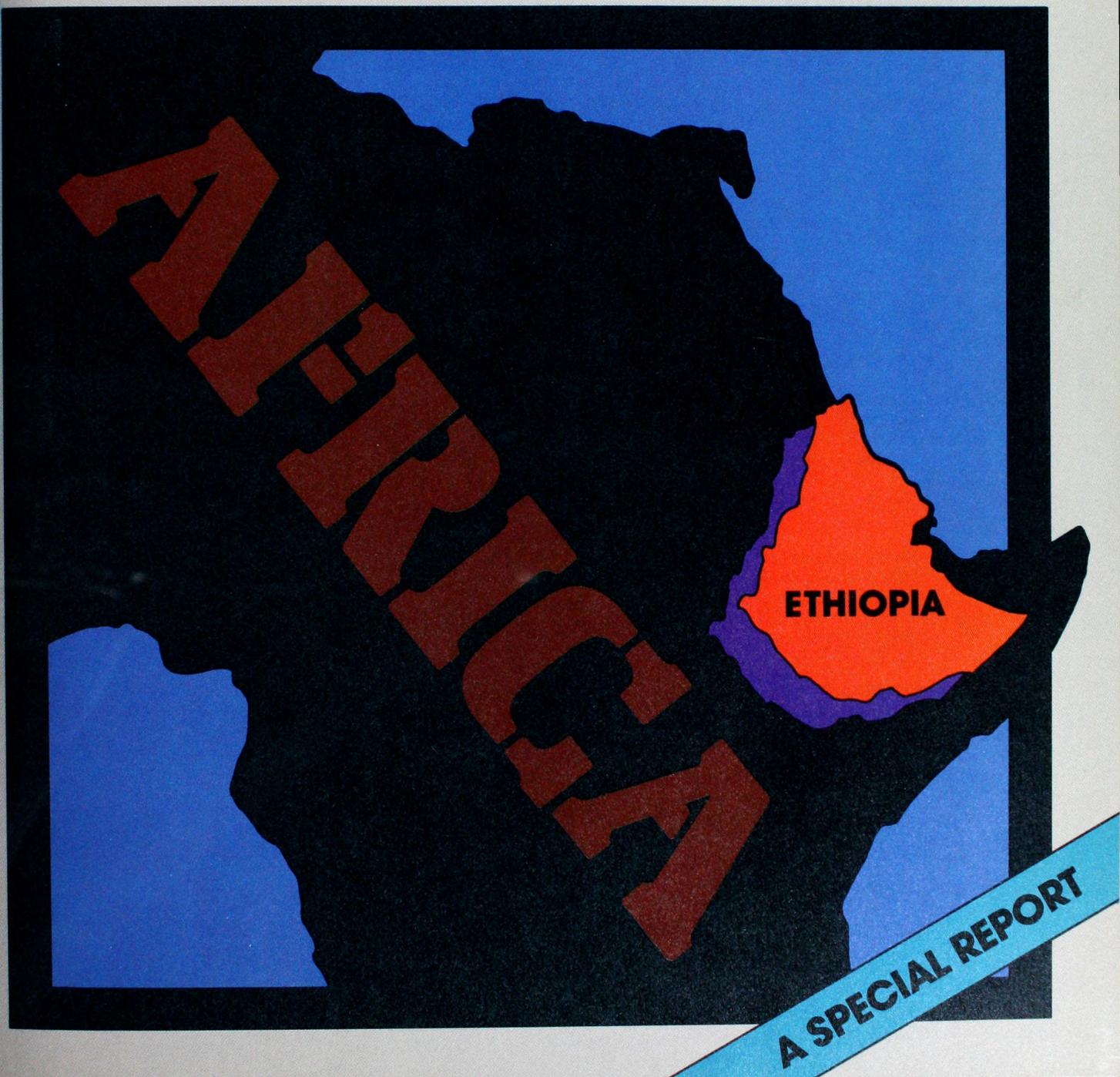
A coastal  
oasis of hope

Women share  
the burden

What I learned from  
an Ethiopian boy

June-July 1985

# *World Vision*®



# Readers write

## A shared question

"I Still Feel Your Suffering" (Rory Starks, April-May '85 issue) brought back poignant memories of our experience with suffering humanity while missionaries in Peru.

Rory's statement, "Why, I wondered, am I so fortunate, while you struggle daily just to survive? There was no answer. I wept," reflects the questions I had while in Peru. The disparity of it all overwhelmed me also.

I, too, wept as I viewed the extreme material, physical and spiritual poverty of those dear Indian people. I asked, "God, why have you blessed us so bountifully?" I was thinking primarily of our beloved America; then the question became very personal: "Why have you blessed *me* so bountifully?" And the answer came through loud and clear in the words of our Lord Jesus, "Freely ye have received, freely give."

He has so bountifully blessed us that we may (and must) share joyfully, spontaneously and generously with others. That, then, is the answer.

The disparity still overwhelms me occasionally, but then I think of Peru, and words from your very own magazine (a past issue) give me inspiration to keep praying, giving, sharing and caring: "Do something even if everything can't be done."

Hazel Welton  
Morton, IL

## "I can't sit by."

I just read through my first issue of WORLD VISION. It moved me to tears as much as the television broadcast that enlightened me as to who World Vision is and what you are doing in Christ's name for the starving, hurting people in the world.

For at least two months before I saw the program, I had been reading so much on the plight of Ethiopians and other Africans. There was a lot of bad publicity about how the funds and relief being sent to these countries were not reaching the hungry, but staying in the hands of the greedy. I really wanted to help, but I could not make the decision without asking the Lord, "Who should I give my help through?"

My prayers became heightened the week I caught the World Vision program. It was about 1:45 a.m., an unusual time for me to be watching TV. My husband was out of town and I just wasn't sleepy. Then the

program came on and as I watched, the Holy Spirit within wept from depths that I have rarely tapped in my life. I knew it was the Lord's tears for His people, and I knew that this was my time to act.

It isn't like me to pledge a monthly sum without consulting my husband, but knowing the impulse was from the Lord, I knew there would be no problem.

Now after reading the magazine, I wish I could be involved in a more personal way. I can understand what Gary Collins means when he says, "As a Christian, I can't sit by . . ." I'll just keep asking the Lord to use me to minister to His people—especially to those who have never known Him as their personal, living Savior. If there is anything I can do to help, I will.

Felice Brooks  
Roswell, GA

## Why can't we meet everyone's basic needs?

I was moved to write after reading the letter from Dr. Jim Owens and the article by Liz Kliewer in the April-May issue of World Vision.

I was very troubled by references to persons waiting as long as three days to be seen in the clinics, lack of sufficient food and medical supplies to meet basic needs of some persons coming to the camps, and lack of shelter for the people at night.

I feel a need to understand why the combined efforts of the relief community in general and World Vision in particular cannot, despite the great outpouring of financial and volunteer help, meet the basic needs of all persons arriving at the camps. Are funds collected so far insufficient to meet the needs? Or is there a lack of competent personnel at the camps? Or other factors?

If you could enlighten me further, I would be most grateful. If there is anything more you or I or anyone can do to further alleviate the suffering of these people, it is incumbent upon us as Christians to do so.

Thank you for bringing the plight of these impoverished African brothers, sisters and children home to me in a most eloquent way.

C. Scott Bucher, RN  
Boiling Springs, PA

*World Vision is feeding 100,000 people daily, but even though we utilize every resource we have and give the aid directly to the people, there is not yet enough grain*

*available for everyone. A second problem is that the delivery of food is very difficult. Ethiopia, one of the poorest nations in the world, has much mountainous terrain and very few roads or trucks.*

*Between six and seven million people in Ethiopia are considered "at risk," which means they will die unless they are fed. The overwhelming numbers of hungry people mean that the total relief that everyone is working toward is not yet attainable.*

*As to relief personnel, both expatriate and national staffs are unusually capable and dedicated, working beyond the exhaustion point under incredibly difficult conditions. But relief agencies, including World Vision, struggle constantly to recruit enough trained, experienced people to deal with the acute, specialized needs of the famine-stricken.*

## God's heartbeat

The scenes of precious little ones (and the parents also, for they too are God's little children) and their suffering, have not let me rest and God has given me a lullaby telling of His love for children. I am in the process of having this song copyrighted, but if you would like to use the words in WORLD VISION, you have my permission. Maybe someone who reads them will feel God's heartbeat and want to share an extra gift of love.

## Dear Little One

Oh dear little one, dear precious one,  
You're a gift from God above  
To our family, to nurture you  
In His wisdom and His love.  
Long before we ever knew you,  
You were part of His great plan  
He in secret formed each feature  
Each tiny finger of your hand.

Jesus loves you, dear little one,  
The Bible tells us so.  
He said, "Come to me, forbid them not,  
'Bring the lambs into my fold'."  
So rest now, dear little one,  
Close your eyes and go to sleep.  
For His angels, watching o'er you,  
Their tender vigil will keep.

Thank you, Father, how we love You,  
Seek your guidance for each day.  
May this little one, this precious one  
Grow to walk your Holy Way.

Harriet Harting  
Tinley Park, IL

# World Vision®



## 4 A coastal oasis of hope

Nomads in Mauritania's capital city slums receive health care.



## 6 Sharing the burden

World Vision women share their responses to ministry-related stress.



## 11 Ethiopia's long walk back to health

What's happened and what lies ahead for weary famine victims.

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## PEOPLE WANT TO KNOW

**Questions about Ethiopia?** The list is long:

- How could such a massive tragedy develop?
- How many lives are being saved?
- How many more need rescue from starvation?
- Can't food be sent faster?
- Where are the major projects located?
- What about resettlement?
- Are the rains adequate yet?
- How is the Bread of Life shared?
- How are Ethiopian Christians faring?
- Who will care for the orphans?
- What will World Vision's roles be during the next five years?
- Although even he does not have an

answer for every such question, Dr. Ken Waters has written the most complete report our magazine has ever carried on the Ethiopia situation in which you are involved with World Vision. The story is on pages 11 through 18. His overview-update and the accompanying map and photos will clarify important facts for you and for those with whom you share your copy of the magazine.

*David Olson*

PHOTOS, ILLUSTRATIONS: Cover, pp. 14, 15 (left): Judith Walker; pp. 4, 5 (above left): Martin Lonsdale; p. 5 (above right, bottom left): Sheryl J. Watkins; p. 9: Thea Chitambar; p. 10: Richard J. Watson; pp. 11-13, 16 (left), 17, 18, 25: Steve Reynolds; p. 15 (right): Jim Owens, M.D.; p. 16 (right): Jacob Akol; return envelope: David Ward; p. 20: Carol Jean Cox; pp. 22, 23: Merrill Weale; p. 24: Charles Bascom, M.D.

For the hungry children of  
proud desert nomads . . .

# A COASTAL OASIS OF HOPE

by Merrill Weale

**F**rom the air, Nouakchott is quite striking, nestled along the gracefully curving coastline where the blue-black Atlantic Ocean meets the shimmering orange sand of the Sahel.

Mauritania's capital city has experienced phenomenal growth over the last 25 years. Its population of around 5000 in the early 60s has mushroomed to an incredible 350,000 today, placing great strains on municipal systems that were already unable to keep pace.

There is no other landscape here but endless desert sand to the east and open sea to the west. The desert is not a place of cities but a place of small communities separated by miles of expansive sand and scrub. The nomadic tribes of Mauritania have, for centuries, crisscrossed the Sahara with families and herds, following the seasonal changes, constantly on the move. They lived away from the communities and away from the cities.

But nomadism is dying in West Africa. The expanding desert daily claims thousands of acres of land, and the slowly sinking water table eventually abandons hundreds of oases and water stations. Thousands of desert dwellers have been forced to

flee to the cities in search of water and food.

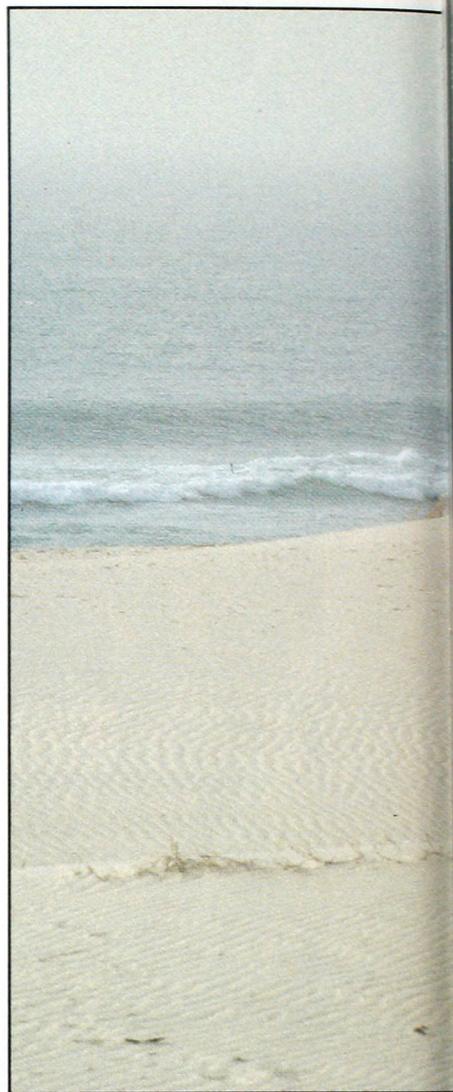
The drought that grips this part of Africa is rapidly putting an end to any romantic notions we might still have about nomadic people wandering freely across the vast Sahara. They have no choice. To stay in the desert is to watch children and herds die slowly from lack of water. So they come by the thousands to cities like Nouakchott and take their chances. There is, they soon find out, very little room for them here; the city was not meant to shelter this many drought-displaced refugees. And so, the inevitable: proud and independent families are forced into an existence that goes against everything they have ever known. Where once they were able to move about at will, now they are forced to settle, to make permanent dwellings. Where once they fed their flocks at desert springs, now they must scrounge for a daily ration of water.

With a change in environment came also a change in diet. Where once there was meat and milk there is now fish. Many children are sick and their

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**T**housands of desert dwellers have been forced to flee to the cities in search of water and food.

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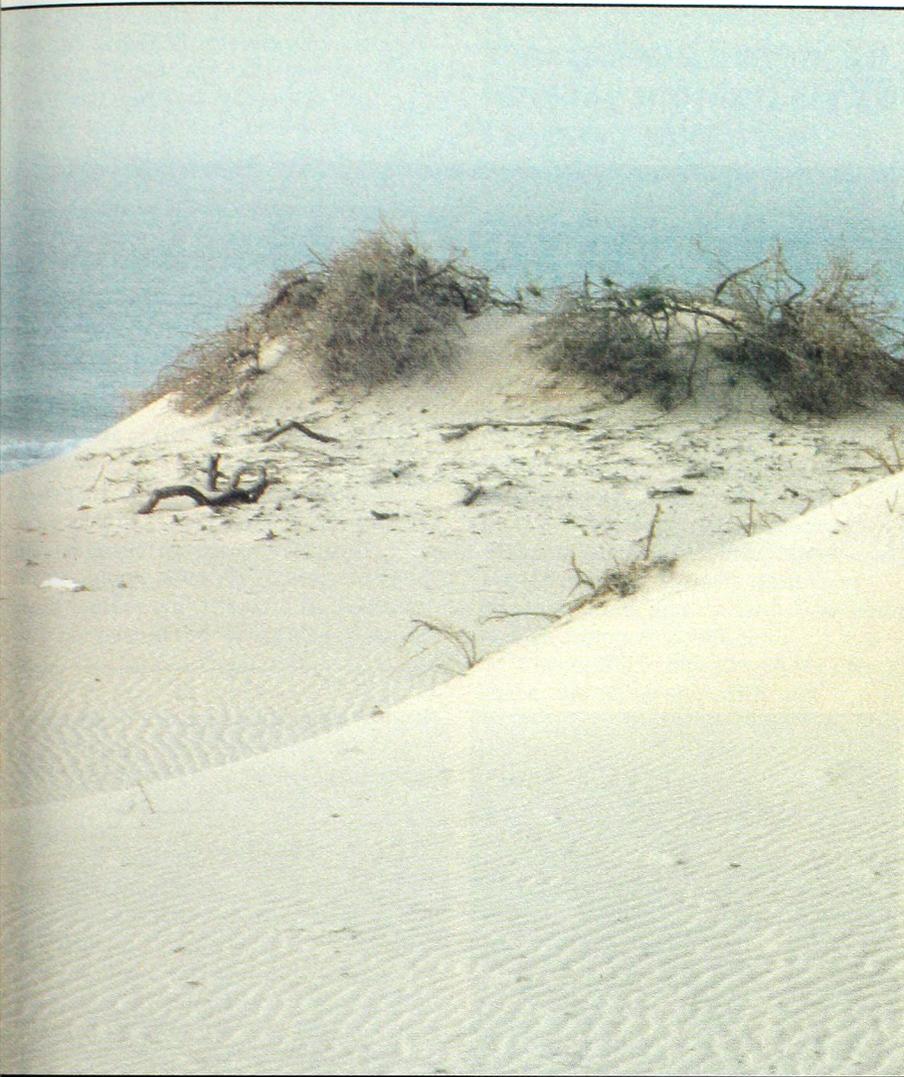
mothers are ashamed to take them outside the camp for treatment. The children grow up in an urban environment where there is as much opportunity for trouble as there is for an education. The one advantage the city might have offered them—literacy—is denied them. There are very few schools here.

But there is, in the middle of this quarter of the city, a bright green barrack, not unlike a lot of the small buildings that surround it. Just outside is a typical desert-style tent under which are seated about 60 women and children, all waiting patiently in the blazing heat of midday.

This is the health center that has been established by Terre des Hommes, World Vision's partner in the job of providing health care and health education to the hundreds of families that live in this slum area of Nouakchott. Although in Mauritania the hours

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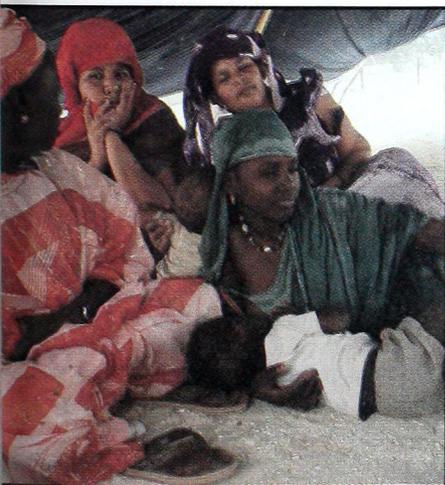
*Merrill Weale is director of World Vision Canada's publications and promotion division.*



Women like Masouda (below, with her fourth child, Merriam Mint Cidi) who come to the dispensary are asked to pay only as much as they can for treatment.



**The women of this neighborhood bring their children to a place where they are welcomed and offered new hope for a healthy future.**



Mothers wait in the shade of a tent to have their children seen at the Terre des Hommes dispensary in Nouakchott.

between 2:30 and 4:30 are set aside for rest—a logical break from the heat and sun—here inside this tiny wooden structure it's business as usual. There is a lot to be done and no time for a break.

Try to imagine working here in a harsh and relentless climate, witnessing a continual parade of health problems among people who are helpless to fight back. But despite all of this I saw dedicated women, expatriate staff as well as nationals, who still had the time and energy to smile at each bewildered child, and who still had the patience to talk out each problem, no matter how small. World Vision is indeed fortunate to have such partners on the field, to be working with people who really care.

I was shown that the gifts of World Vision donors are being distributed with love and with concern by people who believe in the dignity of the human spirit and the precious gift of life God has given.

The women of this impoverished neighborhood bring their children, His children, to a place where they are welcomed and offered new hope for a healthy future. They are asked to pay what they can for this care. More a symbol than real payment, their contribution says that they are doing what they can to keep their children healthy. But it is because of the generous gifts of World Vision partners throughout the world that this tiny barrack exists as a place of healing.

The desert continues to spread and the streets of Nouakchott continue to be filled with the noises of too many children, too many animals, too many people. There are no simple solutions to the problems caused by this persistent drought, but as long as there is need, the struggle must continue. □

# SHARING THE BURDEN

**“One of my constant battles** as the wife of a World Vision employee is to willingly accept the long hours and absences related to my husband’s work.” By supplying variations on the organization name, countless women could make these words of Marlene Dick (World Vision of Canada) their own.

At World Vision, this kind of lonely struggle was recognized as part of a whole range of women’s felt needs, and six years ago a quarterly newsletter was initiated. A dictionary definition of its name, *Parakaleo*, includes “encourage, comfort, build up.” Although originally intended for the wives of World Vision expatriate staff, the publication was welcomed by other World Vision women as well. In recognition of this broader audience, *Parakaleo* was recently given a new sub-title: *A Newsletter by and for World Vision Women*.

A variety of women’s concerns are dealt with in the newsletter, but the focus of the March 1985 issue was on meeting creatively the special needs of families with ministry-absentee husbands/fathers. Because this is a problem with which many of our readers must deal, we asked several of the *Parakaleo* writers if they would allow us to share selections from their articles with you.



*Marlene Dick is not only a World Vision wife (her husband Ken is group director, corporate and financial services, WV Canada) but also serves as a volunteer in a WVC office. She is on the executive committee of the Christian Women’s Club, is a frequent speaker for women’s groups, and is active in a local church. The Dicks have four children (one of whom works full time for WVC) and two grandchildren.*

**Marlene Dick**, quoted earlier, speaks frankly of her effort to accept her husband’s time-and-energy-consuming schedule. In “For His Glory,” she recounts the experience that changed her perspective and has helped her repeatedly through the years.

“Shortly after my husband Ken joined World Vision, he was scheduled for a three-to-four-week orientation trip

through Asia. He had never been away from home for that length of time before, and I struggled for weeks prior to his departure because I didn’t want him to go.

“While in Hong Kong, Ken was taken on a day trip to the China border, accompanied by Christina Lee from the local World Vision office. During the day, Ken learned that Christina was not a Christian. He shared his testimony with her, and promised that he would pray for her salvation.

**“One of my constant battles is to willingly accept my husband’s long hours and absences.”**

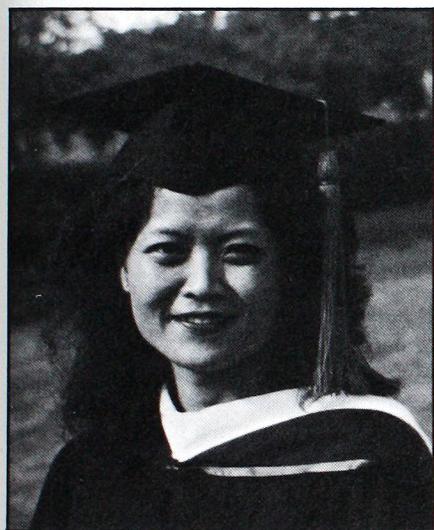
“About four months later, Christina wrote that she had accepted Jesus Christ as her personal Savior, and another letter some time after that, told him she had been baptized.

“I felt very rebuked when I realized that God had used this trip for His glory in spite of my attitude. I had the joy of meeting Christina in Canada while she was here for orientation, and again in Taiwan with Ken when Christina was in charge of the work there.

“On that same trip, we went from

Taiwan to Australia where Ken shared in the World Vision chapel service. A young Chinese woman introduced herself and said how happy she was to meet Ken. She had been working in the office in Hong Kong at the time of his visit, she explained, and was to have accompanied him to the China border that day. She became ill, however, and Christina was asked to take her place. She told us that everyone in the office had been praying for Christina. They had been so thankful that God had sent Ken to witness to her that day.

"It was at that point I began to be able to accept the fact that traveling was part of Ken's ministry with World Vision, and since then it has been much easier for me to let him go, although we always miss him very much. And I am deeply thankful to God that we are part of the World Vision family."



*Christina Lee first worked for World Vision Hong Kong, then successively as operations director for WV Taiwan and as project consultant with WV Asia. Now on leave of absence from WV, Christina received her master's degree in communication in 1984 and is currently working on a doctorate in adult and continuing education at Michigan State University.*

**Christina Lee**, the young Chinese woman of Marlene's story, is now on leave of absence from World Vision, working on a doctorate at Michigan State University. In 1982 she had written to *Parakaleo* in response to a readership questionnaire. Some of her comments are quoted in the March 1985 issue.

"I've gained insight on how my future married life (if I marry) might

**"I've gained insight on how my married life (if I marry) might be affected. . ."**

be affected should I continue to be a World Vision workaholic, perhaps neglecting the needs of my husband, or not being able to count on his being supportive and understanding.

"I've often said that the wives of World Vision executives have the toughest jobs in the world; their husbands are subject to such great demands, diversity of assignments and responsibilities. It really takes God's wisdom, much love and much patience to be a supportive wife.

"Through this newsletter, we can share, and fellowship with, and support and encourage one another, brothers and sisters in World Vision, all over the world."

**Laura de Chuquín**, in "Priorities," speaks forthrightly and practically about a perspective she feels has been largely neglected in *Parakaleo*.

"All the articles I have read up to now concerning the problems caused by a husband who, of necessity, works late and travels frequently, try to teach the wife that it's her responsibility to be patient and pious and tolerate things. The articles never mention the fact that the husband also has a great responsibility in this area.

"Obviously, a large part of this does fall on the wife, but marriage should involve compromise, with each partner carrying his/her part. Our family had learned to accept the fact that José was seldom home, but it still caused resentment, as much on my own part as on that of the children. Through Bible study and training as family counselors, José and I have come to the following conclusions:

"The husband's role, seen from a biblical perspective, is that of ministering to his wife and family. That means seeing that harmony exists in the home and providing for the personal growth of each individual member. That's a big responsibility, and one that can't be done by correspondence alone.

"Unfortunately, the husband's role frequently degenerates to that of provider and part-time companion while the wife suffers 'heroically' to maintain a strong Christian family, feeling guilty when she can't fulfill both roles (husband/father and wife/mother) perfectly. This is a mistaken interpretation of what the Bible has taught us about our roles in marriage. It's not just up to the wife to see that family and marriage survive. It's a shared responsibility as is very clearly shown in Ephesians 5:21-33.

"José has reevaluated his responsibilities and cut out unnecessary traveling and meetings. Once a month, we take an entire day for just ourselves. We use this time to review our marriage, see what areas we need to work on, share, and just be together. We also save 15-20 minutes for sharing daily and another 10-15 minutes for



*Laura de Chuquín graduated in Spanish culture and language from Warren Wilson College in North Carolina, where she also met and married her husband, José, now World Vision field director in Bogotá, Colombia. Laura is studying biblical family counseling from a Latin perspective, and is training in systemic psychotherapy. She is director of their church's family ministry and outreach committee and operates a low-income family counseling service. Laura and José together conduct marriage enrichment seminars. The Chuquíns have three children.*

**"It's not just up to the wife to see that family and marriage survive."**

praying together before going to bed. "We try to go out one night a week after the children are asleep; on Saturday nights we have a family worship, and Sunday is our family day, dedicated to the church and the children—and with lunch fixed by José. He and I have our own devotional time Sunday evening after the children are asleep, combining Bible study, singing, praying and reading books aloud.

I now know that whatever meetings José attends or trips he takes, are important. I also know that we will have our scheduled time together. I am no longer resentful, and am able to give him the support he needs, so that he can travel without feeling guilty or worried. I'm also able to care for the children with a positive spirit when he's gone.

"I invite all of you to study Ephesians 5, and in the light of that, ask the Lord to help you evaluate your priorities. What position do we really give our spouses and families?"

**Barbara Kohl**, current editor of *Parakaleo*, writes in her article, "Insights": "Some comments I heard recently on managers helped me to understand and accept some of my husband's characteristics and attitudes, simply by realizing that they were shared by managers in general. This issue of *Parakaleo* was prompted by a search for insights on how to become a better helpmate for a particular manager, my husband, who works for a particular organization, World Vision,

**"I asked my husband how I could be a better helpmate. His answer: 'By understanding.'"**

which demands (or inspires him to give) so much of his time and energy. Absences from home, long hours at the office, and stress levels have not diminished in the eight years we have been with World Vision. I have often felt lonely, neglected and depressed.

"But in various ways over the past twelve months, as I have thought about my own unmet needs, the Lord has been prompting me to ask, 'Am I meeting my husband's needs? How can I be the kind of helpmate God intended me to be?'"

**How can I be a helpmate of any kind when I'm so in need myself when the waiting for your presence, your companionship for the dripping tap to be fixed for your decision on something important leaves me with nothing to share except my emptiness?**

"In seeking my own answer to how I could be a better helpmate, I searched the Scriptures, read Christian books, talked to other Christians. Then one day recently, I asked my husband. His answer was a short one: 'By understanding . . . (that I *need* to do what I am doing—working so hard and such long hours).'"

"When Manfred called from Ethiopia



*Barbara Kohl graduated in modern history from the University of Toronto and taught in high school, later earning a Master of Divinity degree from the then Gordon Divinity School. Following her marriage to Manfred Kohl, Barbara and her husband spent seven years in a Massachusetts pastorate. Manfred joined World Vision in 1977 and is now national director in the West German branch of WV Europe. The Kohls have two sons, 10 and 12.*

yesterday, on a trip he felt he needed to make even though he was ill, he said, 'I'm glad you understand.' I think I really do."

Understanding . . . reevaluating . . . understanding. The need for positive family relationships where the husband and father must deal with deep and distant problems is always great. Four World Vision women have generously shared their own God-guided thoughts. □

## WRITE YOUR EDITOR

**Magazine editors** love mail from their readers. Letters from readers—whether they affirm, challenge or add to a published article—indicate that readers think, feel and possibly act on what they read. And often, such letters provide useful information, insights or ideas which can be used in one way or another.

Because I value readers' remarks on any subject WORLD VISION

magazine touches on or ought to touch on, I want to encourage *you*—you reading these words now—to send me a short note if something on one of our pages provokes an unanswered question or produces a deep urge to share with me (and possibly with other readers) a special observation about Christian ministry to the world's needy.

Write "Yes, but," "No, but" or whatever. Although I cannot promise

you a letter in reply, I assure you I'll read what you write. And I'll print at least excerpts from some of the most pertinent letters I receive.

Your chance of getting into print is better if you write pointedly and concisely, in 100 words or less—preferably on the perforated slip you'll find alongside the return envelope near page 19. The earlier the better.

*David Olson*

# WHAT I LEARNED FROM AN ETHIOPIAN BOY

by Thea Chitambar

**H**is name was Yamar. I met him when I was in Ethiopia recently serving as a short-term nutritionist in the World Vision nutrition-health center at Alamata. Yamar was about 12 years old. For some reason he attached himself to me one day and we became friends.

Even though Yamar was so young, he seemed in some ways like he was 12 going on 30. There was no doubt that he had been affected by the drought and famine, but in a sense, that ordeal had made him strong.

The incident that marked our meeting taught me much about the character of the Ethiopian people.

I met Yamar as I was walking through a village market looking at the kinds of things available there. Since I had been asked to design a program of occupational therapy for the women at our center, I needed such information to

plan a successful program.

As I walked along, Yamar came up behind me and began to walk with me. When I bent down to look at some grain, he said, "That's tef." (Tef is the grain from which the people make bread.) A bit surprised, I asked him whether he spoke English.

"A little bit," he replied.

Yamar continued to point out different things to me in the marketplace and tried to describe them in English. Other boys began to follow us. All of them were very poor; many were in rags.

Since Yamar had been so helpful, I decided to give him some money. I was grateful to him and wanted to repay his kindness.

However, the minute I offered him one *bir* (about 50 cents), he immediately gave it back to me, exclaiming, "No, no, no. That's a bad habit. No money—bad habit."

I tried to insist. "Take it," I told him. "Buy something for yourself."

"No," Yamar firmly stated, "I'll eat your food, but I won't take your money."

That incident really touched me. It was obvious Yamar could have used the money. And he deserved it. But his sense of dignity said no. He saw it as begging.

At one time Yamar's family had been well-to-do and his upbringing had taught him not to accept money. His willingness to eat my food was perhaps because it was more like sharing between friends. Yamar probably also knew that if he accepted money from me, all the other children would have clamored, "Give me too!"

Yamar came to visit me every day while I was in Alamata. Once he brought me two lemons from his tree and invited me to his village. Yamar would often sit and talk with me about himself and his "future." He expressed a keen desire to be a doctor to help his people.

I learned much from Yamar during those visits. But I was most impressed by his dignity and sense of what was right. Amid the crises of famine and drought, he retained a sense of who he was and what he wanted to be. He lived out his principles even under the most adverse circumstances. I think that we Christians should not want to do any less. □

*Thea Chitambar, author of this article and the one on the next page, is a former university instructor in India and mother of three grown children. She has worked extensively in community development in India and other countries. Her husband Ben is the associate director of rural development for World Vision International.*

Thea feeds a famine-weakened child.



# AN ETHIOPIAN WIDOW'S MITE

by Thea Chitambar

**G**od? There is no God. If there were a God, He would not have done this to us." That is what some destitute Ethiopians told me as they waited to be helped at World Vision's nutrition-health center in Alamata, where I served recently as a short-term nutritionist.

But not all the people I talked to felt that way. Many, when I asked them for their thoughts about why the crisis was happening to them, simply replied, "God knows what He's doing."

Their faith remains steadfast. And they don't merely talk about God; they live His reality.

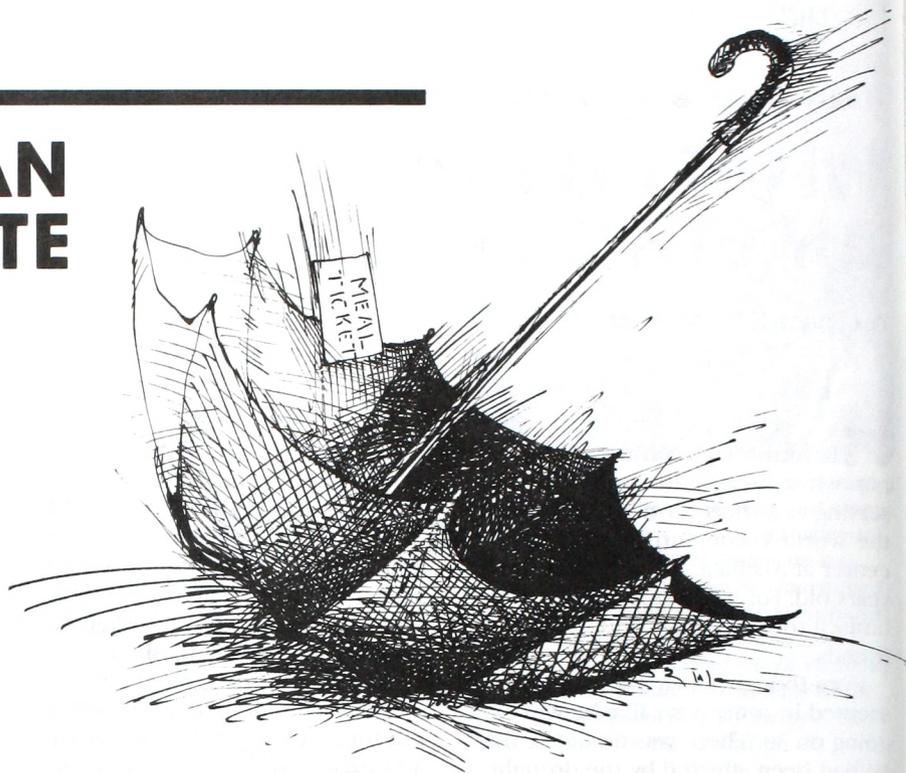
Every day between 4 and 5 a.m., I heard voices of people uniting in prayer. These voices would come from the church on the hill above our nutrition-health center. As they prayed they walked, circling the church, carrying rocks on their shoulders or on their heads. The rocks, I learned, symbolize the burdens they bear because of the famine. And the prayers are for forgiveness of their sins and for rain.

One Sunday morning I went up to that church. I watched an outdoor worship service. As the service progressed, a priest stood in front of the crowd, holding an umbrella. He held it upside down, to serve as a collection plate.

One by one, people came forward and placed in that umbrella various items that represented sacrificial giving to them.

Although another priest urged more of the people to put something into the umbrella, few had anything to give. Some from a nearby village were better off, but most were completely destitute; in fact, they had come to the area seeking the help of our center.

One elderly woman in particular caught my attention. Limp from



**When I asked why they thought the crisis was happening to them, many simply said, "God knows what He's doing."**

hunger, she wore tattered rags that hung loose on her frail frame. Although she could barely walk, she made her way up to the offering umbrella. Then I recognized her as one who had staggered to our center.

When she came forward, she took something I recognized and placed it in the umbrella. It was the meal ticket I had given her the day before—her only means of getting any food for the rest of the day!

Watching her, I was reminded of the biblical story about the widow and her two small copper coins (Mark 12:41-44). I remembered how that widow gave not of her surplus, but all she had.

Many other things too, touched my heart while I was in Ethiopia. Apart from seeing the incredible suffering, hearing the wailing children and smelling death all around, I was

extremely impressed by the dignity and faith of many of the Ethiopian World Vision staff with whom I worked. They are committed and dedicated workers, trusting God to provide the strength to serve in such a hard place.

Their source of strength? They keep close to the Lord. They pray often, especially at the end of each day.

I've seen them sit late in the evening, praying and singing for three hours after an exhausting day of work. They are not only an example to those around them but also to us who are their partners by support.

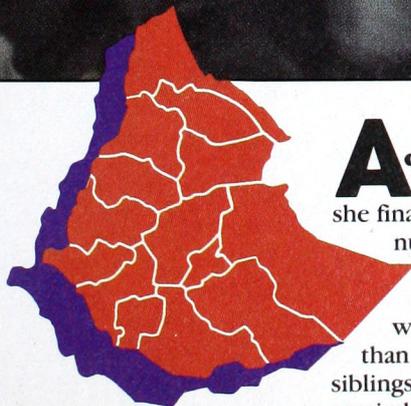
Seldom did I see any of them talk sharply to the famine victims. I was touched by the compassion, love and encouragement they gave. When they heard someone say, "There is no God," they replied, "Yes there *is* God; you will see. And you are going to see good days. This time will pass."

As we minister in Christ's name, I pray that we too can continue to provide that kind of hope to those who suffer through such terrible famine and drought. My prayer is that we learn from the people there, like the elderly woman and our Ethiopian staff, what it means to live a life of faith under such extreme circumstances. □

# ETHIOPIA'S LONG WALK BACK TO HEALTH

by Ken Waters

New nutrition-health centers, like this one at Ajibar, are being opened as the number of famine victims grows.



**A**dise Ayelew, 11, was a staggering skeleton when she finally reached World Vision's nutrition-health center at the town of Alamata in Ethiopia's central highlands. She had walked or been carried more than 25 miles by two of her three siblings. Her mother, Marshienye, had carried Adise's youngest sister, just a few weeks old.

The arduous trek through blast-furnace days and chilling mountain nights was necessary because the family's father had disappeared. He could no longer grow crops or find other work; Ethiopia's spreading famine had rendered him helpless to care for his family. So he left.

He left behind a pregnant wife who

could barely care for the family. Lacking money, the children begged food from neighbors until the birth of the new baby.

As soon as Marshienye regained strength, she packed the family's meager belongings, and they walked toward the place where others said food and health care were available.

When Adise and her sister Yesharage were examined by World Vision health workers, they were immediately brought to the super-intensive feeding ward to receive five high-protein meals per day. Thousands of other children were also being helped.

This intensive care paid off. A few weeks after admittance to the feeding ward, Adise was walking and playing again with her brothers and sisters.

Adise was fortunate to make it to Alamata in time.

Many children arrive too late. Like Bishenepu. Health workers found him cradled in his mother's arms outside the World Vision nutrition-health center at Lalibela. The mother whimpered quietly, rocking Bishenepu back and forth.

A nurse felt his pulse. "I think this one just died," she whispered to the doctor.

Another nurse slipped quietly away and returned a minute later with traditional burial wrappings. As gently as possible, she extracted the still child

from his mother's arms. Hardly noticing the removal of the child, the mother continued to rock as if he were still sleeping in her arms.

She stopped when she saw her son wrapped up as a mummy.

Tears filled her eyes. Her whimpering turned to wailing: "Bishenepu . . . Bishenepu!"

She tried to stand, but her legs buckled. Helped to her feet, she shuffled away. Hours later, she was observed wandering aimlessly in the feeding compound, still crying, "Bishenepu . . . Bishenepu!"

Hers was not the only sad voice that day. Before the scorching sun had set,

four other mothers at the Lalibela camp were wailing the names of their dead children.

Throughout Ethiopia as many as 2000 children like Bishenepu die daily from starvation-related causes.

**Ever since** a British Broadcasting Company TV crew, flying to famine sites on World Vision's Twin Otter airplane, brought these horrors to the attention of the world last October, assistance has been pouring in from governments, churches, corporations and individuals.

The BBC footage highlighted the tragedy at places like Korem and Alamata, normally sleepy mountain

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**People in or near the World Vision nutrition-health centers are already benefiting from aid and education aimed at overcoming long-term problems.**

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*Dr. Ken Waters is manager of communication services for World Vision International. Contributing to this story were World Vision journalists Jacob Akol, Pat Banks, Alan Hassell and Steve Reynolds.*

At least partial hope is restored for those like this mother and child who make it to a relief center.





towns that were overrun with thousands of dying people—people who trekked for days to find a kernel of grain once word spread through the countryside that feeding centers were being opened. Thousands of other people died before making it to one of 100 feeding centers established by aid agencies and Ethiopia's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC). Hundreds of those reaching the feeding centers were orphans.

The only way one can truly understand the tragedy of the famine is to reflect quietly and compassionately on

how it would feel to be Bishenepu's mother. Figures alone can be so overwhelming as to be incomprehensible. According to Ethiopian and United Nations relief officials, as many as 300,000 people have died this past year. About 15 percent of the children born annually will die before their first birthday. Another four percent will die before reaching the age of four.

The United Nations has estimated that as much as \$396 million in aid, including 1.33 million metric tons of food, is needed to meet shortfalls caused by drought, declining agricultural production, inadequate distribution of existing food, civil unrest and a host of other problems. Some 7.7 million people are said to be at risk of starvation—nearly one-sixth of the current population.

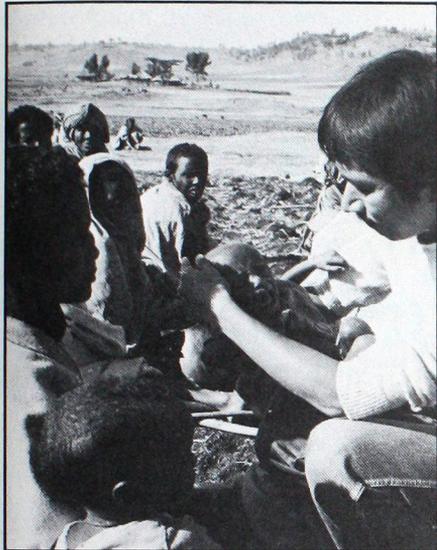
Since the short rains expected in March did not materialize, the outlook for the immediate future is bleak indeed. By later this year, the number of people in need could easily rise to ten million.

World Vision has expanded its ten-year-old program of assistance in Ethiopia to include what could become a \$60 million aid package in

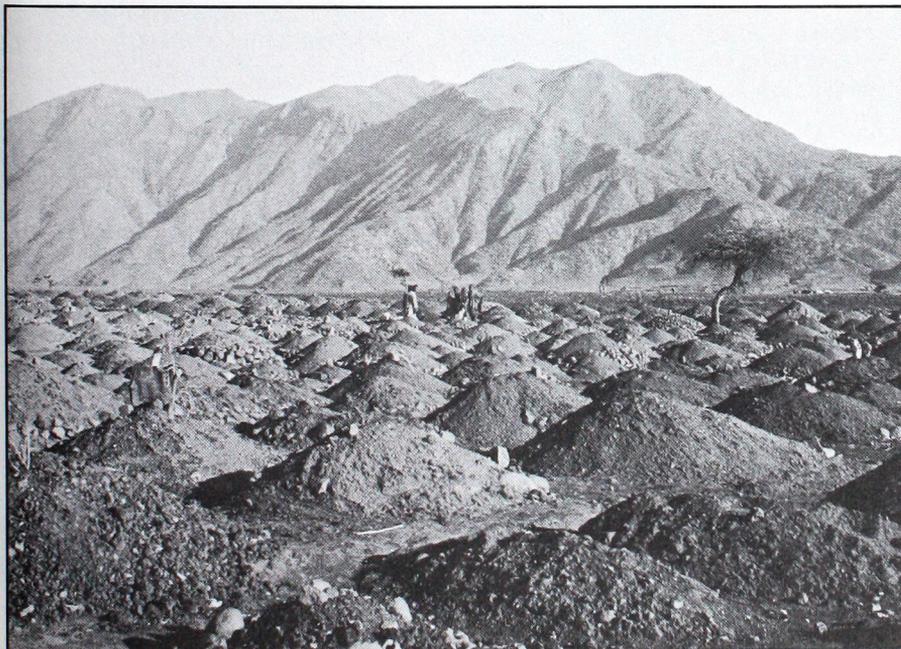
1985. Of the more than 100 projects already in operation, eight are massive nutrition-health centers feeding tens of thousands of people daily. As many as a half-million Ethiopians will receive life-sustaining assistance this year through World Vision donors.

Additionally, two World Vision-owned planes, operated by Mission Aviation Fellowship, are ferrying food, medical supplies, clothing, blankets, medical personnel and visitors to many otherwise difficult-to-reach places within this heavily mountainous nation. One plane has been operating since 1981, when World Vision began expanding its ministry to Ethiopia in response to initial indications of the now-raging famine.

**“When hundreds of thousands of people are dying, we heed the biblical mandate to minister to them in Jesus’ name.”**



(left) Dr. Hector Jalipa examines a severely malnourished child at Ajibar.



These newly created graves near Alamata are grim reminders of the many famine-related deaths that occur daily.

**At World Vision's Alamata**

**center**, approximately 33,000 meals are prepared each day. Many people receive four or five meals per day, depending upon the severity of their condition.

Children are particularly susceptible at times like these. During their developing years, a prolonged decrease in protein can cause permanent physical and mental damage. Children also catch diseases more easily.

“Malnutrition reduces a person's immunities and natural resistance,” noted Australian nutritionist Marilyn Fry, who worked at several World Vision centers. “And so long as these people are malnourished, they are extremely susceptible to an entire range of diseases.” The diseases include typhus, leprosy (Hansen's disease),

smallpox, pneumonia and cholera.

"The trick is to reach the little ones before permanent damage sets in," said World Vision communicator Alan Hassell. "The immediately needed foods are not the fruits, vegetables and meats Westerners would think of. Rather, famine victims receive fortified grains, vegetable oils, and other foods giving the most nutrition per pound and per dollar."

"Often, very small children, badly emaciated, but caught in time, will bounce back rapidly after just a few days of intensive feeding and care," Hassell added.

A new scene of tragedy seems to arise almost daily. Today the focus has shifted from Alamata and Korem to Ajibar, some 90 miles south of Korem. Dr. Hector Jalipa, World Vision doctor at Ajibar, said recently, "The situation here is a disaster."

Dr. Jalipa opened the nutrition-health center eight days ahead of schedule to accommodate some 10,000 severely malnourished children and their parents. About 400 more people arrive each day seeking help. Ajibar is literally bursting at the seams as people huddle in the streets or lie down with animals at night for warmth. At an elevation of

9000 feet, the nights are bitterly cold.

"Most villagers we spoke to have been relying on the Ethiopian Relief and Rehabilitation Commission distribution because their food ran out

months ago and they no longer have animals to sell," said Dr. Jalipa. "Those who still have cattle left are trying to keep them alive by feeding them thistles and cactus beaten with sticks to soften them. If these people don't get food soon, their condition will deteriorate rapidly."

To avoid the spread of communicable diseases like cholera, common when thousands of people overtax water and sanitation systems, Ethiopian RRC staff are giving out dry rations

## KEY TO MAP OF ETHIOPIA



Emergency feeding



Nutrition-health center



Water project

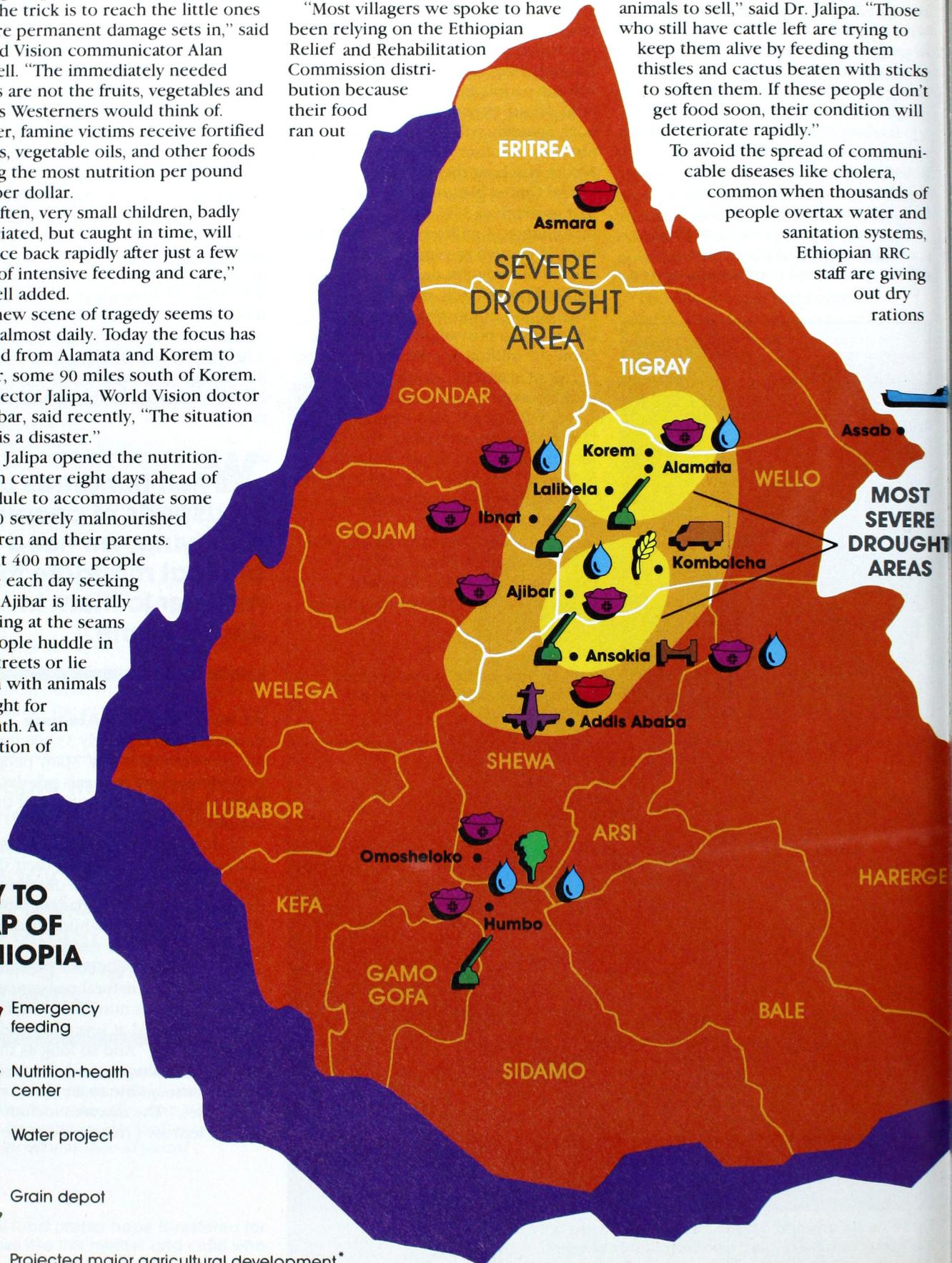


Grain depot



Projected major agricultural development\*

\* Subject to government approval





to healthy people coming to Ajibar in search of food. Those people are asked to return home. Additionally, more than 7000 people have been voluntarily relocated by the government from Ajibar to other areas. In several other key areas, smaller satellite feeding centers have been established to provide more localized assistance and reduce overcrowding at the main centers.

**The short-term battle** is complicated by Ethiopia's geography and politics.

Ethiopia is a land of geographic variety. Mountains run roughly from north to south. The Southeast and most of the West are deserts. The geography has served to isolate many people, and it has been estimated that as many as 90 percent of the people live more than ten miles from a road.

The roads that do exist are poor and often washed out when a rain does fall. They take a brutal toll on trucks. A large decentralized supply depot is being set up in the Kombolcha region to store grain and repair World Vision trucks delivering food in the northern regions.

Another complicating factor is that Ethiopia's ten-year-old Marxist military government is not universally popular. Opposition groups in Tigray and Eritrea are strong, and food delivery sometimes is blocked by fighting. World Vision's Lalibela and Alamata centers have been cut off by air and land from Addis Ababa at times as fighting has taken place in the area. In

one instance, only a day's food and medicine remained in the Alamata camp when food delivery was resumed.

As the battle to keep people alive continues, World Vision staff members are also busy planning to institute new development projects that will prevent future tragedies of mass starvation in Ethiopia.

Any long-term project consideration must begin with water, according to Dr. John McMillin, relief and rehabilitation director for World Vision International. But it is not so much a lack of water that is devastating Ethiopia, he asserts, as a lack of access

**It is not so much a lack of water that is devastating Ethiopia, as a lack of access to water.**

to water. "In many places, rainfall has been normal or only slightly below normal. But the rain has simply rushed down the mountainsides and disappeared because the water retention systems are in disrepair, and vegetation

that would trap water in the soil has been stripped away."

Rainfall has been irregular the past few years, McMillin added, and this has confused farmers. During recent planting seasons, rains came either too late and the crops withered, or too early, before seeds were planted. In some cases the rain came too quickly and heavily, washing away crops just planted.

Inevitably farmers resorted to eating seeds and selling their cattle and tools to keep alive. Even as they did, sufficient water was, in most cases, less than four feet below the surface of the ground.

"I surveyed in Alamata valley recently. I stopped the Land-Rover and began digging a small trench," McMillin said. "A few curious farmers gathered to see what I was up to. I told them I would give them some grain if they would help. A few minutes after we started, a spring of water bubbled up only a few feet under the surface. The people were amazed." McMillin went back a week later to find the water still flowing.

Because of the possible availability of water, World Vision development planners consider well-digging and



Australian hydrologist Rod Jackson works alongside Ethiopian nationals to restore Alamata's water system.



Truck repair facility



Bridge project



Reforestation project



Supply plane base



Relief supply port

providing water-catching basins a very high priority.

"We must 'take the people with us,' though," McMillin cautioned. "I talked with one farmer on a hillside and asked him why the terraces and trenches that had once irrigated the area were now in disrepair. He said he didn't know how to fix them. A European group came and built the system but left without telling the people how it worked or how to repair it."

The rape of Ethiopia's forests has also helped set the stage for the current crisis. Trees cut down for firewood for cooking have not been replaced. Lower-lying brush, an even greater ecological necessity because it helps create favorable ground condi-

tions for rain, has been eaten by cattle. When rains come, they cascade down the mountainsides, washing away valuable topsoil. Ethiopia's once elaborate system of terraces has all but been destroyed.

Reforestation in Ethiopia is possible. World Vision is already funding, with some success, a model reforestation project in the Shewa region, operated by the Shone Full Gospel Church.

Project staff recently completed the replanting of several hundred seedlings. "In three months the whole mountain in front of where I live will be planted," the project manager noted, "and the entire area will be potentially rich forestland."

**The shifting of the population** also poses a challenge for long-term development. The situation near the

World Vision Mekoy center illustrates this phenomenon.

Many of the people who traditionally lived in the area have left, moving closer to Addis Ababa for food. They have been replaced by nomadic peoples walking up from the desert floor, again in search of food.

At Mekoy, the original inhabitants were replaced by 70,000 nomads and their cattle. Within weeks the cattle had turned the green valley into a barren wasteland as they ate the remaining vegetation.

Then the cattle began dying. So the nomads left most of the remaining cattle and started walking toward Addis Ababa.

"I would estimate that as many as 75 percent of the people I talked with at Mekoy were not native to that valley," noted McMillin. "They did not know how to farm that soil or deal with the ecological forces in that area. So even after providing the people here with life-saving food and medical care, we have to face the challenge of either moving them back to their traditional homelands, moving them to a more fertile area, or teaching them how to survive in Mekoy."

In looking at long-term solutions, World Vision planners envisage well-digging, water retention, new medical clinics and the supplying of seeds, tools and other agricultural implements. And most of these projects will need to be enhanced by educational efforts to help the people achieve full self-reliance.

By October 1, one or two multi-

**Many destitute Ethiopians, like these camped on a ridge above Lalibela, get badly burnt by open fires as they lie close to them at night for warmth.**

## FACTS ABOUT ETHIOPIA

**Population:** 36 million (mid-1985 estimate). 7.7 million are at risk of starvation. Number could rise to ten million. Last year 300,000 died in the famine.

**Area:** 471,800 square miles. (Population and area is about the same as California and Texas combined.)

**Health:** One doctor for every 100,000 Ethiopians. Only 6 percent of the population has access to safe water. Life expectancy is 40 years. About 15 percent of Ethiopian children born annually die before their first birthday.

**Education:** 8 percent literacy

**Capital:** Addis Ababa

**Major ethnolinguistic groups:** 40 percent Galla, 36 percent Amhara, 9 percent Kafa-Sidamo.

**Languages:** Amharic (official), Tigrinya, Tigray, Galla, Arabic, Somali, Italian, English and some 90 other minor languages.

**Religion:** 40 percent Christian, with the majority in the Ethiopian Orthodox Church; 40 percent Muslim, with Animist and Jewish (Falasha) minorities. For 800 years, Ethiopia was considered "an island of Christianity in a sea of Islam."

**Economy:** Fragile. One of the 49 low-income countries of the world. Nearly 90 percent of the people live off the land but only 7 percent of the farming is done by modern methods.



**Women often walk for miles to fill their heavy crocks with water.**

**Road system:** Lowest density of rural roads in the world. Close to 90 percent of the people live more than ten miles away from a road.

**Ecology:** Severe deforestation. At the turn of the century, 40 percent of the country was covered by trees. Today the figure is only 4 percent. The Sahara has advanced 62 miles in the last 20 years. Over the last century there has been a 25 percent drop in annual rainfall.

**History and government:** Ethiopia is the oldest independent country in Africa and one of the oldest in the world, with records dating to the fifth century B.C. Its long history was marked by a series of reigning emperors, with a five-year interruption initiated in 1935 by the Italian invasion and occupation.

In September 1974, the Ethiopian empire officially ended when the military leaders deposed Emperor Haile Selassie and established the present military government.





million-dollar comprehensive development projects are expected to be in operation. An eight-to-ten person team headed by McMillin will soon arrive in Ethiopia to plan for such projects.

**While the long-term** solutions are being planned, people in or near the nutrition-health centers are already benefiting from aid and education aimed at overcoming long-term problems.

World Vision and Oxfam are restoring the water system for the town of Alamata. That move was essential. The population there has grown from 12,000 to 80,000 in just one year, putting enormous strain on the 45-year-old water system that originates about eight miles away.

Staff at several World Vision centers are now distributing agricultural packets (Ag Paks) to farmers who have left their homes and are camping in towns near the centers. The packets include farming implements, seeds, dry

food rations and other needed items. Those farmers will either return home or begin farming near the World Vision centers.

The Ag Pak program is expected to increase greatly in coming months.

In Mekoy, a bridge is being constructed over the Borkena River to ensure year-round delivery of food and supplies to that center and facilitate future development plans.

At the Alamata camp, people are learning new songs related to sanitation. One such song says, "Diarrhea is a disease that causes death. It attacks the adult and the child. Let's all come

together and avoid diarrhea. Let's all come together and use the latrines." Another variation of the song urges people to wash their hands before eating.

Dr. Peter Jordans, a Dutch doctor who has served at three World Vision camps, notes, "The idea of songs and street theater as tools to teach people can be very useful. The people are willing to learn, even though they have little formal schooling. And even so, it will take two years for a full development phase to occur."

Plans must be shaped to avert future crises, McMillin claims. "Neglect of foresighted planning happened in the mid-70's in Ethiopia. There was a terrible drought in 1972 and 1974. But when rains came, people went back to life as normal. The world community did not supply long-term assistance, and people began to live from day to day again. Few stored up for lean years."

Another fear expressed by World

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**As many as a half-million Ethiopians will receive life-sustaining assistance this year through World Vision donors.**

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Preparing porridge for famished Ethiopians is an endless task for nutrition-health center workers like these in Ajibar.





Vision staff in Ethiopia is that recent allegations of wrongdoing against some agencies could affect the resolve of donors to continue to work toward meeting both immediate and long-term needs in Africa.

To guard against any doubts about how donations are used, World Vision has employed some 200 people in Addis Ababa to monitor food distribution and logistics, and to plan projects for the future. "I am confident that virtually all the aid designated for World Vision use is actually reaching its destination," said World Vision International Vice-President Cliff Benzel, currently heading the agency's Ethiopia operation. "We check the unloading of food and supplies after

## Poor rains this year could add another three million people to the numbers facing starvation.

arrival, and we monitor distribution to people in need. Aside from the unavoidable losses due to spoilage, bugs and an occasional broken bag, we are confident that our systems of control are sufficient to ensure proper use of food. I have never been in a Two-Thirds World country where loss is lower."

Benzel also said he has encountered skeptics who feel the Ethiopian government should do more than it is already doing for its people. Expenditures for military budgets have come under press criticism. "I am impressed with the resolve of the Ethiopian people," Benzel noted. "Few countries spend as much of their income on the relief and rehabilitation of their people as Ethiopia does."

Also, the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, the country's largest and oldest church body, has long been a beacon of caring. Only recently have gifts of food and money from churchgoers been inadequate to meet the needs of hungry people flocking to Addis Ababa.



Weary children and parents await the next serving of porridge at Ajjabar.

With World Vision's assistance, the Orthodox church's feeding program will open ten centers around Addis Ababa, providing three daily meals and medical care for nearly 2000 destitute people.

Critics have also charged that by helping the people of Ethiopia, World Vision and other agencies are furthering the government's socialist policies and its negative attitude toward the church.

"It has always been World Vision's policy to meet the needs of people regardless of the political orientation of their government," noted Benzel. "When hundreds of thousands of people are dying, we heed the biblical mandate to minister to them in Jesus' name. We don't make politics a pre-

requisite for extending the love of Christ."

Little Adise Ayelew has certainly felt the compassion of World Vision staff members and the donors who make the effort possible. But soon she will walk out of the Alamata nutrition-health center into an uncertain future, a future that can only be made better through the prolonged and prayerful efforts of people worldwide. □

*Thank you, on their behalf, for your continuing help in the Christ-honoring effort to provide a brighter future for Ethiopians such as Adise and her family. They are deeply grateful.*

## Mini-message

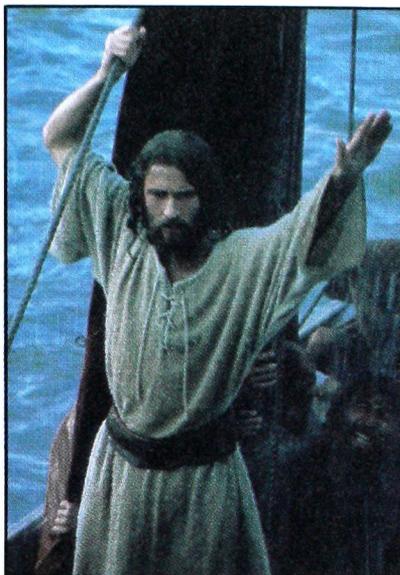
### DO YOU KNOW THE PEACE GIVER?

When you read the Gospel of Luke you see Jesus not only stilling wind and waves (as in this scene from the film *Jesus*), but calming His disciples' hearts.

The latter He did many times. And He still does it today.

Because He is well able to calm stormy seas and even the most troubled hearts that submit to Him, you and I have a sure way to experience peace of mind and soul whatever our situation. To us, as to the disciples who looked to Him during His days on earth, He says, plainly, *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid* (John 14:27, NIV).

The original context of this promise was Jesus' discourse on the Holy Spirit, whom He calls the Comforter, the Counselor. And the



promise is as applicable and as dependable for you and me in this nuclear age as it was for those who heard it from His lips outside Jerusalem two millennia ago. He does give His followers peace. Not through blindness to circumstances but through awareness of His love and power.

Have you tasted—and do you daily experience—the true inner peace which Christ, by His Holy Spirit, gives to all who receive it through faith in Him? If you are seeking peace and not finding it, we at World Vision urge you: Change the focus of your quest. Don't merely seek peace; *seek God through Jesus Christ*. For only through receiving Him as your Lord and Savior can you find the inner peace you crave.

For more light on this subject, read and re-read—today—the fourteenth chapter of John. And then why not read Luke's and John's entire accounts?

We urge you also to talk with a pastor or other helpful member of a Christ-centered church in your community. And please write us at WORLD VISION magazine, 919 W. Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016, if you would like a copy of a helpful booklet. We'll be glad to send it, free.

Like others in the first century and in our own, you *can* experience peace when you give yourself wholly to the one authentic Peace Giver. □

## 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 opportunities for service. If you think you may qualify for one of these positions, send your resume to World Vision International, Human Resources, 919 W. Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016.*

### AFRICA

**Ethiopia, Nutritionists** To assess and treat nutritional needs of famine victims; involves organizing and training of national staff in Ethiopian nutrition-health centers. Needed immediately. Requires nutrition, dietetics or M.P.H. degree and previous Two-Thirds World work experience. Six months minimum contract. *Contact: Pam Kerr, World Vision U.S.*

### INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

**Director, Corporate Planning** To be responsible for the corporate planning process and for assisting managers in the identification of critical issues in the development of long-range plans. Must have extensive related experience. *Contact: Kent Stock, Employment Supervisor.*

**Macro Project Team** Professionals working according to their particular discipline in a team context to research, develop and implement a regional development plan. Positions require extensive previous experience including Two-Thirds World experience with project management experience highly desirable. Must be flexible and adaptable to a variety of living conditions. The following personnel are required to make up the team:

Hydrologist	Nutritionist
Economist	Civil Engineer
Agriculturalist	Government Coordinator
Financial Analyst	Logistician
Community Planner	

*Contact: Kent Stock, Employment Supervisor.*

# Samaritan sampler



A proud mother holds one of China's future students.

## Sharing information about teaching openings in China

with prospective American teachers is a primary function of Educational Resources and Referrals—China (ERRC), previously known as Friends of the Tentmakers. Related services are also offered: counseling and orientation materials for students and teachers preparing to go to China, information on Chinese university programs for students of Chinese, and speakers on opportunities in China. ERRC also publishes a quarterly newsletter. For more information contact: ERRC, 2600 Dwight Way, Berkeley, CA 94704; (415) 548-7519.

## "Perspectives on the World Christian Movement,"

an introductory missions course, will be offered twice this summer (June 17-July 12 and July 22-August 23) by the Institute of International Studies at the Pasadena campus of the U.S. Center for World Mission. In addition, a number of extension center locations and an independent study option add to the program's accessibility. Credit transferable to secular universities is available. For

more information contact: IIS, 1605 Elizabeth St., Pasadena, CA 91104; (818) 797-4605.

## Nations presently closed to missions

are the homelands to which almost 40 percent of today's international students will eventually return. Winning such students to Christ and equipping them to minister in an environment hostile to Christianity, are the goals of International Students Inc. To reach these goals, ISI is seeking Christians nation-wide to become ISI Great Commission Partners, pledged to pray and support the work of reaching international students through local ISI ministries. For more information contact: International Students Inc., P.O. Box C, Colorado Springs, CO 80901; (303) 576-2700.

**The Other Side**, Jubilee's magazine of Christian social action, has expanded its content and is also wearing a fresh new look. Christians concerned about applying "justice rooted in discipleship" to contemporary problems in the U.S. and overseas will welcome the broader coverage of this frequently controversial, always thought-provoking periodical (\$19.75/yr.). *The Other Side*, 300 W. Apsley St., Philadelphia, PA 19144.

SOME WAYS PEOPLE ARE HELPING OTHERS IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

## Ways of helping hard-

**pressed farmers** affected by the current crisis in American agriculture were discussed recently by the Mennonite Central Committee. A special task force will develop "a workable plan for establishing a farm crisis mutual aid response, which will include a counseling resource and develop models for local congregations." An important part of their counsel will relate to the spiritual condition of the person in trouble.

## Spiritual awakening in the church

and an expansion of holistic worldwide evangelism will come only through unified, concerted prayer, say leaders of the National Prayer Committee. Providing information and assistance for churches and other groups who want to be a part of the "Concerts of Prayer," the NPC offers a variety of printed material and an audio tape teaching packet. For more information write: Concert of Prayer Project, National Prayer Committee, 233 Langdon St., Madison, WI 53703.

## Thousands of people in Southeast Asian refugee camps

still hope to reach the United States; displaced or terrorized people in other parts of the world continue to seek asylum. All of which means an ongoing need for churches and individuals to aid in resettling refugees. World Relief, an agency of the National Association of Evangelicals, has successfully resettled over 40,000 refugees in the United States, and offers information and guidance for those wanting to sponsor refugees. Contact: World Relief, Refugee Services

Division, P.O. Box WRC, Nyack, NY 10960; (800) 431-2808 or (914) 268-4135.

**Volunteers to work overseas** and in the United States are needed by Habitat for Humanity, an organization that builds homes for people in need of "a decent place to live." The U.S. locations need construction supervisors and project directors; overseas positions include administration, procurement, record keeping and construction. A training and orientation program is offered in Americus, Georgia. For more information, contact Ted Swisher, 419 West Church St., Americus, GA 31709; (912) 924-6935.

## Sharing Christ with Muslims

is the theme of three summer courses to be offered by the Samuel Zwemer Institute: Introduction to Islam, July 22-August 2; Gospel and Islam (cross-cultural communication principles), August 5-16, and Church Planting in Muslim Contexts, August 19-30. Both graduate and undergraduate credit are available. For more details write: Jeanette Hoffner, Registrar, S.Z.I., P.O. Box 365, Altadena, CA 91001.

**Youth involvement** in evangelization and Christian social concern is the focus of the Salvation Army's international youth congress scheduled at Western Illinois University, July 17-23. A delegate total of 5000 from most of the 85 countries in which the Salvation Army ministers is expected. Among the featured speakers will be Tony Compolo and Joni Eareckson-Tada.

**Unreached peoples** are the focus of the *Global Prayer Digest*. This monthly devotional guide offers a page for each day in an interest-holding and spiritually challenging format. A number of ministry organizations offer this publication in editions that contain the same core material plus some pages on their particular ministry. A generic edition is available at \$6 a year from Frontier Fellowship Inc., 1605 Elizabeth St., Pasadena, CA 91104.

**Challenging student leaders to become world changers** is the purpose of Leadership '85, sponsored by *World Christian* magazine. Student, church and mission leaders will gather August 12-16 at Biola University, La Mirada, California. Developing leadership-for-change skills and putting personal commitment into practical action will be emphasized by principal speakers Roger Greenway, Don McCurry, John Dawson, David Bryant and Gordon Aeschliman. For more information, contact *World Christian*, P.O. Box 40010, Pasadena, CA 91104; (818) 797-5320.

**ESA** (Evangelicals for Social Action) has issued an 11-point statement of its position on vital issues. The one-page document, called "Here We Stand," is available on request from ESA, 712 G Street SE, Washington, DC 20003.

## PLEASE PRAY . . .

□ **for staff workers** like Phillip Muko of Zimbabwe who daily help put hands and feet on the work of World Vision around the globe.

□ **for World Vision "spouses"** who, due to their mates' work, often face periods of separation, and who are challenged with maintaining stability and continuity in the home.

□ **for Ethiopian famine victims** who continue to struggle for survival in their drought-stricken land.

□ **for WV Ethiopian and expatriate staff members** working side by side to meet both immediate and long-range needs in that country's famine-plagued regions.

□ **for steadfast, enduring and heartfelt support** from Westerners who have chosen to

help starving Ethiopians—support that will see that country's helpless victims through this crisis and safety beyond it.

□ **for volunteers** like Susan Constable who freely give of their time and talents to help meet physical and spiritual needs in Africa, Asia or Latin America.

□ **for urban pastors and spouses** in the U.S. as they reach out to one another for mutual support in their common ministry to those in inner-city areas.

□ **For Indonesia**, where a great movement toward Christianity is occurring. This is the only country in the world where significant numbers of Muslims have turned to Christ. Pray for the leaders to continue to be open to Christianity.

□ **for Dr. Samuel Kamaleson** and his team as they conduct a Pastors' Conference June 17-21 in Brasilia, Brazil. Pastors will travel great distances hungry for the fellowship and instruction this conference will afford.

## Planned giving



by Daniel Rice

World Vision's Associate  
Director of Planned Giving

## CAN ANYTHING GOOD COME OUT OF TAX-LAND?

**Yes! For example** there is good news for those who take the standard deduction (non-itemizers).

About 70 percent of all taxpayers do not itemize their deductions, and until recently, these taxpayers could not deduct their charitable gifts. But now, donors who take the standard deduction are permitted a limited deduction for their charitable gifts.

Be sure to keep your receipts during 1985, because you may

deduct 50 percent of all contributions on your 1986 tax return. And on your 1987 return, 100 percent of all contributions made in 1986 may be deducted.

Remember, these are limits on the amount you may deduct (the left hand)—not on the amount you may contribute (the right hand)! And you never let your right hand know what your left hand is doing, do you?

## A nurse's six months in West Africa

# GOD HANDED ME A PRECIOUS GIFT

by Sheryl Johansen Watkins

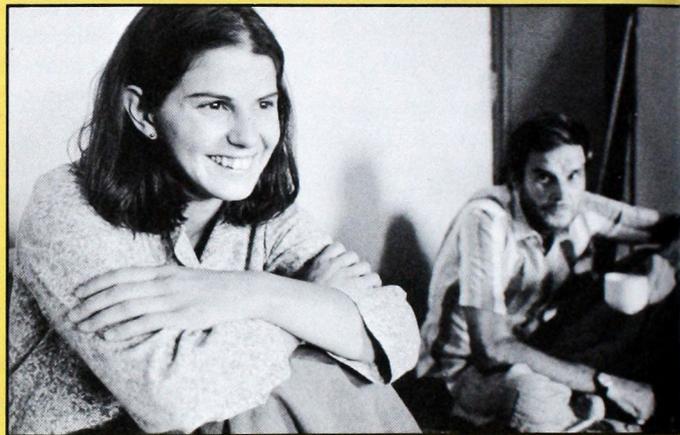
**W**hen you see children who previously had no energy start to play, you know God is handing you a precious gift."

During her six-month contract with World Vision in Mauritania last summer, Susan Constable, a slight, soft-spoken Canadian nurse/midwife, received several precious gifts like that. Her sojourn in Africa resulted when she heeded a call in a World Vision Canada publication for nurses to work at Mauritania's Tagant relief project. There she would become involved in helping communities set up nutrition-health centers where children weighing less than 90 percent of their expected weight-for-height receive supplementary food.

"It was hard work, but it was very worthwhile," said the 28-year-old nurse, who grew up in Montreal, studied nursing in Ottawa and took her midwifery training in Newfoundland. "There were discouragements, at times, but there were also little perks—like seeing desert sunsets, or watching goats frolic.

"The work required persistence and determination," she said. "Especially since the centers are new to the Mauritians. It requires a lot of patience to get the centers started and involve workers, recipients and

Susan shares a smile with project visitors as team leader Rick Williams looks on.



the entire community. But many people became enthusiastic participants."

According to Susan, the best part of her Africa experience was seeing examples of success. "We were reweighing children who had been in one feeding program for a month," she said. "A mother told me, 'My child started trying to walk for the first time in his life.' I asked how old he was, and she told me three years. I can't help thinking that this was a

**Even living in isolated parts of Canada did not fully prepare Susan for life in Tidjikdja.**

miracle for that woman, who'd had no hope of ever seeing her child walk."

At the end of her contract in Mauritania, Susan realized she had learned a lot about herself and her profession. "It's been valuable to me professionally," she said. "I've learned a lot, although it's not what I thought I would learn before I came." For example, she saw first-hand the importance of hygiene and immunization.

After seeing people suffering the effects of diphtheria and polio, diseases she had never seen in Canada, Susan was reminded of the importance of immunization. "Working in Mauritania was like taking a course in infectious diseases: We saw so many of them."

*Sheryl Watkins is a writer for World Vision International Communications.*

Susan prepares tea for visitors to the Tagent relief project.

Susan took her midwifery course at an outpost for Canadians living in isolation, "places you can only get to by airplane or boat." Still, living in isolated parts of Canada did not fully prepare her for life in Tidjikdja, the capital of the Tagant region. Two days of driving, or a once-a-week commercial flight, span the distance between Tidjikdja and Nouakchott, Mauritania's capital. The plane brings mail and, sometimes, foods which aren't available in Tidjikdja (including many fruits, vegetables and meat, breakfast cereal, fruit juices and spices).

Is she open to the idea of going overseas again? Yes. She advised any

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**"I've gotten to know God on a deeper level, something I don't think I would have done in an easier situation."**

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nurse planning to work in a feeding program to talk with people who've had that experience. A tropical health course would be very useful. And personnel working in feeding projects should bring with them as much information as possible on nutrition and communicable diseases.

Speaking French was an advantage. She also learned a little Hassania, the local Arabic dialect.

Probably the most difficult adjustment was living in a non-Christian country. "After one month, I realized how very much I missed Christian society: being able to go to church, or having Christian music or books whenever I wanted them."

Still, with all the difficulties, she found her six months of service a time of tremendous spiritual growth. "I've gotten to know God on a deeper level, something I don't think I would have done in an easier situation." □



Unfortunately, Susan learned even more about health care when she herself became ill. While in Tidjikdja, where vegetables and often water must be carefully treated before consumption, she developed amoebic dysentery. She spent several weeks in Dakar for diagnosis and treatment. "Some diseases you can pick up in the developing world aren't simple to treat. A lot of the medicines we

take are designed to help your body to do what it's already doing. But there are some things your own body can't do.

"Learning to recognize diseases which are relatively rare in North America also has been valuable. It's important to be able to recognize them and be able to stop their spread. Medical people still see some of these diseases in isolated parts of Canada," she explained.

## SEEING CHILDREN 'COME BACK TO LIFE'

by Kay Bascom

**M**y doctor husband, Charles, had just returned from two months of famine relief work in southern Ethiopia. Before he went back to work we hid him for three days—to let his soul begin to catch up with his body.

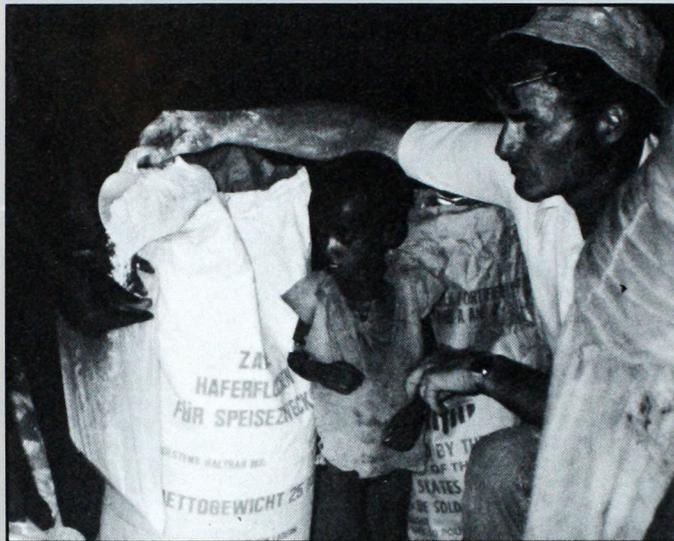
Each evening I'd sneak him into the car and we'd drive out to watch the sunset over our lush Kansas fields, far from the barren ground of Ethiopia where crop-producing rains have been lacking for the seventh season.

Last night's sky was particularly glorious. As the colors changed, we watched the stars come out against a deep azure background. We talked of people he'd known at the nutrition-health centers in the parched valley below Humbo mountain, over which the sun set each evening in Africa.

"What got to me the most was the children," he said. "I'll never forget a little fellow about five. After he'd registered and was accepted for feedings, he went around with great soberness and dignity and shook the hand of each worker. In Ethiopia, even the children have that gracious politeness and poise so characteristic of their people.

"At first the weak children sat—or lay—motionless and silent. As their food intake took effect, they began to speak and smile and even play a little. That's what kept us going—to see the children come back to life. Of all the appreciation shown, the mothers of the worst-off children were most expressive. They had lost so many."

I asked Charles about the extent of the drought. It seems to be widespread yet uneven, so some of the people are worse off than others. And some had



A young Ethiopian looks on as Dr. Bascom measures out flour.

fewer resources to begin with. But everybody works, hunting for food.

"Even children have to take a lot of responsibility over there," he said, "taking care of younger children, tending cattle, carrying wood or water. I saw one child with an unusual assignment. Hardly four years old, he served every day as a tiny guide for two blind men, leading them, barefoot and ragged, ever so carefully, into the nutrition-health center.

"And when you look at them, you hardly notice the rags and the nakedness. What stands out most is the smile. Their smiles just seem to light up their faces—so open, warm, total.

"The one that touched me most was a little boy we began to notice on the roadside a few miles out of base camp. We'd see him each morning and evening as we drove by. He stood there like a silent little sentinel, one thin arm half raised, as if his part in the famine work was to signal our team on our way. We could see a white band on his wrist, which indicated he'd been enrolled in the feeding program—where the children are carefully monitored for attendance and progress. Yet we didn't recognize him as one who was coming in for the daily feedings. We

wondered why he wasn't being brought. Were his parents too weak or too burdened down to bring him? Did it seem too far?

"I wanted to somehow adopt him and spirit him away with me. We didn't go by at the same time each day on our rounds, so he must have stood there for hours to do his self-appointed part."

When my husband became quiet for a moment at that point, I asked, "Where did he come from?"

"There was a hut about forty yards back from the road."

Charles could hardly talk about him. As we sat in silence, I remembered a conversation earlier in the day. Someone had reported to me that, according to the news, "It's too late to turn the tide of the disaster in Africa." I could hardly argue the point, because for some it is. All I could say was that it's not too late for each person, *one by one*.

As Charles and I drove home in the dusk, along our road I kept seeing that little child with the half-cocked arm. The silent little sentinel on the edge of too-far-out.

"He also serves who only stands and waits." May his faithful waiting somehow widen the circle of those who are helped, one by one. □

*Kay Bascom teaches English at Kansas State University. She and her husband have three college-age sons.*

# WHEN THE TV IMAGE FLICKERS AWAY

**When the heart-wrenching** scenes of hunger in Africa began appearing regularly on the news, the public responded. Ad hoc groups to raise funds formed in offices, churches, neighborhoods, schools. Reporters rushed to Ethiopia, Mali, Mozambique and other countries and brought back the bad news. At World Vision in one day alone we received 57,000 letters, including gifts from preschoolers and pensioners, and one from a woman in Maine for \$250,000.

On a bus in Bridgeport, Connecticut, when the talk turned to the famine, a domestic worker walked down the aisle and collected seven dollars which she sent to us.

The story that moved me the most came from the Union Rescue Mission in downtown Los Angeles. On Thanksgiving Day, the mission's director compared the options of Los Angeles street people and those of millions of Ethiopians—and decided the street people were better off. So he took an offering, and the 400 or so homeless men and women who ate Thanksgiving dinner at the mission scraped up \$175 to send our organization for the hungry in Ethiopia.

I've heard stories about women who organized a walk-a-thon and others who asked fast-food restaurants to donate one cent for each hamburger sold. Black clergymen have banded together, and so have groups of Ethiopians in this country. Young people have planned their own "famines" and missed a few meals to raise funds. Americans, long known for their ingenuity and entrepreneurship, have lived up to their reputation.

All this excites me and leaves me with a deep sense of gratitude. When I get such reports my heart wells up with a loud "Praise the Lord!"

At the same time, I'm more than a little concerned. Will this momentary rush of compassion soon fade? When TV newscasters tire of the scene and

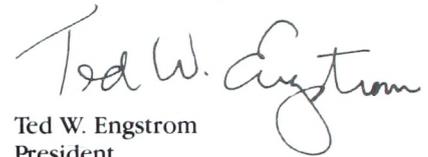
the last appalling image flickers away, will public sympathy pass with it?

We've had crises before—Kampuchea, Bangladesh, El Salvador—and we'll have many more. But the problems in these places don't evaporate when we stop thinking about them. The current crisis in Africa will continue for years to come. The critical problems will go on, with or without our knowledge or help. Two-thirds of the world is still classified as underdeveloped—which is a fancy way of saying poor and hungry.

Through the current travail of Africa, I believe some of God's people will find themselves drawn to the poor. Many, I suspect, will be involved for years to come. A few will dedicate their lives to serve the needy in the name of Jesus Christ. I've seen it happen before. It's one small island of hope in a sea of misery.

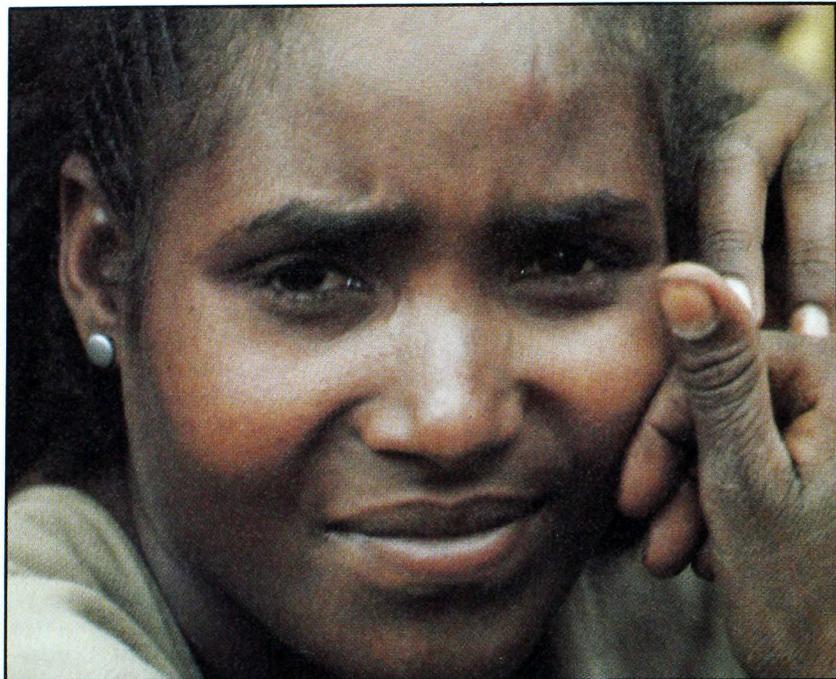
Everyone can't go to Africa, of course, as I have on several occasions in recent months. Not all the young people can join Youth With a Mission or the Peace Corps. Parents and business people and civic leaders and factory workers can't leave their present callings and responsibilities and enlist fulltime.

Each of us can, however, have some small part in the never-ending process of feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting those in prison, caring for widows and orphans, and reconciling people to God and to each other. What about you?

  
Ted W. Engstrom  
President

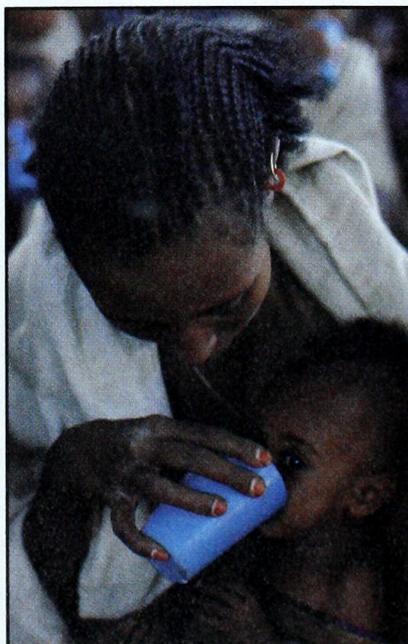


Dr. Engstrom looks on as Dr. Roger Bruce examines a sick child at Ansokia.



**ALONE**, how could any of us change the fate of any of Ethiopia's desperate people? But *together*—together with World Vision's front-liners serving the most needy in Christ's name—you are making a deep, lasting difference in at least one Ethiopian family's life. And your special help this month will show clearly what God can do where we serve Him faithfully . . . together.

## *Together*



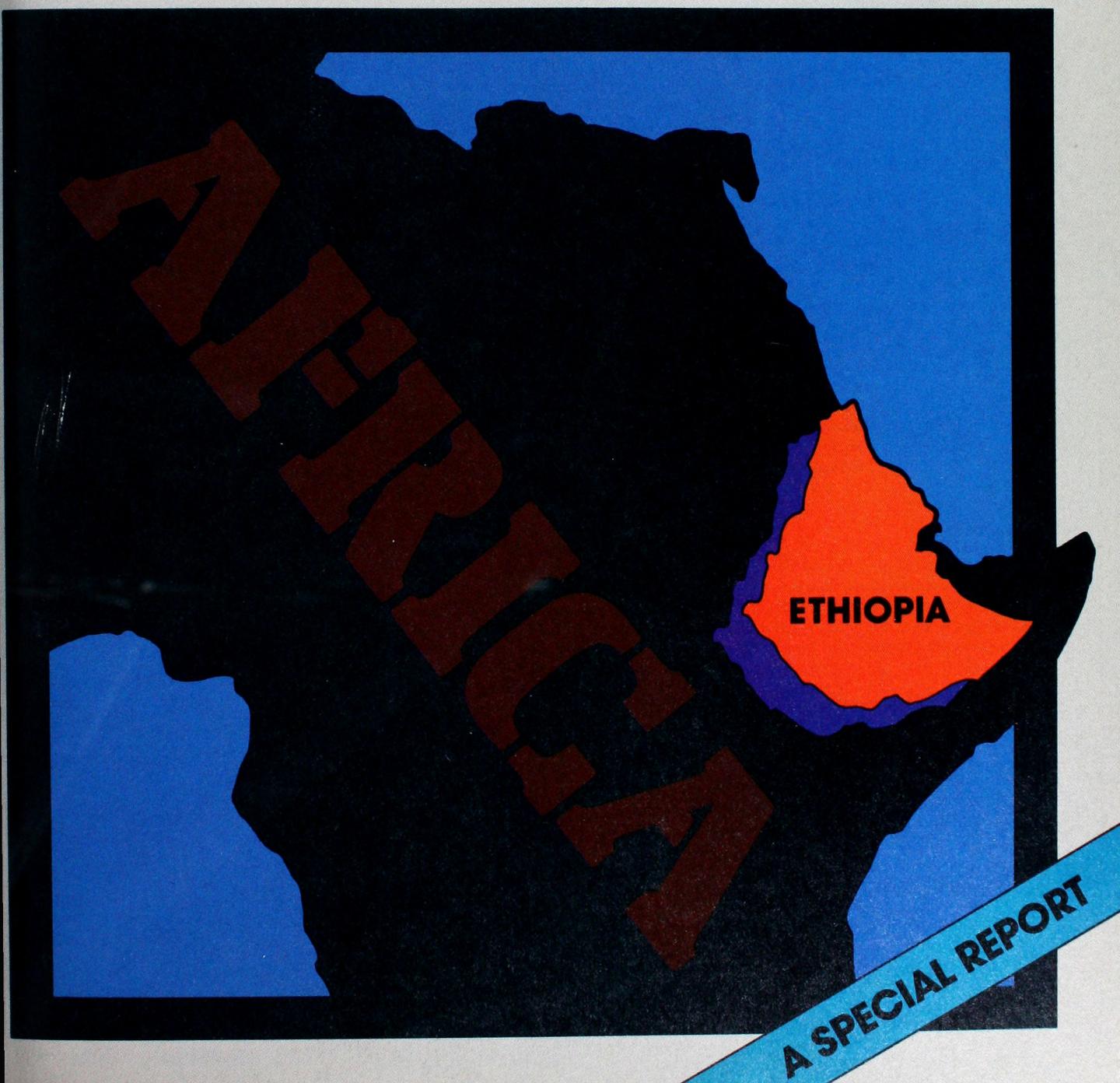
A coastal  
oasis of hope

Women share  
the burden

What I learned from  
an Ethiopian boy

June-July 1985

# *World Vision*®



# Readers write

## A shared question

"I Still Feel Your Suffering" (Rory Starks, April-May '85 issue) brought back poignant memories of our experience with suffering humanity while missionaries in Peru.

Rory's statement, "Why, I wondered, am I so fortunate, while you struggle daily just to survive? There was no answer. I wept," reflects the questions I had while in Peru. The disparity of it all overwhelmed me also.

I, too, wept as I viewed the extreme material, physical and spiritual poverty of those dear Indian people. I asked, "God, why have you blessed us so bountifully?" I was thinking primarily of our beloved America; then the question became very personal: "Why have you blessed *me* so bountifully?" And the answer came through loud and clear in the words of our Lord Jesus, "Freely ye have received, freely give."

He has so bountifully blessed us that we may (and must) share joyfully, spontaneously and generously with others. That, then, is the answer.

The disparity still overwhelms me occasionally, but then I think of Peru, and words from your very own magazine (a past issue) give me inspiration to keep praying, giving, sharing and caring: "Do something even if everything can't be done."

Hazel Welton  
Morton, IL

## "I can't sit by."

I just read through my first issue of WORLD VISION. It moved me to tears as much as the television broadcast that enlightened me as to who World Vision is and what you are doing in Christ's name for the starving, hurting people in the world.

For at least two months before I saw the program, I had been reading so much on the plight of Ethiopians and other Africans. There was a lot of bad publicity about how the funds and relief being sent to these countries were not reaching the hungry, but staying in the hands of the greedy. I really wanted to help, but I could not make the decision without asking the Lord, "Who should I give my help through?"

My prayers became heightened the week I caught the World Vision program. It was about 1:45 a.m., an unusual time for me to be watching TV. My husband was out of town and I just wasn't sleepy. Then the

program came on and as I watched, the Holy Spirit within wept from depths that I have rarely tapped in my life. I knew it was the Lord's tears for His people, and I knew that this was my time to act.

It isn't like me to pledge a monthly sum without consulting my husband, but knowing the impulse was from the Lord, I knew there would be no problem.

Now after reading the magazine, I wish I could be involved in a more personal way. I can understand what Gary Collins means when he says, "As a Christian, I can't sit by . . ." I'll just keep asking the Lord to use me to minister to His people—especially to those who have never known Him as their personal, living Savior. If there is anything I can do to help, I will.

Felice Brooks  
Roswell, GA

## Why can't we meet everyone's basic needs?

I was moved to write after reading the letter from Dr. Jim Owens and the article by Liz Kliewer in the April-May issue of World Vision.

I was very troubled by references to persons waiting as long as three days to be seen in the clinics, lack of sufficient food and medical supplies to meet basic needs of some persons coming to the camps, and lack of shelter for the people at night.

I feel a need to understand why the combined efforts of the relief community in general and World Vision in particular cannot, despite the great outpouring of financial and volunteer help, meet the basic needs of all persons arriving at the camps. Are funds collected so far insufficient to meet the needs? Or is there a lack of competent personnel at the camps? Or other factors?

If you could enlighten me further, I would be most grateful. If there is anything more you or I or anyone can do to further alleviate the suffering of these people, it is incumbent upon us as Christians to do so.

Thank you for bringing the plight of these impoverished African brothers, sisters and children home to me in a most eloquent way.

C. Scott Bucher, RN  
Boiling Springs, PA

*World Vision is feeding 100,000 people daily, but even though we utilize every resource we have and give the aid directly to the people, there is not yet enough grain*

*available for everyone. A second problem is that the delivery of food is very difficult. Ethiopia, one of the poorest nations in the world, has much mountainous terrain and very few roads or trucks.*

*Between six and seven million people in Ethiopia are considered "at risk," which means they will die unless they are fed. The overwhelming numbers of hungry people mean that the total relief that everyone is working toward is not yet attainable.*

*As to relief personnel, both expatriate and national staffs are unusually capable and dedicated, working beyond the exhaustion point under incredibly difficult conditions. But relief agencies, including World Vision, struggle constantly to recruit enough trained, experienced people to deal with the acute, specialized needs of the famine-stricken.*

## God's heartbeat

The scenes of precious little ones (and the parents also, for they too are God's little children) and their suffering, have not let me rest and God has given me a lullaby telling of His love for children. I am in the process of having this song copyrighted, but if you would like to use the words in WORLD VISION, you have my permission. Maybe someone who reads them will feel God's heartbeat and want to share an extra gift of love.

## Dear Little One

Oh dear little one, dear precious one,  
You're a gift from God above  
To our family, to nurture you  
In His wisdom and His love.  
Long before we ever knew you,  
You were part of His great plan  
He in secret formed each feature  
Each tiny finger of your hand.

Jesus loves you, dear little one,  
The Bible tells us so.  
He said, "Come to me, forbid them not,  
'Bring the lambs into my fold.'  
So rest now, dear little one,  
Close your eyes and go to sleep.  
For His angels, watching o'er you,  
Their tender vigil will keep.

Thank you, Father, how we love You,  
Seek your guidance for each day.  
May this little one, this precious one  
Grow to walk your Holy Way.

Harriet Harting  
Tinley Park, IL

# World Vision.



## 4 A coastal oasis of hope

Nomads in Mauritania's capital city slums receive health care.



## 6 Sharing the burden

World Vision women share their responses to ministry-related stress.



## 11 Ethiopia's long walk back to health

What's happened and what lies ahead for weary famine victims.

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**WORLD VISION**

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## PEOPLE WANT TO KNOW

**Questions about Ethiopia?** The list is long:

- How could such a massive tragedy develop?
- How many lives are being saved?
- How many more need rescue from starvation?
- Can't food be sent faster?
- Where are the major projects located?
- What about resettlement?
- Are the rains adequate yet?
- How is the Bread of Life shared?
- How are Ethiopian Christians faring?
- Who will care for the orphans?
- What will World Vision's roles be during the next five years?
- Although even he does not have an

answer for every such question, Dr. Ken Waters has written the most complete report our magazine has ever carried on the Ethiopia situation in which you are involved with World Vision. The story is on pages 11 through 18. His overview-update and the accompanying map and photos will clarify important facts for you and for those with whom you share your copy of the magazine.

*David Olson*

PHOTOS, ILLUSTRATIONS: Cover, pp. 14, 15 (left): Judith Walker; pp. 4, 5 (above left): Martin Lonsdale; p. 5 (above right, bottom left): Sheryl J. Watkins; p. 9: Theo Chilambar; p. 10: Richard J. Watson; pp. 11-13, 16 (left), 17, 18, 22 (left), 25: Steve Reynolds; p. 15 (right): Jim Owens, M.D.; p. 16 (right): Jacob Akol; return envelope: David Ward; p. 20: Carol Jean Cox; p. 22 (right): Bob Latta; p. 23: (top) South Carolina State Ports Authority (bottom) Herb Shoebridge; p. 24: Charles Bascom, M.D.

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For the hungry children of  
proud desert nomads . . .

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# A COASTAL OASIS OF HOPE

by Merrill Weale

**F**rom the air, Nouakchott is quite striking, nestled along the gracefully curving coastline where the blue-black Atlantic Ocean meets the shimmering orange sand of the Sahel.

Mauritania's capital city has experienced phenomenal growth over the last 25 years. Its population of around 5000 in the early 60s has mushroomed to an incredible 350,000 today, placing great strains on municipal systems that were already unable to keep pace.

There is no other landscape here but endless desert sand to the east and open sea to the west. The desert is not a place of cities but a place of small communities separated by miles of expansive sand and scrub. The nomadic tribes of Mauritania have, for centuries, crisscrossed the Sahara with families and herds, following the seasonal changes, constantly on the move. They lived away from the communities and away from the cities.

But nomadism is dying in West Africa. The expanding desert daily claims thousands of acres of land, and the slowly sinking water table eventually abandons hundreds of oases and water stations. Thousands of desert dwellers have been forced to

flee to the cities in search of water and food.

The drought that grips this part of Africa is rapidly putting an end to any romantic notions we might still have about nomadic people wandering freely across the vast Sahara. They have no choice. To stay in the desert is to watch children and herds die slowly from lack of water. So they come by the thousands to cities like Nouakchott and take their chances. There is, they soon find out, very little room for them here; the city was not meant to shelter this many drought-displaced refugees. And so, the inevitable: proud and independent families are forced into an existence that goes against everything they have ever known. Where once they were able to move about at will, now they are forced to settle, to make permanent dwellings. Where once they fed their flocks at desert springs, now they must scrounge for a daily ration of water.

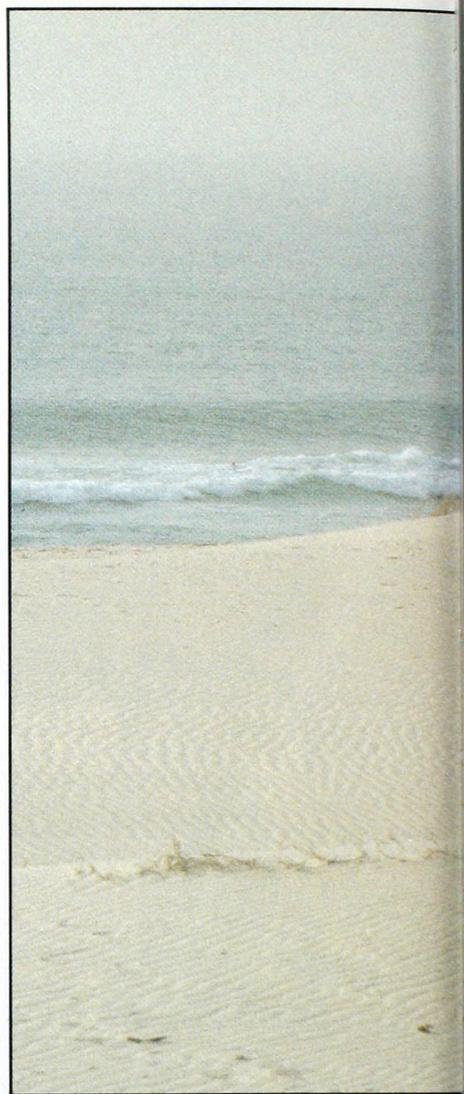
With a change in environment came also a change in diet. Where once there was meat and milk there is now fish. Many children are sick and their

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**Thousands of desert dwellers have been forced to flee to the cities in search of water and food.**

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*Merrill Weale is director of World Vision Canada's publications and promotion division.*



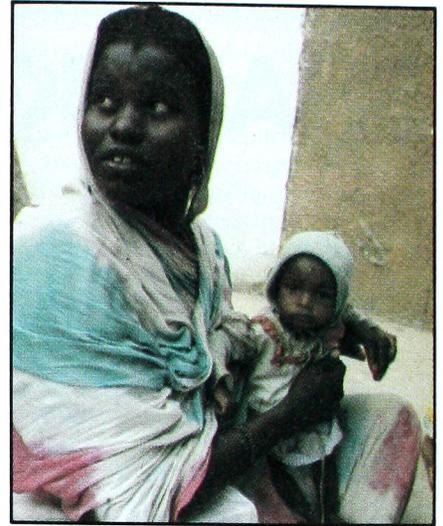
mothers are ashamed to take them outside the camp for treatment. The children grow up in an urban environment where there is as much opportunity for trouble as there is for an education. The one advantage the city might have offered them—literacy—is denied them. There are very few schools here.

But there is, in the middle of this quarter of the city, a bright green barrack, not unlike a lot of the small buildings that surround it. Just outside is a typical desert-style tent under which are seated about 60 women and children, all waiting patiently in the blazing heat of midday.

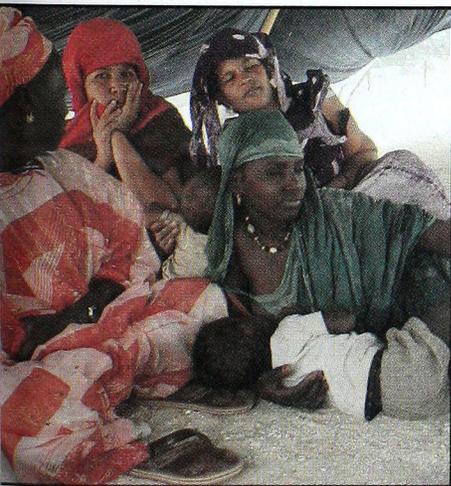
This is the health center that has been established by Terre des Hommes, World Vision's partner in the job of providing health care and health education to the hundreds of families that live in this slum area of Nouakchott. Although in Mauritania the hours



Women like Masouda (below, with her fourth child, Merriam Mint Cidi) who come to the dispensary are asked to pay only as much as they can for treatment.



**T**he women of this neighborhood bring their children to a place where they are welcomed and offered new hope for a healthy future.



Mothers wait in the shade of a tent to have their children seen at the Terre des Hommes dispensary in Nouakchott.

between 2:30 and 4:30 are set aside for rest—a logical break from the heat and sun—here inside this tiny wooden structure it's business as usual. There is a lot to be done and no time for a break.

Try to imagine working here in a harsh and relentless climate, witnessing a continual parade of health problems among people who are helpless to fight back. But despite all of this I saw dedicated women, expatriate staff as well as nationals, who still had the time and energy to smile at each bewildered child, and who still had the patience to talk out each problem, no matter how small. World Vision is indeed fortunate to have such partners on the field, to be working with people who really care.

I was shown that the gifts of World Vision donors are being distributed with love and with concern by people who believe in the dignity of the human spirit and the precious gift of life God has given.

The women of this impoverished neighborhood bring their children, His children, to a place where they are welcomed and offered new hope for a healthy future. They are asked to pay what they can for this care. More a symbol than real payment, their contribution says that they are doing what they can to keep their children healthy. But it is because of the generous gifts of World Vision partners throughout the world that this tiny barrack exists as a place of healing.

The desert continues to spread and the streets of Nouakchott continue to be filled with the noises of too many children, too many animals, too many people. There are no simple solutions to the problems caused by this persistent drought, but as long as there is need, the struggle must continue. □

# SHARING THE BURDEN

**One of my constant battles** as the wife of a World Vision employee is to willingly accept the long hours and absences related to my husband's work." By supplying variations on the organization name, countless women could make these words of Marlene Dick (World Vision of Canada) their own.

At World Vision, this kind of lonely struggle was recognized as part of a whole range of women's felt needs, and six years ago a quarterly newsletter was initiated. A dictionary definition of its name, *Parakaleo*, includes "encourage, comfort, build up." Although originally intended for the wives of World Vision expatriate staff, the publication was welcomed by other World Vision women as well. In recognition of this broader audience, *Parakaleo* was recently given a new sub-title: *A Newsletter by and for World Vision Women*.

A variety of women's concerns are dealt with in the newsletter, but the focus of the March 1985 issue was on meeting creatively the special needs of families with ministry-absentee husbands/fathers. Because this is a problem with which many of our readers must deal, we asked several of the *Parakaleo* writers if they would allow us to share selections from their articles with you.



*Marlene Dick is not only a World Vision wife (her husband Ken is group director, corporate and financial services, WV Canada) but also serves as a volunteer in a WVC office. She is on the executive committee of the Christian Women's Club, is a frequent speaker for women's groups, and is active in a local church. The Dicks have four children (one of whom works full time for WVC) and two grandchildren.*

**Marlene Dick**, quoted earlier, speaks frankly of her effort to accept her husband's time-and-energy-consuming schedule. In "For His Glory," she recounts the experience that changed her perspective and has helped her repeatedly through the years.

"Shortly after my husband Ken joined World Vision, he was scheduled for a three-to-four-week orientation trip

through Asia. He had never been away from home for that length of time before, and I struggled for weeks prior to his departure because I didn't want him to go.

"While in Hong Kong, Ken was taken on a day trip to the China border, accompanied by Christina Lee from the local World Vision office. During the day, Ken learned that Christina was not a Christian. He shared his testimony with her, and promised that he would pray for her salvation.

**One of my constant battles is to willingly accept my husband's long hours and absences."**

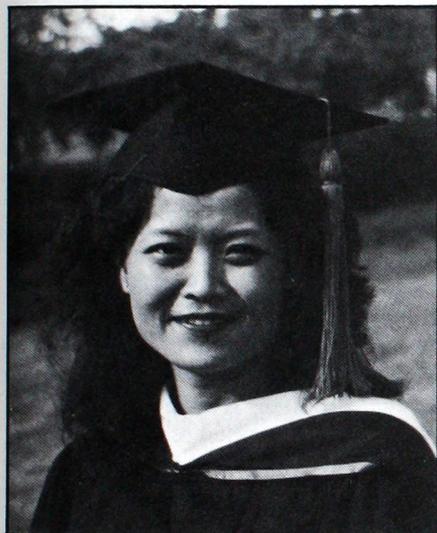
"About four months later, Christina wrote that she had accepted Jesus Christ as her personal Savior, and another letter some time after that, told him she had been baptized.

"I felt very rebuked when I realized that God had used this trip for His glory in spite of my attitude. I had the joy of meeting Christina in Canada while she was here for orientation, and again in Taiwan with Ken when Christina was in charge of the work there.

"On that same trip, we went from

Taiwan to Australia where Ken shared in the World Vision chapel service. A young Chinese woman introduced herself and said how happy she was to meet Ken. She had been working in the office in Hong Kong at the time of his visit, she explained, and was to have accompanied him to the China border that day. She became ill, however, and Christina was asked to take her place. She told us that everyone in the office had been praying for Christina. They had been so thankful that God had sent Ken to witness to her that day.

"It was at that point I began to be able to accept the fact that traveling was part of Ken's ministry with World Vision, and since then it has been much easier for me to let him go, although we always miss him very much. And I am deeply thankful to God that we are part of the World Vision family."



*Christina Lee first worked for World Vision Hong Kong, then successively as operations director for WV Taiwan and as project consultant with WV Asia. Now on leave of absence from WV, Christina received her master's degree in communication in 1984 and is currently working on a doctorate in adult and continuing education at Michigan State University.*

**Christina Lee**, the young Chinese woman of Marlene's story, is now on leave of absence from World Vision, working on a doctorate at Michigan State University. In 1982 she had written to *Parakaleo* in response to a readership questionnaire. Some of her comments are quoted in the March 1985 issue.

"I've gained insight on how my future married life (if I marry) might

**"I've gained insight on how my married life (if I marry) might be affected. . ."**

be affected should I continue to be a World Vision workaholic, perhaps neglecting the needs of my husband, or not being able to count on his being supportive and understanding.

"I've often said that the wives of World Vision executives have the toughest jobs in the world; their husbands are subject to such great demands, diversity of assignments and responsibilities. It really takes God's wisdom, much love and much patience to be a supportive wife.

"Through this newsletter, we can share, and fellowship with, and support and encourage one another, brothers and sisters in World Vision, all over the world."

**Laura de Chuquín**, in "Priorities," speaks forthrightly and practically about a perspective she feels has been largely neglected in *Parakaleo*.

"All the articles I have read up to now concerning the problems caused by a husband who, of necessity, works late and travels frequently, try to teach the wife that it's her responsibility to be patient and pious and tolerate things. The articles never mention the fact that the husband also has a great responsibility in this area.

"Obviously, a large part of this does fall on the wife, but marriage should involve compromise, with each partner carrying his/her part. Our family had learned to accept the fact that José was seldom home, but it still caused resentment, as much on my own part as on that of the children. Through Bible study and training as family counselors, José and I have come to the following conclusions:

"The husband's role, seen from a biblical perspective, is that of ministering to his wife and family. That means seeing that harmony exists in the home and providing for the personal growth of each individual member. That's a big responsibility, and one that can't be done by correspondence alone.

"Unfortunately, the husband's role frequently degenerates to that of provider and part-time companion while the wife suffers 'heroically' to maintain a strong Christian family, feeling guilty when she can't fulfill both roles (husband/father and wife/mother) perfectly. This is a mistaken interpretation of what the Bible has taught us about our roles in marriage. It's not just up to the wife to see that family and marriage survive. It's a shared responsibility as is very clearly shown in Ephesians 5:21-33.

"José has reevaluated his responsibilities and cut out unnecessary traveling and meetings. Once a month, we take an entire day for just ourselves. We use this time to review our marriage, see what areas we need to work on, share, and just be together. We also save 15-20 minutes for sharing daily and another 10-15 minutes for



*Laura de Chuquín graduated in Spanish culture and language from Warren Wilson College in North Carolina, where she also met and married her husband, José, now World Vision field director in Bogotá, Colombia. Laura is studying biblical family counseling from a Latin perspective, and is training in systemic psychotherapy. She is director of their church's family ministry and outreach committee and operates a low-income family counseling service. Laura and José together conduct marriage enrichment seminars. The Chuquíns have three children.*

**"It's not just up to the wife to see that family and marriage survive."**

praying together before going to bed.

"We try to go out one night a week after the children are asleep; on Saturday nights we have a family worship, and Sunday is our family day, dedicated to the church and the children—and with lunch fixed by José. He and I have our own devotional time Sunday evening after the children are asleep, combining Bible study, singing, praying and reading books aloud.

I now know that whatever meetings José attends or trips he takes, are important. I also know that we will have our scheduled time together. I am no longer resentful, and am able to give him the support he needs, so that he can travel without feeling guilty or worried. I'm also able to care for the children with a positive spirit when he's gone.

"I invite all of you to study Ephesians 5, and in the light of that, ask the Lord to help you evaluate your priorities. What position do we really give our spouses and families?"

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**Barbara Kohl**, current editor of *Parakaleo*, writes in her article, "Insights": "Some comments I heard recently on managers helped me to understand and accept some of my husband's characteristics and attitudes, simply by realizing that they were shared by managers in general. This issue of *Parakaleo* was prompted by a search for insights on how to become a better helpmate for a particular manager, my husband, who works for a particular organization, World Vision,

**"I asked my husband how I could be a better helpmate. His answer: 'By understanding.'"**

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which demands (or inspires him to give) so much of his time and energy. Absences from home, long hours at the office, and stress levels have not diminished in the eight years we have been with World Vision. I have often felt lonely, neglected and depressed.

"But in various ways over the past twelve months, as I have thought about my own unmet needs, the Lord has been prompting me to ask, 'Am I meeting my husband's needs? How can I be the kind of helpmate God intended me to be?'"

**How can I be a helpmate of any kind when I'm so in need myself when the waiting for your presence, your companionship for the dripping tap to be fixed for your decision on something important leaves me with nothing to share except my emptiness?**

"In seeking my own answer to how I could be a better helpmate, I searched the Scriptures, read Christian books, talked to other Christians. Then one day recently, I asked my husband. His answer was a short one: 'By understanding . . . (that I need to do what I am doing—working so hard and such long hours).'"

"When Manfred called from Ethiopia



*Barbara Kohl graduated in modern history from the University of Toronto and taught in high school, later earning a Master of Divinity degree from the then Gordon Divinity School. Following her marriage to Manfred Kohl, Barbara and her husband spent seven years in a Massachusetts pastorate. Manfred joined World Vision in 1977 and is now national director in the West German branch of WV Europe. The Kohls have two sons, 10 and 12.*

yesterday, on a trip he felt he needed to make even though he was ill, he said, 'I'm glad you understand.' I think I really do."

Accepting . . . reevaluating . . . understanding. The need for positive family relationships where the husband and father must deal with deep and distant problems is always great. Four World Vision women have generously shared their own God-guided thoughts. □

## WRITE YOUR EDITOR

**Magazine editors** love mail from their readers. Letters from readers—whether they affirm, challenge or add to a published article—indicate that readers think, feel and possibly act on what they read. And often, such letters provide useful information, insights or ideas which can be used in one way or another.

Because I value readers' remarks on any subject WORLD VISION

magazine touches on or ought to touch on, I want to encourage *you*—you reading these words now—to send me a short note if something on one of our pages provokes an unanswered question or produces a deep urge to share with me (and possibly with other readers) a special observation about Christian ministry to the world's needy.

Write "Yes, but," "No, but" or whatever. Although I cannot promise

you a letter in reply, I assure you I'll read what you write. And I'll print at least excerpts from some of the most pertinent letters I receive.

Your chance of getting into print is better if you write pointedly and concisely, in 100 words or less—preferably on the perforated slip you'll find alongside the return envelope near page 19. The earlier the better.

*David Olson*

# WHAT I LEARNED FROM AN ETHIOPIAN BOY

by Thea Chitambar

**H**is name was Yamar. I met him when I was in Ethiopia recently serving as a short-term nutritionist in the World Vision nutrition-health center at Alamata. Yamar was about 12 years old. For some reason he attached himself to me one day and we became friends.

Even though Yamar was so young, he seemed in some ways like he was 12 going on 30. There was no doubt that he had been affected by the drought and famine, but in a sense, that ordeal had made him strong.

The incident that marked our meeting taught me much about the character of the Ethiopian people.

I met Yamar as I was walking through a village market looking at the kinds of things available there. Since I had been asked to design a program of occupational therapy for the women at our center, I needed such information to

plan a successful program.

As I walked along, Yamar came up behind me and began to walk with me. When I bent down to look at some grain, he said, "That's tef." (Tef is the grain from which the people make bread.) A bit surprised, I asked him whether he spoke English.

"A little bit," he replied.

Yamar continued to point out different things to me in the marketplace and tried to describe them in English. Other boys began to follow us. All of them were very poor; many were in rags.

Since Yamar had been so helpful, I decided to give him some money. I was grateful to him and wanted to repay his kindness.

However, the minute I offered him one *bir* (about 50 cents), he immediately gave it back to me, exclaiming, "No, no, no. That's a bad habit. No money—bad habit."

I tried to insist. "Take it," I told him. "Buy something for yourself."

"No," Yamar firmly stated, "I'll eat your food, but I won't take your money."

That incident really touched me. It was obvious Yamar could have used the money. And he deserved it. But his sense of dignity said no. He saw it as begging.

At one time Yamar's family had been well-to-do and his upbringing had taught him not to accept money. His willingness to eat my food was perhaps because it was more like sharing between friends. Yamar probably also knew that if he accepted money from me, all the other children would have clamored, "Give me too!"

Yamar came to visit me every day while I was in Alamata. Once he brought me two lemons from his tree and invited me to his village. Yamar would often sit and talk with me about himself and his "future." He expressed a keen desire to be a doctor to help his people.

I learned much from Yamar during those visits. But I was most impressed by his dignity and sense of what was right. Amid the crises of famine and drought, he retained a sense of who he was and what he wanted to be. He lived out his principles even under the most adverse circumstances. I think that we Christians should not want to do any less. □

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*Thea Chitambar, author of this article and the one on the next page, is a former university instructor in India and mother of three grown children. She has worked extensively in community development in India and other countries. Her husband Ben is the associate director of rural development for World Vision International.*

Thea feeds a famine-weakened child.



# AN ETHIOPIAN WIDOW'S MITE

by Thea Chitambar

**G**od? There is no God. If there were a God, He would not have done this to us." That is what some destitute Ethiopians told me as they waited to be helped at World Vision's nutrition-health center in Alamata, where I served recently as a short-term nutritionist.

But not all the people I talked to felt that way. Many, when I asked them for their thoughts about why the crisis was happening to them, simply replied, "God knows what He's doing."

Their faith remains steadfast. And they don't merely talk about God; they live His reality.

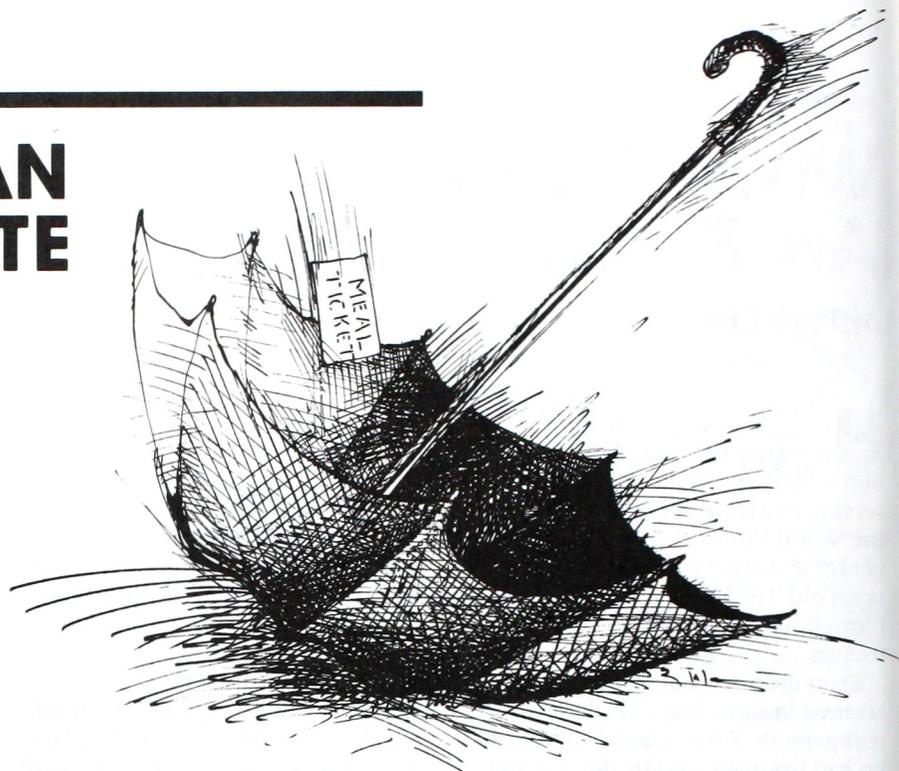
Every day between 4 and 5 a.m., I heard voices of people uniting in prayer. These voices would come from the church on the hill above our nutrition-health center. As they prayed they walked, circling the church, carrying rocks on their shoulders or on their heads. The rocks, I learned, symbolize the burdens they bear because of the famine. And the prayers are for forgiveness of their sins and for rain.

One Sunday morning I went up to that church. I watched an outdoor worship service. As the service progressed, a priest stood in front of the crowd, holding an umbrella. He held it upside down, to serve as a collection plate.

One by one, people came forward and placed in that umbrella various items that represented sacrificial giving to them.

Although another priest urged more of the people to put something into the umbrella, few had anything to give. Some from a nearby village were better off, but most were completely destitute; in fact, they had come to the area seeking the help of our center.

One elderly woman in particular caught my attention. Limp from



**When I asked why they thought the crisis was happening to them, many simply said, "God knows what He's doing."**

hunger, she wore tattered rags that hung loose on her frail frame. Although she could barely walk, she made her way up to the offering umbrella. Then I recognized her as one who had staggered to our center.

When she came forward, she took something I recognized and placed it in the umbrella. It was the meal ticket I had given her the day before—her only means of getting any food for the rest of the day!

Watching her, I was reminded of the biblical story about the widow and her two small copper coins (Mark 12:41-44). I remembered how that widow gave not of her surplus, but all she had.

Many other things too, touched my heart while I was in Ethiopia. Apart from seeing the incredible suffering, hearing the wailing children and smelling death all around, I was

extremely impressed by the dignity and faith of many of the Ethiopian World Vision staff with whom I worked. They are committed and dedicated workers, trusting God to provide the strength to serve in such a hard place.

Their source of strength? They keep close to the Lord. They pray often, especially at the end of each day.

I've seen them sit late in the evening, praying and singing for three hours after an exhausting day of work. They are not only an example to those around them but also to us who are their partners by support.

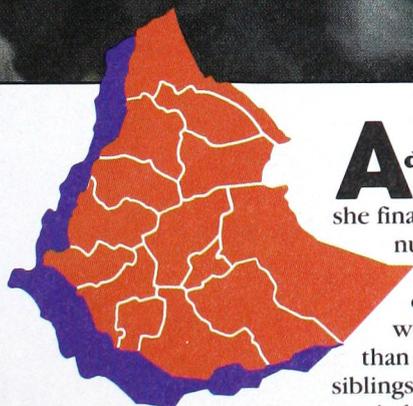
Seldom did I see any of them talk sharply to the famine victims. I was touched by the compassion, love and encouragement they gave. When they heard someone say, "There is no God," they replied, "Yes there *is* God; you will see. And you are going to see good days. This time will pass."

As we minister in Christ's name, I pray that we too can continue to provide that kind of hope to those who suffer through such terrible famine and drought. My prayer is that we learn from the people there, like the elderly woman and our Ethiopian staff, what it means to live a life of faith under such extreme circumstances. □

# ETHIOPIA'S LONG WALK BACK TO HEALTH

by Ken Waters

New nutrition-health centers, like this one at Ajibar, are being opened as the number of famine victims grows.



**A**dise Ayelew, 11, was a staggering skeleton when she finally reached World Vision's nutrition-health center at the town of Alamata in Ethiopia's central highlands. She had walked or been carried more than 25 miles by two of her three siblings. Her mother, Marshienye, had carried Adise's youngest sister, just a few weeks old.

The arduous trek through blast-furnace days and chilling mountain nights was necessary because the family's father had disappeared. He could no longer grow crops or find other work; Ethiopia's spreading famine had rendered him helpless to care for his family. So he left.

He left behind a pregnant wife who

could barely care for the family. Lacking money, the children begged food from neighbors until the birth of the new baby.

As soon as Marshienye regained strength, she packed the family's meager belongings, and they walked toward the place where others said food and health care were available.

When Adise and her sister Yesharage were examined by World Vision health workers, they were immediately brought to the super-intensive feeding ward to receive five high-protein meals per day. Thousands of other children were also being helped.

This intensive care paid off. A few weeks after admittance to the feeding ward, Adise was walking and playing again with her brothers and sisters.

Adise was fortunate to make it to Alamata in time.

Many children arrive too late. Like Bishenepu. Health workers found him cradled in his mother's arms outside the World Vision nutrition-health center at Lalibela. The mother whimpered quietly, rocking Bishenepu back and forth.

A nurse felt his pulse. "I think this one just died," she whispered to the doctor.

Another nurse slipped quietly away and returned a minute later with traditional burial wrappings. As gently as possible, she extracted the still child

from his mother's arms. Hardly noticing the removal of the child, the mother continued to rock as if he were still sleeping in her arms.

She stopped when she saw her son wrapped up as a mummy.

Tears filled her eyes. Her whimpering turned to wailing: "Bishenepu . . . Bishenepu!"

She tried to stand, but her legs buckled. Helped to her feet, she shuffled away. Hours later, she was observed wandering aimlessly in the feeding compound, still crying, "Bishenepu . . . Bishenepu!"

Hers was not the only sad voice that day. Before the scorching sun had set,

four other mothers at the Lalibela camp were wailing the names of their dead children.

Throughout Ethiopia as many as 2000 children like Bishenepu die daily from starvation-related causes.

**Ever since** a British Broadcasting Company TV crew, flying to famine sites on World Vision's Twin Otter airplane, brought these horrors to the attention of the world last October, assistance has been pouring in from governments, churches, corporations and individuals.

The BBC footage highlighted the tragedy at places like Korem and Alamata, normally sleepy mountain

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**People in or near the World Vision nutrition-health centers are already benefiting from aid and education aimed at overcoming long-term problems.**

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*Dr. Ken Waters is manager of communication services for World Vision International. Contributing to this story were World Vision journalists Jacob Akol, Pat Banks, Alan Hassell and Steve Reynolds.*

At least partial hope is restored for those like this mother and child who make it to a relief center.





towns that were overrun with thousands of dying people—people who trekked for days to find a kernel of grain once word spread through the countryside that feeding centers were being opened. Thousands of other people died before making it to one of 100 feeding centers established by aid agencies and Ethiopia's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC). Hundreds of those reaching the feeding centers were orphans.

The only way one can truly understand the tragedy of the famine is to reflect quietly and compassionately on

how it would feel to be Bishenepu's mother. Figures alone can be so overwhelming as to be incomprehensible. According to Ethiopian and United Nations relief officials, as many as 300,000 people have died this past year. About 15 percent of the children born annually will die before their first birthday. Another four percent will die before reaching the age of four.

The United Nations has estimated that as much as \$396 million in aid, including 1.33 million metric tons of food, is needed to meet shortfalls caused by drought, declining agricultural production, inadequate distribution of existing food, civil unrest and a host of other problems. Some 7.7 million people are said to be at risk of starvation—nearly one-sixth of the current population.

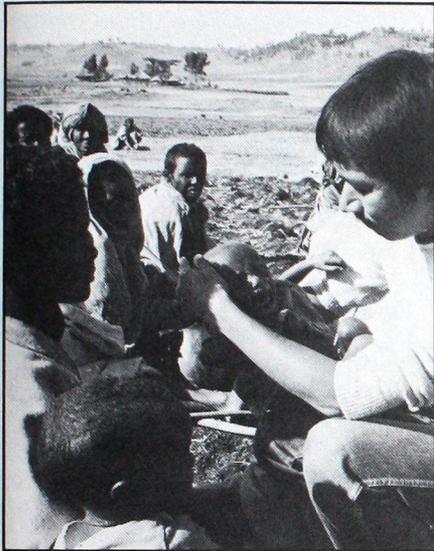
Since the short rains expected in March did not materialize, the outlook for the immediate future is bleak indeed. By later this year, the number of people in need could easily rise to ten million.

World Vision has expanded its ten-year-old program of assistance in Ethiopia to include what could become a \$60 million aid package in

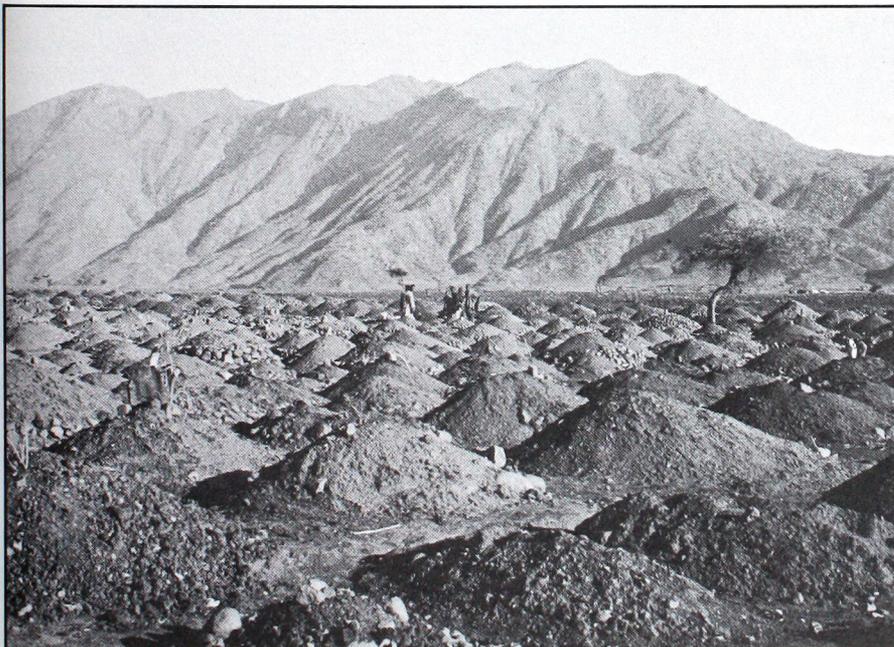
1985. Of the more than 100 projects already in operation, eight are massive nutrition-health centers feeding tens of thousands of people daily. As many as a half-million Ethiopians will receive life-sustaining assistance this year through World Vision donors.

Additionally, two World Vision-owned planes, operated by Mission Aviation Fellowship, are ferrying food, medical supplies, clothing, blankets, medical personnel and visitors to many otherwise difficult-to-reach places within this heavily mountainous nation. One plane has been operating since 1981, when World Vision began expanding its ministry to Ethiopia in response to initial indications of the now-raging famine.

**“When hundreds of thousands of people are dying, we heed the biblical mandate to minister to them in Jesus’ name.”**



(left) Dr. Hector Jalipa examines a severely malnourished child at Ajibar.



These newly created graves near Alamata are grim reminders of the many famine-related deaths that occur daily.

**At World Vision's Alamata**

**center**, approximately 33,000 meals are prepared each day. Many people receive four or five meals per day, depending upon the severity of their condition.

Children are particularly susceptible at times like these. During their developing years, a prolonged decrease in protein can cause permanent physical and mental damage. Children also catch diseases more easily.

“Malnutrition reduces a person's immunities and natural resistance,” noted Australian nutritionist Marilyn Fry, who worked at several World Vision centers. “And so long as these people are malnourished, they are extremely susceptible to an entire range of diseases.” The diseases include typhus, leprosy (Hansen's disease),

smallpox, pneumonia and cholera.

"The trick is to reach the little ones before permanent damage sets in," said World Vision communicator Alan Hassell. "The immediately needed foods are not the fruits, vegetables and meats Westerners would think of. Rather, famine victims receive fortified grains, vegetable oils, and other foods giving the most nutrition per pound and per dollar.

"Often, very small children, badly emaciated, but caught in time, will bounce back rapidly after just a few days of intensive feeding and care," Hassell added.

A new scene of tragedy seems to arise almost daily. Today the focus has shifted from Alamata and Korem to Ajibar, some 90 miles south of Korem. Dr. Hector Jalipa, World Vision doctor at Ajibar, said recently, "The situation here is a disaster."

Dr. Jalipa opened the nutrition-health center eight days ahead of schedule to accommodate some 10,000 severely malnourished children and their parents. About 400 more people arrive each day seeking help. Ajibar is literally bursting at the seams as people huddle in the streets or lie down with animals at night for warmth. At an elevation of

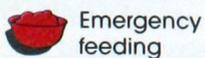
9000 feet, the nights are bitterly cold.

"Most villagers we spoke to have been relying on the Ethiopian Relief and Rehabilitation Commission distribution because their food ran out

months ago and they no longer have animals to sell," said Dr. Jalipa. "Those who still have cattle left are trying to keep them alive by feeding them thistles and cactus beaten with sticks to soften them. If these people don't get food soon, their condition will deteriorate rapidly."

To avoid the spread of communicable diseases like cholera, common when thousands of people overtax water and sanitation systems, Ethiopian RRC staff are giving out dry rations

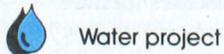
## KEY TO MAP OF ETHIOPIA



Emergency feeding



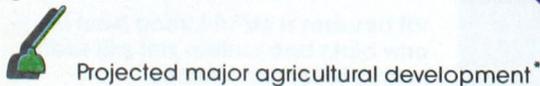
Nutrition-health center



Water project

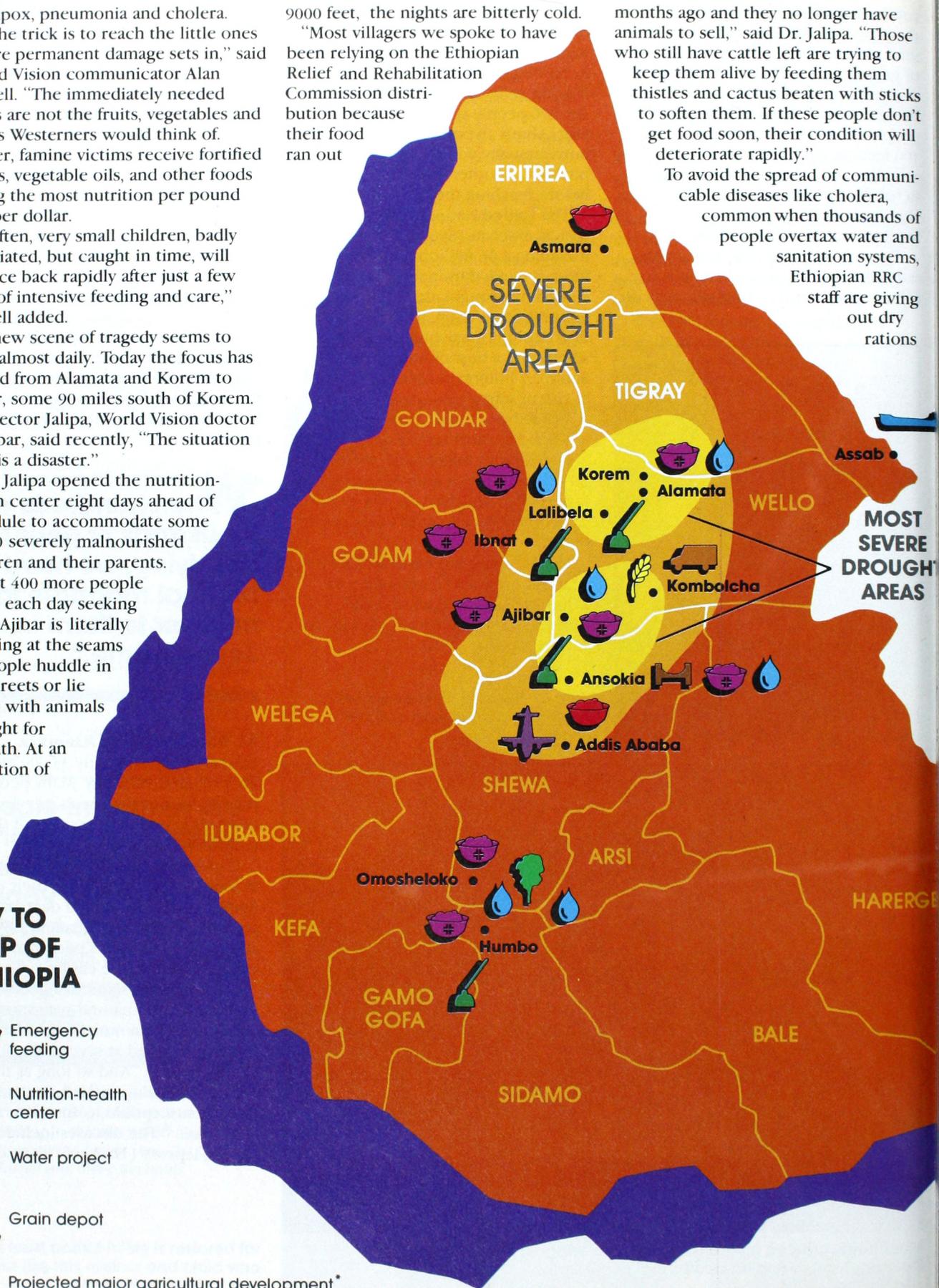


Grain depot



Projected major agricultural development\*

\* Subject to government approval





to healthy people coming to Ajibar in search of food. Those people are asked to return home. Additionally, more than 7000 people have been voluntarily relocated by the government from Ajibar to other areas. In several other key areas, smaller satellite feeding centers have been established to provide more localized assistance and reduce overcrowding at the main centers.

**The short-term battle** is complicated by Ethiopia's geography and politics.

Ethiopia is a land of geographic variety. Mountains run roughly from north to south. The Southeast and most of the West are deserts. The geography has served to isolate many people, and it has been estimated that as many as 90 percent of the people live more than ten miles from a road.

The roads that do exist are poor and often washed out when a rain does fall. They take a brutal toll on trucks. A large decentralized supply depot is being set up in the Kombolcha region to store grain and repair World Vision trucks delivering food in the northern regions.

Another complicating factor is that Ethiopia's ten-year-old Marxist military government is not universally popular. Opposition groups in Tigray and Eritrea are strong, and food delivery sometimes is blocked by fighting. World Vision's Lalibela and Alamata centers have been cut off by air and land from Addis Ababa at times as fighting has taken place in the area. In

one instance, only a day's food and medicine remained in the Alamata camp when food delivery was resumed.

As the battle to keep people alive continues, World Vision staff members are also busy planning to institute new development projects that will prevent future tragedies of mass starvation in Ethiopia.

Any long-term project consideration must begin with water, according to Dr. John McMillin, relief and rehabilitation director for World Vision International. But it is not so much a lack of water that is devastating Ethiopia, he asserts, as a lack of access

that would trap water in the soil has been stripped away."

Rainfall has been irregular the past few years, McMillin added, and this has confused farmers. During recent planting seasons, rains came either too late and the crops withered, or too early, before seeds were planted. In some cases the rain came too quickly and heavily, washing away crops just planted.

Inevitably farmers resorted to eating seeds and selling their cattle and tools to keep alive. Even as they did, sufficient water was, in most cases, less than four feet below the surface of the ground.

"I surveyed in Alamata valley recently. I stopped the Land-Rover and began digging a small trench," McMillin said. "A few curious farmers gathered to see what I was up to. I told them I would give them some grain if they would help. A few minutes after we started, a spring of water bubbled up only a few feet under the surface. The people were amazed." McMillin went back a week later to find the water still flowing.

Because of the possible availability of water, World Vision development planners consider well-digging and

**It is not so much a lack of water that is devastating Ethiopia, as a lack of access to water.**

to water. "In many places, rainfall has been normal or only slightly below normal. But the rain has simply rushed down the mountainsides and disappeared because the water retention systems are in disrepair, and vegetation



Australian hydrologist Rod Jackson works alongside Ethiopian nationals to restore Alamata's water system.



Truck repair facility



Bridge project



Reforestation project



Supply plane base



Relief supply port

providing water-catching basins a very high priority.

"We must 'take the people with us,' though," McMillin cautioned. "I talked with one farmer on a hillside and asked him why the terraces and trenches that had once irrigated the area were now in disrepair. He said he didn't know how to fix them. A European group came and built the system but left without telling the people how it worked or how to repair it."

The rape of Ethiopia's forests has also helped set the stage for the current crisis. Trees cut down for firewood for cooking have not been replaced. Lower-lying brush, an even greater ecological necessity because it helps create favorable ground condi-

tions for rain, has been eaten by cattle. When rains come, they cascade down the mountainsides, washing away valuable topsoil. Ethiopia's once elaborate system of terraces has all but been destroyed.

Reforestation in Ethiopia is possible. World Vision is already funding, with some success, a model reforestation project in the Shewa region, operated by the Shone Full Gospel Church.

Project staff recently completed the replanting of several hundred seedlings. "In three months the whole mountain in front of where I live will be planted," the project manager noted, "and the entire area will be potentially rich forestland."

**The shifting of the population** also poses a challenge for long-term development. The situation near the

World Vision Mekoy center illustrates this phenomenon.

Many of the people who traditionally lived in the area have left, moving closer to Addis Ababa for food. They have been replaced by nomadic peoples walking up from the desert floor, again in search of food.

At Mekoy, the original inhabitants were replaced by 70,000 nomads and their cattle. Within weeks the cattle had turned the green valley into a barren wasteland as they ate the remaining vegetation.

Then the cattle began dying. So the nomads left most of the remaining cattle and started walking toward Addis Ababa.

"I would estimate that as many as 75 percent of the people I talked with at Mekoy were not native to that valley," noted McMillin. "They did not know how to farm that soil or deal with the ecological forces in that area. So even after providing the people here with life-saving food and medical care, we have to face the challenge of either moving them back to their traditional homelands, moving them to a more fertile area, or teaching them how to survive in Mekoy."

In looking at long-term solutions, World Vision planners envisage well-digging, water retention, new medical clinics and the supplying of seeds, tools and other agricultural implements. And most of these projects will need to be enhanced by educational efforts to help the people achieve full self-reliance.

By October 1, one or two multi-

## FACTS ABOUT ETHIOPIA

**Population:** 36 million (mid-1985 estimate). 7.7 million are at risk of starvation. Number could rise to ten million. Last year 300,000 died in the famine.

**Area:** 471,800 square miles. (Population and area is about the same as California and Texas combined.)

**Health:** One doctor for every 100,000 Ethiopians. Only 6 percent of the population has access to safe water. Life expectancy is 40 years. About 15 percent of Ethiopian children born annually die before their first birthday.

**Education:** 8 percent literacy

**Capital:** Addis Ababa

**Major ethnolinguistic groups:** 40 percent Galla, 36 percent Amhara, 9 percent Kafa-Sidamo.

**Languages:** Amharic (official), Tigrinya, Tigray, Galla, Arabic, Somali, Italian, English and some 90 other minor languages.

**Religion:** 40 percent Christian, with the majority in the Ethiopian Orthodox Church; 40 percent Muslim, with Animist and Jewish (Falasha) minorities. For 800 years, Ethiopia was considered "an island of Christianity in a sea of Islam."

**Economy:** Fragile. One of the 49 low-income countries of the world. Nearly 90 percent of the people live off the land but only 7 percent of the farming is done by modern methods.



Women often walk for miles to fill their heavy crocks with water.

**Road system:** Lowest density of rural roads in the world. Close to 90 percent of the people live more than ten miles away from a road.

**Ecology:** Severe deforestation. At the turn of the century, 40 percent of the country was covered by trees. Today the figure is only 4 percent. The Sahara has advanced 62 miles in the last 20 years. Over the last century there has been a 25 percent drop in annual rainfall.

**History and government:** Ethiopia is the oldest independent country in Africa and one of the oldest in the world, with records dating to the fifth century B.C. Its long history was marked by a series of reigning emperors, with a five-year interruption initiated in 1935 by the Italian invasion and occupation.

In September 1974, the Ethiopian empire officially ended when the military leaders deposed Emperor Haile Selassie and established the present military government.

Many destitute Ethiopians, like these camped on a ridge above Lalibela, get badly burnt by open fires as they lie close to them at night for warmth.





million-dollar comprehensive development projects are expected to be in operation. An eight-to-ten person team headed by McMillin will soon arrive in Ethiopia to plan for such projects.

**While the long-term** solutions are being planned, people in or near the nutrition-health centers are already benefiting from aid and education aimed at overcoming long-term problems.

World Vision and Oxfam are restoring the water system for the town of Alamata. That move was essential. The population there has grown from 12,000 to 80,000 in just one year, putting enormous strain on the 45-year-old water system that originates about eight miles away.

Staff at several World Vision centers are now distributing agricultural packets (Ag Paks) to farmers who have left their homes and are camping in towns near the centers. The packets include farming implements, seeds, dry

food rations and other needed items. Those farmers will either return home or begin farming near the World Vision centers.

The Ag Pak program is expected to increase greatly in coming months.

In Mekoy, a bridge is being constructed over the Borkena River to ensure year-round delivery of food and supplies to that center and facilitate future development plans.

At the Alamata camp, people are learning new songs related to sanitation. One such song says, "Diarrhea is a disease that causes death. It attacks the adult and the child. Let's all come

together and avoid diarrhea. Let's all come together and use the latrines." Another variation of the song urges people to wash their hands before eating.

Dr. Peter Jordans, a Dutch doctor who has served at three World Vision camps, notes, "The idea of songs and street theater as tools to teach people can be very useful. The people are willing to learn, even though they have little formal schooling. And even so, it will take two years for a full development phase to occur."

Plans must be shaped to avert future crises, McMillin claims. "Neglect of foresighted planning happened in the mid-70's in Ethiopia. There was a terrible drought in 1972 and 1974. But when rains came, people went back to life as normal. The world community did not supply long-term assistance, and people began to live from day to day again. Few stored up for lean years."

Another fear expressed by World

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**As many as a half-million Ethiopians will receive life-sustaining assistance this year through World Vision donors.**

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Preparing porridge for famished Ethiopians is an endless task for nutrition-health center workers like these in Ajibar.





Vision staff in Ethiopia is that recent allegations of wrongdoing against some agencies could affect the resolve of donors to continue to work toward meeting both immediate and long-term needs in Africa.

To guard against any doubts about how donations are used, World Vision has employed some 200 people in Addis Ababa to monitor food distribution and logistics, and to plan projects for the future. "I am confident that virtually all the aid designated for World Vision use is actually reaching its destination," said World Vision International Vice-President Cliff Benzel, currently heading the agency's Ethiopia operation. "We check the unloading of food and supplies after

## Poor rains this year could add another three million people to the numbers facing starvation.

arrival, and we monitor distribution to people in need. Aside from the unavoidable losses due to spoilage, bugs and an occasional broken bag, we are confident that our systems of control are sufficient to ensure proper use of food. I have never been in a Two-Thirds World country where loss is lower."

Benzel also said he has encountered skeptics who feel the Ethiopian government should do more than it is already doing for its people. Expenditures for military budgets have come under press criticism. "I am impressed with the resolve of the Ethiopian people," Benzel noted. "Few countries spend as much of their income on the relief and rehabilitation of their people as Ethiopia does."

Also, the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, the country's largest and oldest church body, has long been a beacon of caring. Only recently have gifts of food and money from churchgoers been inadequate to meet the needs of hungry people flocking to Addis Ababa.



Weary children and parents await the next serving of porridge at Ajjibar.

With World Vision's assistance, the Orthodox church's feeding program will open ten centers around Addis Ababa, providing three daily meals and medical care for nearly 2000 destitute people.

Critics have also charged that by helping the people of Ethiopia, World Vision and other agencies are furthering the government's socialist policies and its negative attitude toward the church.

"It has always been World Vision's policy to meet the needs of people regardless of the political orientation of their government," noted Benzel. "When hundreds of thousands of people are dying, we heed the biblical mandate to minister to them in Jesus' name. We don't make politics a pre-

requisite for extending the love of Christ."

Little Adise Ayelew has certainly felt the compassion of World Vision staff members and the donors who make the effort possible. But soon she will walk out of the Alamata nutrition-health center into an uncertain future, a future that can only be made better through the prolonged and prayerful efforts of people worldwide. □

**Thank you, on their behalf, for your continuing help in the Christ-honoring effort to provide a brighter future for Ethiopians such as Adise and her family. They are deeply grateful.**

## Mini-message

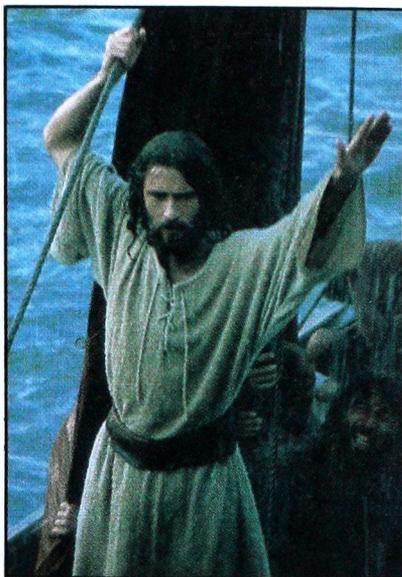
### DO YOU KNOW THE PEACE GIVER?

When you read the Gospel of Luke you see Jesus not only stilling wind and waves (as in this scene from the film *Jesus*), but calming His disciples' hearts.

The latter He did many times. And He still does it today.

Because He is well able to calm stormy seas and even the most troubled hearts that submit to Him, you and I have a sure way to experience peace of mind and soul whatever our situation. To us, as to the disciples who looked to Him during His days on earth, He says, plainly, *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid* (John 14:27, NIV).

The original context of this promise was Jesus' discourse on the Holy Spirit, whom He calls the Comforter, the Counselor. And the



promise is as applicable and as dependable for you and me in this nuclear age as it was for those who heard it from His lips outside Jerusalem two millennia ago. He does give His followers peace. Not through blindness to circumstances but through awareness of His love and power.

Have you tasted—and do you daily experience—the true inner peace which Christ, by His Holy Spirit, gives to all who receive it through faith in Him? If you are seeking peace and not finding it, we at World Vision urge you: Change the focus of your quest. Don't merely seek peace; *seek God through Jesus Christ*. For only through receiving Him as your Lord and Savior can you find the inner peace you crave.

For more light on this subject, read and re-read—today—the fourteenth chapter of John. And then why not read Luke's and John's entire accounts?

We urge you also to talk with a pastor or other helpful member of a Christ-centered church in your community. And please write us at WORLD VISION magazine, 919 W. Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016, if you would like a copy of a helpful booklet. We'll be glad to send it, free.

Like others in the first century and in our own, you *can* experience peace when you give yourself wholly to the one authentic Peace Giver. □

## 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 opportunities for service. If you think you may qualify for one of these positions, send your resume to World Vision International, Human Resources, 919 W. Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016.*

### AFRICA

**Ethiopia, Nutritionists** To assess and treat nutritional needs of famine victims; involves organizing and training of national staff in Ethiopian nutrition-health centers. Needed immediately. Requires nutrition, dietetics or M.P.H. degree and previous Two-Thirds World work experience. Six months minimum contract. *Contact: Pam Kerr, World Vision U.S.*

### INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

**Director, Corporate Planning** To be responsible for the corporate planning process and for assisting managers in the identification of critical issues in the development of long-range plans. Must have extensive related experience. *Contact: Kent Stock, Employment Supervisor.*

**Macro Project Team** Professionals working according to their particular discipline in a team context to research, develop and implement a regional development plan. Positions require extensive previous experience including Two-Thirds World experience with project management experience highly desirable. Must be flexible and adaptable to a variety of living conditions. The following personnel are required to make up the team:

Hydrologist	Nutritionist
Economist	Civil Engineer
Agriculturalist	Government Coordinator
Financial Analyst	Logistician
Community Planner	

*Contact: Kent Stock, Employment Supervisor.*

# Samaritan sampler

SOME WAYS PEOPLE ARE HELPING  
OTHERS IN THE NAME OF CHRIST



A proud mother holds one of China's future students.

## Sharing information about teaching openings in China

with prospective American teachers is a primary function of Educational Resources and Referrals—China (ERRC), previously known as Friends of the Tentmakers. Related services are also offered: counseling and orientation materials for students and teachers preparing to go to China, information on Chinese university programs for students of Chinese, and speakers on opportunities in China. ERRC also publishes a quarterly newsletter. For more information contact: ERRC, 2600 Dwight Way, Berkeley, CA 94704; (415) 548-7519.

## "Perspectives on the World Christian Movement,"

an introductory missions course, will be offered twice this summer (June 17-July 12 and July 22-August 23) by the Institute of International Studies at the Pasadena campus of the U.S. Center for World Mission. In addition, a number of extension center locations and an independent study option add to the program's accessibility. Credit transferable to secular universities is available. For

more information contact: IIS, 1605 Elizabeth St., Pasadena, CA 91104; (818) 797-4605.

## Nations presently closed to missions

are the homelands to which almost 40 percent of today's international students will eventually return. Winning such students to Christ and equipping them to minister in an environment hostile to Christianity, are the goals of International Students Inc. To reach these goals, ISI is seeking Christians nation-wide to become ISI Great Commission Partners, pledged to pray and support the work of reaching international students through local ISI ministries. For more information contact: International Students Inc., P.O. Box C, Colorado Springs, CO 80901; (303) 576-2700.

**The Other Side**, Jubilee's magazine of Christian social action, has expanded its content and is also wearing a fresh new look. Christians concerned about applying "justice rooted in discipleship" to contemporary problems in the U.S. and overseas will welcome the broader coverage of this frequently controversial, always thought-provoking periodical (\$19.75/yr.). *The Other Side*, 300 W. Apsley St., Philadelphia, PA 19144.

**Ways of helping hard-pressed farmers** affected by the current crisis in American agriculture were discussed recently by the Mennonite Central Committee. A special task force will develop "a workable plan for establishing a farm crisis mutual aid response, which will include a counseling resource and develop models for local congregations." An important part of their counsel will relate to the spiritual condition of the person in trouble.

**Spiritual awakening in the church** and an expansion of holistic worldwide evangelism will come only through unified, concerted prayer, say leaders of the National Prayer Committee. Providing information and assistance for churches and other groups who want to be a part of the "Concerts of Prayer," the NPC offers a variety of printed material and an audio tape teaching packet. For more information write: Concert of Prayer Project, National Prayer Committee, 233 Langdon St., Madison, WI 53703.

**Thousands of people in Southeast Asian refugee camps** still hope to reach the United States; displaced or terrorized people in other parts of the world continue to seek asylum. All of which means an ongoing need for churches and individuals to aid in resettling refugees. World Relief, an agency of the National Association of Evangelicals, has successfully resettled over 40,000 refugees in the United States, and offers information and guidance for those wanting to sponsor refugees. Contact: World Relief, Refugee Services

Division, P.O. Box WRC, Nyack, NY 10960; (800) 431-2808 or (914) 268-4135.

**Volunteers to work overseas** and in the United States are needed by Habitat for Humanity, an organization that builds homes for people in need of "a decent place to live." The U.S. locations need construction supervisors and project directors; overseas positions include administration, procurement, record keeping and construction. A training and orientation program is offered in Americus, Georgia. For more information, contact Ted Swisher, 419 West Church St., Americus, GA 31709; (912) 924-6935.

**Sharing Christ with Muslims** is the theme of three summer courses to be offered by the Samuel Zwemer Institute: Introduction to Islam, July 22-August 2; Gospel and Islam (cross-cultural communication principles), August 5-16, and Church Planting in Muslim Contexts, August 19-30. Both graduate and undergraduate credit are available. For more details write: Jeanette Hoffner, Registrar, S.Z.I., P.O. Box 365, Altadena, CA 91001.

**Youth involvement** in evangelization and Christian social concern is the focus of the Salvation Army's international youth congress scheduled at Western Illinois University, July 17-23. A delegate total of 5000 from most of the 85 countries in which the Salvation Army ministers is expected. Among the featured speakers will be Tony Compolo and Joni Eareckson-Tada.

## PLEASE PRAY . . .

- **for staff workers** like Phillip Muko of Zimbabwe who daily help put hands and feet on the work of World Vision around the globe.
- **for World Vision "spouses"** who, due to their mates' work, often face periods of separation, and who are challenged with maintaining stability and continuity in the home.
- **for Ethiopian famine victims** who continue to struggle for survival in their drought-stricken land.
- **for WV Ethiopian and expatriate staff members** working side by side to meet both immediate and long-range needs in that country's famine-plagued regions.
- **for steadfast, enduring and heartfelt support** from Westerners who have chosen to

help starving Ethiopians—support that will see that country's helpless victims through this crisis and safety beyond it.

□ **for volunteers** like Susan Constable who freely give of their time and talents to help meet physical and spiritual needs in Africa, Asia or Latin America.

□ **for urban pastors and spouses** in the U.S. as they reach out to one another for mutual support in their common ministry to those in inner-city areas.

□ **For Indonesia**, where a great movement toward Christianity is occurring. This is the only country in the world where significant numbers of Muslims have turned to Christ. Pray for the leaders to continue to be open to Christianity.

□ **for Dr. Samuel Kamaleson** and his team as they conduct a Pastors' Conference June 17-21 in Brasilia, Brazil. Pastors will travel great distances hungry for the fellowship and instruction this conference will afford.

**Unreached peoples** are the focus of the *Global Prayer Digest*. This monthly devotional guide offers a page for each day in an interest-holding and spiritually challenging format. A number of ministry organizations offer this publication in editions that contain the same core material plus some pages on their particular ministry. A generic edition is available at \$6 a year from Frontier Fellowship Inc., 1605 Elizabeth St., Pasadena, CA 91104.

**Challenging student leaders to become world changers** is the purpose of Leadership '85, sponsored by *World Christian* magazine. Student, church and mission leaders will gather August 12-16 at Biola University, La Mirada, California. Developing leadership-for-change skills and putting personal commitment into practical action will be emphasized by principal speakers Roger Greenway, Don McCurry, John Dawson, David Bryant and Gordon Aeschliman. For more information, contact *World Christian*, P.O. Box 40010, Pasadena, CA 91104; (818) 797-5320.

**ESA** (Evangelicals for Social Action) has issued an 11-point statement of its position on vital issues. The one-page document, called "Here We Stand," is available on request from ESA, 712 G Street SE, Washington, DC 20003.

## Planned giving



by Daniel Rice

*World Vision's Associate  
Director of Planned Giving*

## CAN ANYTHING GOOD COME OUT OF TAX-LAND?

**Yes! For example** there is good news for those who take the standard deduction (non-itemizers).

About 70 percent of all taxpayers do not itemize their deductions, and until recently, these taxpayers could not deduct their charitable gifts. But now, donors who take the standard deduction are permitted a limited deduction for their charitable gifts.

Be sure to keep your receipts during 1985, because you may

deduct 50 percent of all contributions on your 1986 tax return. And on your 1987 return, 100 percent of all contributions made in 1986 may be deducted.

Remember, these are limits on the amount you may deduct (the left hand)—not on the amount you may contribute (the right hand)! And you never let your right hand know what your left hand is doing, do you?

# SPECIAL WAYS PEOPLE AI



Kidest Mulugetta boards a World Vision plane for the Lalibela nutrition-health center.

## RETURN TO ETHIOPIA

by Pat Banks

**In her cozy home** in York, Pennsylvania, nursing her thriving new son, Kidest Mulugetta became haunted by nightmare media pictures she saw of starving famine victims in her native land.

Night after night she wept, longing to help the emaciated mothers of Ethiopia who were unable to feed their infants enough to keep them alive. Then a few months ago, what had seemed an impossible dream became reality for this 35-year-old mother of four.

With her baby, Benji, and older sons 5, 12 and 14 in the care of her husband Melese (a pastor and founder of the International Outreach Ministry), Kidest flew to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. There she boarded one of World Vision's Twin Otter planes for the flight to the Lalibela nutrition-health center. Kidest had offered to help in any way possible, including the provision of her natural breast milk for starving Ethiopian infants.

Said a joyful Kidest, "Today is one of the happiest days of my life. At home, as I watched my son Benji grow, I cried with anguish for my sisters here who had to watch helplessly while their babies died. My son at four months weighs 17 pounds; here, there

are children of four years who scarcely weigh that. In America, there are vitamins and special diets even for cats and dogs; here, my people are dying for want of a crust of bread, a cup of water. If my milk can save just one child, I will be happy."

Kidest's return to Ethiopia after eight years in America began to take shape when her husband spoke of the European trip they had long been anticipating. "We hadn't been able to take a holiday for so long," said Kidest, "and it was to be an anniversary present to ourselves. But as soon as Melese suggested setting the time for it, I burst into tears.

"For months I had had a heavy heart over what was happening in Ethiopia but did not want to burden my husband with what I thought was an impossible dream. So I said nothing. But when he suggested the European holiday, I couldn't keep quiet any longer and told him that the "holiday" of my life would be to return home to Ethiopia to work as a volunteer."

From then on, everything fell into place. Melese gave both his support and his prayers. Kidest's church, The Living Word Community, assisted her in making the journey. World Vision welcomed her volunteer service, and suddenly she found herself embarked on a several-months' assignment in Ethiopia, giving of herself to her African sisters and their children.

*Pat Banks is with World Vision Ethiopia Communications.*

## EQUIPMENT DONATED

**Patient Technology Inc.**, of Hauppauge, New York, has given World Vision 167 portable Digimax and Digiprint electronic blood pressure checkers and 15 hand-held Survelant electronic pulse and temperature checkers for use in world-wide World Vision health care projects. Some of the units are already in use in Mexico and Zaire. Estimated value of the donated equipment is \$101,318.

## EASTERN AIRLINES PEOPLE AID ETHIOPIANS

**A prayer circle** of Eastern Airlines employees recently launched a non-profit group called "Eastern People Helping People." Management at Eastern liked the concept and agreed to support it. Result to date: two mercy flights from Miami, Florida, to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, using two wide-body L-1011's to transport teams of volunteer medical personnel with their equipment and supplies along with more than 150,000 pounds of food, tents, blankets and other essential commodities.

Eastern crew members and technicians all donated their services for the flights and Eastern employees raised funds to cover fuel costs of approximately \$100,000 a flight.

For one flight, the employees' committee was still short \$60,000 as the departure day approached. A televised appeal to the community brought an unusual response from Jane and Fred Krusell of Boca Raton, Florida.

"I saw it on TV on Wednesday afternoon and I thought about it

Frank Borman, president of Eastern Airlines, came to see the flight take off and to tell his staff how proud he was of them for participating in this humanitarian effort on behalf of the people of Ethiopia.



during the night, and thought, if they need it, we should send it," Krusell said. He called the Eastern committee for complete information and then called his bank to transfer the needed funds—the entire \$60,000. "We're 90 and 96 years old, so it's our last chance to do anything," explained Jane Krusell.

In a happy combination of effort—the time and skill of the Eastern flight crews, the energy, planning and fund raising of the Eastern employees, and the concerned giving of the Krusells and others—people being reached by World Vision were provided with timely and vital aid. World Vision salutes the staff and management of Eastern Airlines for their joint effort.

## RICE FOR LIFE

**When Jesse Hunsinger** first called several relief agencies to offer them rice for Ethiopians, they all turned him down.

"Most agencies had a hard time believing that he had thousands of pounds of rice to give," said Paul Samuels, World Vision's regional representative in Charlotte, North Carolina. But Paul checked it out and World Vision agreed to distribute the rice.

Jesse's story began in October 1984, when he watched a television program about starving children. He was so moved he couldn't sleep.

"I knew it was time I got up and did something," he explained. "At three in the morning I went down to my restaurant and changed the sign on the front of the building. I put 'Rice for the Ethiopian Children' at the top and 'Rice for Life' at the bottom."

Inside each of his seven restaurants he placed a glass jug and a sign: "Donate rice for life for Ethiopia." Soon his campaign began to catch on. Children brought in money and rice. Some people mailed it in. One caller announced, "I've got 3000 pounds of it in my warehouse. Come and get it."



Gathered beside a dockside pallet of rice on its way to Senegal are (left to right): Anne M. Moise, Port Promotional Manager; Donny Foster and Ray Hawthorne, volunteer drivers; World Vision's Paul Samuels, and Jesse Hunsinger, Rice for Life organizer.

"Response was fantastic," Jesse said. "Everyone seemed tickled to death that someone was doing something."

Soon after finding World Vision, he learned of a problem. Ethiopians'

digestive systems aren't conditioned for rice. But Jesse was concerned only that the rice get to starving people. It was finally decided to send the rice to Senegal in West Africa, where rice is a normal part of the people's diet—and is desperately needed.

"It was a beautiful example of God working through a team of people," said Paul Samuels. "Jesse started with a burden for Africa and we helped him get the grain there."

On February 25, a freighter left Charleston's harbor for Senegal, including in its cargo 22,130 pounds of rice, and 1000 sweat shirts donated by E & C Industries. The rice and clothing arrived in March and now are meeting the needs of hundreds of hungry people in small villages where drought has prevented normal harvests.

"The most rewarding thing for me," Jesse said, "was to see American children bring in rice or a few dollars for the children in Africa." □

## MANAGING YOUR TIME

**Only once this year** will Ted Engstrom and Ed Dayton conduct their famous "Managing Your Time" seminar in the United States. The event, September 26-27 in Anaheim, California, will draw registrants from several states.

Like the 80-plus MYT's they've led in previous years, this one will involve registrants in two lively eight-hour days of activity that can result in new levels of ministry effectiveness. You learn how to set reasonable but challenging goals, how to set priorities, how to turn goals into reality.



Engstrom "Right" and Dayton "Center" chat with a registrant during an MYT break

Registration costs \$195, which covers valuable materials and two lunches. It's a good idea to sign up early. For a brochure, write MYT, 150 S. Los Robles, Suite 570, Pasadena, CA, 91101.

## SEEING CHILDREN 'COME BACK TO LIFE'

by Kay Bascom

**M**y doctor husband, Charles, had just returned from two months of famine relief work in southern Ethiopia. Before he went back to work we hid him for three days—to let his soul begin to catch up with his body.

Each evening I'd sneak him into the car and we'd drive out to watch the sunset over our lush Kansas fields, far from the barren ground of Ethiopia where crop-producing rains have been lacking for the seventh season.

Last night's sky was particularly glorious. As the colors changed, we watched the stars come out against a deep azure background. We talked of people he'd known at the nutrition-health centers in the parched valley below Humbo mountain, over which the sun set each evening in Africa.

"What got to me the most was the children," he said. "I'll never forget a little fellow about five. After he'd registered and was accepted for feedings, he went around with great soberness and dignity and shook the hand of each worker. In Ethiopia, even the children have that gracious politeness and poise so characteristic of their people.

"At first the weak children sat—or lay—motionless and silent. As their food intake took effect, they began to speak and smile and even play a little. That's what kept us going—to see the children come back to life. Of all the appreciation shown, the mothers of the worst-off children were most expressive. They had lost so many."

I asked Charles about the extent of the drought. It seems to be widespread yet uneven, so some of the people are worse off than others. And some had



A young Ethiopian looks on as Dr. Bascom measures out flour.

fewer resources to begin with. But everybody works, hunting for food.

"Even children have to take a lot of responsibility over there," he said, "taking care of younger children, tending cattle, carrying wood or water. I saw one child with an unusual assignment. Hardly four years old, he served every day as a tiny guide for two blind men, leading them, barefoot and ragged, ever so carefully, into the nutrition-health center.

"And when you look at them, you hardly notice the rags and the nakedness. What stands out most is the smile. Their smiles just seem to light up their faces—so open, warm, total.

"The one that touched me most was a little boy we began to notice on the roadside a few miles out of base camp. We'd see him each morning and evening as we drove by. He stood there like a silent little sentinel, one thin arm half raised, as if his part in the famine work was to signal our team on our way. We could see a white band on his wrist, which indicated he'd been enrolled in the feeding program—where the children are carefully monitored for attendance and progress. Yet we didn't recognize him as one who was coming in for the daily feedings. We

wondered why he wasn't being brought. Were his parents too weak or too burdened down to bring him? Did it seem too far?

"I wanted to somehow adopt him and spirit him away with me. We didn't go by at the same time each day on our rounds, so he must have stood there for hours to do his self-appointed part."

When my husband became quiet for a moment at that point, I asked, "Where did he come from?"

"There was a hut about forty yards back from the road."

Charles could hardly talk about him. As we sat in silence, I remembered a conversation earlier in the day. Someone had reported to me that, according to the news, "It's too late to turn the tide of the disaster in Africa." I could hardly argue the point, because for some it is. All I could say was that it's not too late for each person, *one by one*.

As Charles and I drove home in the dusk, along our road I kept seeing that little child with the half-cocked arm. The silent little sentinel on the edge of too-far-out.

"He also serves who only stands and waits." May his faithful waiting somehow widen the circle of those who are helped, one by one. □

# WHEN THE TV IMAGE FLICKERS AWAY

**When the heart-wrenching** scenes of hunger in Africa began appearing regularly on the news, the public responded. Ad hoc groups to raise funds formed in offices, churches, neighborhoods, schools. Reporters rushed to Ethiopia, Mali, Mozambique and other countries and brought back the bad news. At World Vision in one day alone we received 57,000 letters, including gifts from preschoolers and pensioners, and one from a woman in Maine for \$250,000.

On a bus in Bridgeport, Connecticut, when the talk turned to the famine, a domestic worker walked down the aisle and collected seven dollars which she sent to us.

The story that moved me the most came from the Union Rescue Mission in downtown Los Angeles. On Thanksgiving Day, the mission's director compared the options of Los Angeles street people and those of millions of Ethiopians—and decided the street people were better off. So he took an offering, and the 400 or so homeless men and women who ate Thanksgiving dinner at the mission scraped up \$175 to send our organization for the hungry in Ethiopia.

I've heard stories about women who organized a walk-a-thon and others who asked fast-food restaurants to donate one cent for each hamburger sold. Black clergymen have banded together, and so have groups of Ethiopians in this country. Young people have planned their own "famines" and missed a few meals to raise funds. Americans, long known for their ingenuity and entrepreneurship, have lived up to their reputation.

All this excites me and leaves me with a deep sense of gratitude. When I get such reports my heart wells up with a loud "Praise the Lord!"

At the same time, I'm more than a little concerned. Will this momentary rush of compassion soon fade? When TV newscasters tire of the scene and

the last appalling image flickers away, will public sympathy pass with it?

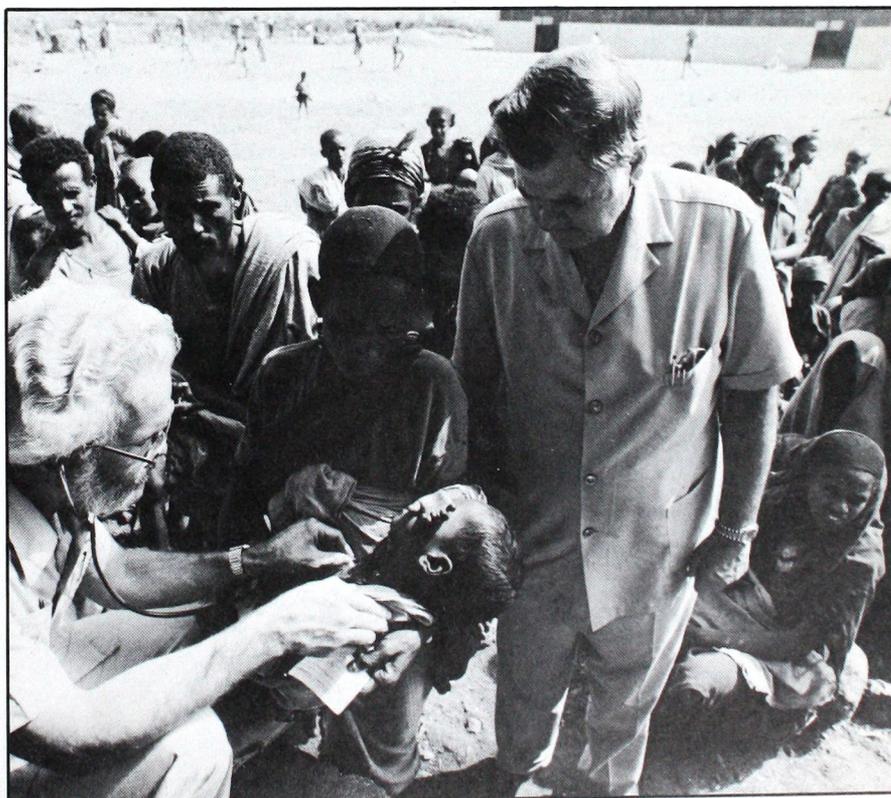
We've had crises before—Kampuchea, Bangladesh, El Salvador—and we'll have many more. But the problems in these places don't evaporate when we stop thinking about them. The current crisis in Africa will continue for years to come. The critical problems will go on, with or without our knowledge or help. Two-thirds of the world is still classified as underdeveloped—which is a fancy way of saying poor and hungry.

Through the current travail of Africa, I believe some of God's people will find themselves drawn to the poor. Many, I suspect, will be involved for years to come. A few will dedicate their lives to serve the needy in the name of Jesus Christ. I've seen it happen before. It's one small island of hope in a sea of misery.

Everyone can't go to Africa, of course, as I have on several occasions in recent months. Not all the young people can join Youth With a Mission or the Peace Corps. Parents and business people and civic leaders and factory workers can't leave their present callings and responsibilities and enlist fulltime.

Each of us can, however, have some small part in the never-ending process of feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting those in prison, caring for widows and orphans, and reconciling people to God and to each other. What about you?

*Ted W. Engstrom*  
Ted W. Engstrom  
President



Dr. Engstrom looks on as Dr. Roger Bruce examines a sick child at Ansokia.

# Trade low-yielding assets for high-yielding shares

## in World Vision's Pooled Income Fund

**Do you have \$5000** or more in stocks, bonds or other assets that produce little or no income? If so, why not trade them for higher-yielding shares of equal value in our *Pooled Income Fund*? This way, your funds will be combined with those of other *Fund* participants and professionally invested to produce the highest possible income consistent with safety for your investment.

Every year for the rest of your life, or the lives of you and a loved one, you will receive your proportionate share of the total earnings of the *Fund*. Afterwards, your shares will pass to World Vision to help our ministries for the Lord throughout the world.

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If your gift is funded with long-term appreciated assets, you will receive *Pooled Income Fund* shares equal in value to the full fair market value of those assets, and you pay no capital gains tax on the appreciation. In addition, you will get a generous charitable income tax deduction, and your estate will be reduced by the full value of your gift for estate tax purposes.

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- The satisfaction of helping World Vision's ministries for the Lord throughout the world
- Increased income for life
- Generous charitable income tax deduction
- The safety of diversified investments
- Professional investment management
- Avoidance of capital gains tax
- Reduced estate tax

To learn more about *World Vision's Pooled Income Fund*, or to arrange an immediate gift that will pay you an income for life, fill in and mail the coupon today.

I'm interested in how a gift to your *Pooled Income Fund* can increase my income, provide a generous tax deduction, avoid capital gains taxes, and help your ministries for the Lord throughout the world.

Please send me your *free* 10-page brochure, *Pooled Income Fund Gifts*.

Please contact me immediately. I am considering a gift in exchange for equal life-income shares in your *Pooled Income Fund*. My gift would be funded with:

Cash     Stocks     Bonds  
 Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

I understand there is no obligation, and this request will be handled in complete confidence.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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**World Vision**, Office of Planned Giving,  
919 W. Huntington Drive,  
Monrovia, CA 91016.  
Or phone (818) 357-7979.

An inner-city  
pastor's journal

An Ethiopian  
widow's mite

Questions people ask  
about U.S. ministry

June-July 1985

# *World Vision*®

**AFRICA**

**ETHIOPIA**

**A SPECIAL REPORT**

# World Vision®



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What's happened and what lies ahead for weary famine victims.

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**WORLD VISION**

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## IF YOU'RE A PASTOR

**Judging by their comments,** pastors are among this magazine's most interested readers. And they're a great source of feedback on subjects our authors deal with.

Because we know that pastors often need and want special resource material on world need and Christian outreach—for use in sermons, prayer meetings and other efforts to expand their people's missionary vision—the WORLD VISION magazine staff is preparing to introduce (by 1986) a *pastor's edition* of the magazine, designed to give pastors such information in the most usable form possible. Each issue is to carry a page by President Ted Engstrom, plus articles by others who know the pastor's life well. The edition will also serve as a

forum in which pastors can exchange thoughts and reports on Christian humanitarian ministry nearby and overseas.

We who will produce this new edition are particularly open to requests from pastors. What would *you* like the pastor's edition to include or exclude? In what form? By any specific authors? Tuck your suggestions into the return envelope. We'll take them into account as we plan.

*David Olson*

PHOTOS, ILLUSTRATIONS: Cover, pp. 14, 15 (left): Judith Walker, pp. 3, 5 (bottom), 6, 7 (bottom), 8: Mahlon Hillard; pp. 4, 7 (top), 24: Brent Jones; p. 5 (top two): Ken May; p. 9: Thea Chitambar; p. 10: Richard J. Watson; pp. 11-13, 16 (left), 17, 18, 22 (left), 25: Steve Reynolds; p. 15 (right): Jim Owens, M.D.; p. 16 (right): Jacob Akol; return envelope: David Ward; p. 19: Larry Nichols; p. 20: Carol Jean Cox; p. 22 (right): Bob Latta; p. 23: (top) South Carolina State Ports Authority (bottom) Herb Shoebridge.

Urban pastors and spouses are

# BUILDING TOGETHER



*To help urban pastors meet the special needs of their ministries, Chicago's Westside Holistic Family Center joined recently with World Vision's U.S. Ministry in sponsoring the Chicago Urban Pastors' and Spouses' Retreat. Mark Johnson, pastor of the Addison Street Baptist Church, and his wife, Robyn, kept journals of the weekend.*

## Mark's journal

**February 15, 1985**

**7:30 a.m.**

Having just left our nine-month-old son Andrew at the home of one of our church members, Robyn and I, crammed into our little car, hurtle through early morning rush-hour traffic. Still dazed from a hectic week of ministry, we both brace ourselves as cars stream beside us on Lake Shore Drive. On the route squeezed between penthouse-topped apartment buildings and Lincoln Park, we two Chicago Northsiders are making our way into one of the largest downtown districts in the United States.

Robyn and I have been given the opportunity to attend the Chicago

La Salle Street Church's pastor Bill Leslie leads a discussion of social issues that urban pastors and sponsors face.



Pastor Dwight Wesley of Cabrini Green (in center photo below) listens as two participants discuss realities faced by inner-city churches. Detroit pastor Frederick Sampson (in next photo) tells his hearers "Nothing misleads like success."



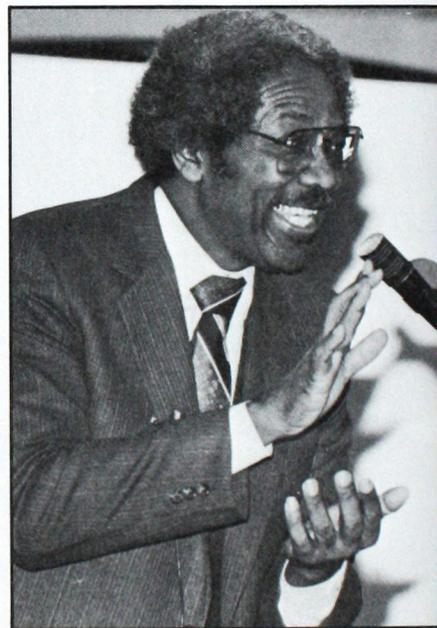
Urban Pastors' and Spouses' Retreat being held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, near the center of Chicago's famous Loop. We're impressed by the rightness of locating this conference in the heart of the city on a busy weekend. To retreat from turmoil is surely more in the heart and mind than in outward circumstances—a thought that will be worth carrying home with us to our daily work in the midst of city pressures and city problems.

With our little car safely parked, we enter a hotel full of bustling people and then find a moment of tranquility in our room. With a wide view of Lake Michigan and the city all around us,

we look forward to a weekend of workshops, messages and inspiring conversation—all of this designed to challenge us to a greater urban vision and to help us work effectively toward renewal in our churches and communities.

**9:00 a.m.**

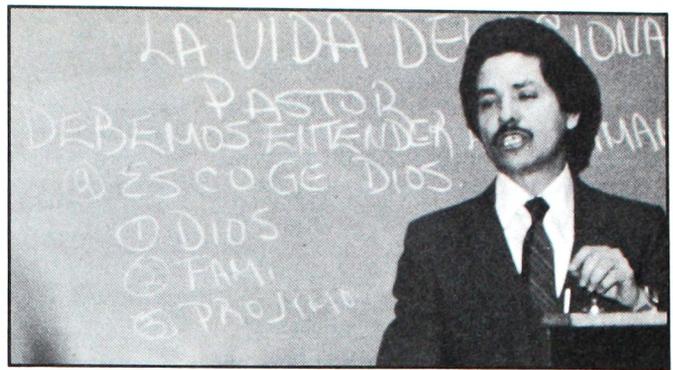
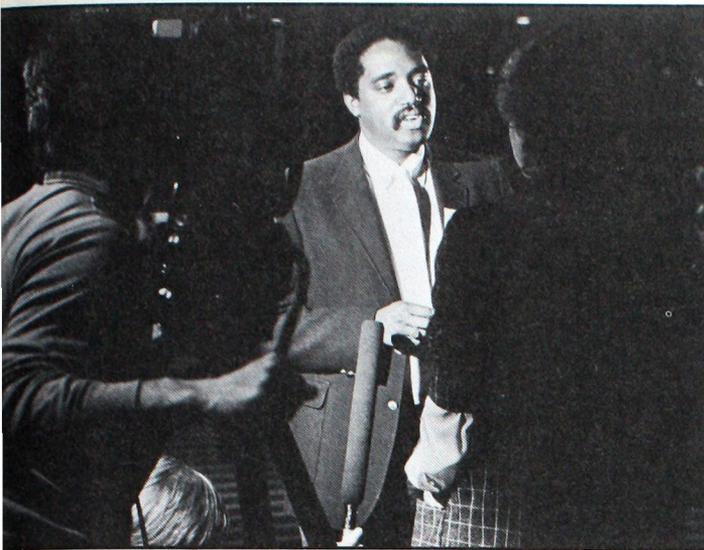
After breakfast, we review the program of activities while waiting for the opening welcome to begin. The conference planners have chosen topics of interest to urban pastors and their spouses, covering felt needs of both. Some of the topics: Stress Management for the Pastor/Spouse;



The Devotional Life of the Pastor; The Unique Needs and Ministry of the Pastor's Wife; Money Management; The Pastor/Spouse and Their Sexuality; The Church Meeting Governmental Requirements, and Fund Raising for Urban Ministries.

**9:15 a.m.**

We are welcomed by Pastor Lloyd Lindo (retreat chairperson and pastor of Chicago's Keystone Baptist Church) and his wife, Millicent. Mrs. Lindo is



(left) Glandion Carney, US Ministry's Christian leadership development director, talks with a retreat participant during an on-the-scene videotaping session. (above) Dr. Jess Miranda, Pacific district Assemblies of God superintendent, leads a workshop for Hispanic church leaders.

founder and director of the Westside Holistic Family Center. The banner stretching across the room reads, "Building Together," and sets the tone of the conference which is further expressed not only by husbands and wives attending together, but also by the speakers. Working side by side with Robyn allows me to interact with her throughout the conference about some of our goals, hopes and dreams in ministry. And the montage of

## We take with us new and refreshing perspectives that will help us meet the special needs of urban ministry.

Hispanic, black and white leadership reflects the unity combined with ethnic diversity of the more than 250 conferees themselves.

### 9:30 a.m.

After a creative and worshipful music time, the morning keynote address is given by Dr. Frederick Sampson, a noted preacher and pastor of Tabernacle Baptist Church of Detroit, Michigan. He directs our eyes to the Lord in expounding from Isaiah 6:1-8. Dr. Sampson analyzes the dilemma we face in our broken world, and warns us not to attempt to minister with the delusion of relying on human strength or ability. Instead of the "end justifying the means, the end qualifies the means . . . . It is not what I want that counts, but what God wills that is most

important . . . . Nothing misleads like success."

He says that instead of attacking four of America's greatest enemies: racism, materialism, sexism and narcissism, we often take cover in "pet projects." For fear of losing support for our building project or budget, we do not speak out against these evils. But still there is hope. "God waits patiently for us to choose Him," Sampson continues. "He intervenes in our situations; He is in our neighborhoods and He is our resource." When as churches we try to get on the same wavelength as the world in relation to economics and social need, we end up sharing the

world's dream instead of our Father's. "Allow the Spirit to do something different through you!"

### 10:45 a.m.

We meet in discovery groups to introduce ourselves to others from the same part of our city. I find a brother from a church only seven blocks from ours. What a joy to meet him and begin to share common joys and ministry concerns in Christ.

### 1:15 p.m.

Following lunch, workshops begin. Remembering Dr. Sampson's words, "To be a team member doesn't mean



Mark Johnson does some neighboring near the Addison Street Church.

we have to have the same assignments," Robyn and I go to different workshops. In her workshop on "The Unique Ministry of the Pastor's Wife," she hears one wife say: "If my husband's relationship with his own wife and family isn't harmonious, then his life cannot be harmonious at church with the church family."

**6:00 p.m.**

Robyn and I meet for a small dinner and get-acquainted time with other pastors and with leaders of area missions organizations. Rev. Tom Houston, president of World Vision International, explains to us the purpose of their organization. "Our job is to be like scaffolding. To get things going and step aside; to allow for grass-roots ministries to be sustained and developed and to network the church and related ministries to effectively carry out Christ's great commission." A directory of Chicago-area Christian ministries, provided by World Vision, encourages this process of networking. (Chicago is just one of the many world-class cities that World Vision hopes to network.)

**8:30 a.m.**

After a short night, we begin the day with the Rev. Jamie Shedd of Radio Esperanza, a Moody Bible Institute ministry to Hispanics. Rev. Shedd

shares with us a devotional from Habakkuk 2. He contrasts a graffiti adage, "Born to lose, live to sin," to the prophet's good news that we are, "Born to choose and live to win."

**9:30 a.m.**

Dr. Jesse Miranda, superintendent of the Pacific District of the Assemblies of God Church, gives inspiration and new perspectives as he offers "siesta and

**"World Vision's job is to be like scaffolding. To get things going and step aside."**

fiesta" in the person of Jesus Christ. Through the Lord, Miranda says, "We can truly offer hope to the city," and see it as "a place of potential."

**10:30 a.m.**

Our weekend is suddenly over, brought to a close as Tom Houston offers his agenda for the urban church in worldwide missions:

1) *Believers have to be world-class citizens.* "We need a world vision. We need the world on our minds in the way that the world's needs filled the

mind of William Carey, pioneer missionary and translator."

2) *Believers have to be forgivers as well as reconcilers.* "From the Christian perspective, there are two elements involved in resolving situations such as those in Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, the Philippines or South Africa; one is reconciliation (justice), the other is forgiveness (mercy and love)."

3) *Believers have to send their own children.* "We need to take our sons and daughters off the ladder of promotions and progress and onto the cross to evangelize."

4) *Believers who have suffered have to help those who are suffering.* "One cannot see what one cannot feel personally, so the urban church with its refugees has a particular role in world missions."

5) *Believers have a debt to those they know.* "Urban ethnic people will be crucial in winning the world to Christ—a new missionary force."

**12:30 p.m.**

Driving back home: For Robyn and me, having pioneered our first year in the city of Chicago, it is affirming to be reminded that we are part of a kingdom community. This weekend has reflected the diversity of heaven alongside the commission of our Savior to spread the message of healing and

A Chicago church in its 119th year is

**FACING NEW CHALLENGES**

**I**n its involvement with the needs of urban communities in the United States, World Vision works in partnership with existing churches and other Christian agencies. Its co-sponsorship of the Chicago Urban Pastors' and Spouses' Retreat was an example of this approach. Mark and Robyn Johnson, whose retreat journals are shared in the article "Building Together," have undertaken a city pastorate that is in some ways typical of a largely unsung genre of today's evangelical programs.

The church (Addison Street Baptist) in which Mark and Robyn are ministering has a rich heritage of worship and service



A member confers with the Johnsons

extending back almost 120 years. Founded at the close of the Civil War by a group of devout Swedish immigrants, the church was known until 1936 as the First Swedish Baptist Church of Chicago. In its earliest years, it not only ministered to spiritual





US Ministry director Paul Landrey shares a laugh with Keystone Baptist Pastor Lloyd Lindo and Millicent Lindo, director of Westside Holistic Family Center.

Another question is dealt with as Dr. Sampson states, "To be a team member doesn't mean we have to have the same team assignments." I feel that Mark and I are a team, but I see my part of the ministry as quite different from his. Being assured that we don't have to try to carry out the "same assignments" strengthens me in my recent thinking as to what I can do most helpfully.

The environment in which many of our people live is dark, old and hectic. I'd like to be creative in our home, to make it warm, refreshing and serene, so that people will feel that the Johnson home is a retreat from the coldness and stress of their lives, a place to which they will turn for spiritual nurture.

And next, in the area of expectations, I'm helped. In ministry, I have such high hopes for people; I'm so anxious to see good changes in their lives. And how easy it is to be discouraged when change is slow, or when it doesn't last!

In dealing with my own discouragements and critical reactions as I minister to different kinds of people, it's going to help to remember Dr. Sampson's urging to look beyond what the world sees to that which the Lord sees; then we can see through His eyes. We need to look directly to the Lord for encouragement and help, not to the lives or attitudes of others.

reconciliation. For us it has meant help in developing a ministry for human need, the establishing of closer ties to a neighborhood church fellowship, and the possibility of opening our doors to another immigrant people. We are still listening to what the Spirit may tell us, and whatever He says will be new and exciting!

**Robyn's journal**

Right after Mark and I arrived this morning, I realized how special it makes me feel that this is a pastors and spouses' retreat, not just a retreat for pastors. And the warm hospitality I've felt has been an added encouragement.

Dr. Sampson's message is a direct answer to some needs and questions

I've been struggling with. This past year has been my only experience in urban ministry. The needs seem more extreme than those of people I'm more used to. I've wondered whether Sunday morning church services are relevant to some lives. Some people come for a couple of weeks—then are gone for months. What do they take with them from the forms of worship, the music, the sermons?

What a new insight I now have; Dr. Sampson speaks of Sunday morning worship as a time of celebrating our relationship with others in Christ—it's for rejoicing, not for service. *Service starts after the benediction.* Our time of celebrating on Sunday morning refreshes us to go out and serve the great needs we see around us.

eds but also provided food and temporary shelter for many destitute and homeless immigrants from Europe.

Two things stand out through the church's history: the continuity of a core true-to-the-gospel believers, and their ability both to endure and to adjust to change. Through Chicago's Great Fire of 1871, which destroyed the church building and the homes of most of its members; through radical change in the city around two major moves and a gradual decline in membership, the soul of the church survived, adapting to changing realities.

Today, Addison Street Baptist is facing challenges of the mid-eighties. Its small, energetic congregation is involved not only with traditional activities, but also with discipleship growth groups, evangelism and the "Family Flock" concept in which the congregation is divided into groups under the shepherding care of deacons and trustees.

The church population is largely white, but also includes members of several different ethnic groups, and efforts continue to expand its neighborhood

ministry. A recent urban research project of the denomination (Baptist General Conference) notes that the church has a "phenomenal potential for ministry. Groups around the church who could be reached include singles, single parents, youth, Hispanics, senior citizens and elderly persons in nearby high-rise apartments." In addition, a recent influx of young, middle-class couples further expands the outreach potential.

Another aspect of Addison Street's ministry is their Romanian and Hispanic sister-congregations which also hold services in the church. These groups are composed of people who are not yet comfortable in an English-language/other-culture setting. Cross-cultural fellowship is encouraged, however. Recently a combined service of the Addison Street and Bethlehem Romanian congregations, followed by a Romanian-hosted engagement celebration, provided an opportunity for shared fellowship.

When, in the late 1800s, the new little Swedish Baptist Church of Chicago welcomed lonely, needy immigrants, it was ministering to those of a common ethnic background and language—to fellow Swedes. A century and more later, Addison Street Baptist Church, along with countless churches across America, faces an even greater challenge: to minister holistically both to its faithful core of already-there members and also to those new arrivals from widely diverse cultures.

It is this spirit in urban ministry that World Vision seeks to encourage and strengthen. □





Robin and Mark: "Whatever the Spirit says will be exciting."

The Unique Ministry of the Pastor's Wife, presented by Mrs. Beverly Yates, is probably the most significant seminar for all of us who are pastors' wives. So many of us are able to share a universal problem: our daily friendships are with people in our churches, and they are friends we love and respect. But because of our sensitive positions as pastors' wives, there are many burdens we can't unload. It helps just to know that all pastors' wives have the same problems, and to be able to confide in each other.

A continuing burden for many of us is a lack of balance between the time and attention a pastor spends on ministry, and that which he sets aside for his family. We want the Lord to be first in our husbands' lives, but so many wives feel that they and the children are not second, or even third, on the "priority list."

It is so valuable to be here to share with one another. With all the awareness of difficulties, there is also joy and a sense of purpose. Mrs. Yates reminds us of the women spoken of in the book of Nehemiah who joined in the work of building the wall. She speaks of our calling. Each of us has been chosen to be the wife of a particular man who is dedicated to ministering the gospel.

As the retreat ends, we return to our work encouraged by warmth, support and fellowship. We take with us new and refreshing perspectives that will help meet the special needs of urban ministry. □

*A similar retreat for Minneapolis/St. Paul urban pastors and spouses is scheduled for November 14-16 at the Minneapolis Hilton. One for San Franciscans is planned for April 1986. For information on either of these, write Glandion Carney, c/o U.S. Ministry, 919 W. Huntington Dr., Monrovia, CA 91016.*

## PLEASE ASK YOUR PEOPLE TO PRAY . . .

□ **for staff workers** like Phillip Muko of Zimbabwe who daily help put hands and feet on the work of World Vision around the globe.

□ **for World Vision "spouses"** who, due to their mates' work, often face periods of separation, and who are challenged with maintaining stability and continuity in the home.

□ **for Ethiopian famine victims** who continue to struggle for survival in their drought-stricken land.

□ **for WV Ethiopian and expatriate staff members** working side by side to meet both immediate and long-range needs in that country's famine-plagued regions.

□ **for steadfast, enduring and heartfelt support** from Westerners who have chosen to

help starving Ethiopians—support that will see that country's helpless victims through this crisis and safety beyond it.

□ **for volunteers** like Susan Constable who freely give of their time and talents to help meet physical and spiritual needs in Africa, Asia or Latin America.

□ **for urban pastors and spouses** in the U.S. as they reach out to one another for mutual support in their common ministry to those in inner-city areas.

□ **For Indonesia**, where a great movement toward Christianity is occurring. This is the only country in the world where significant numbers of Muslims have turned to Christ. Pray for the leaders to continue to be open to Christianity.

□ **for Dr. Samuel Kamaleson** and his team as they conduct a Pastors' Conference June 17-21 in Brasilia, Brazil. Pastors will travel great distances hungry for the fellowship and instruction this conference will afford.

## Planned giving

by Daniel Rice

World Vision's Associate  
Director of Planned Giving



## CAN ANYTHING GOOD COME OUT OF TAX-LAND?

**Yes! For example** there is good news for those who take the standard deduction (non-itemizers).

About 70 percent of all taxpayers do not itemize their deductions, and until recently, these taxpayers could not deduct their charitable gifts. But now, donors who take the standard deduction are permitted a limited deduction for their charitable gifts.

Be sure to keep your receipts during 1985, because you may

deduct 50 percent of all contributions on your 1986 tax return. And on your 1987 return, 100 percent of all contributions made in 1986 may be deducted.

Remember, these are limits on the amount you may deduct (the left hand)—not on the amount you may contribute (the right hand)! And you never let your right hand know what your left hand is doing, do you?

# WHAT I LEARNED FROM AN ETHIOPIAN BOY

by Thea Chitambar

**H**is name was Yamar. I met him when I was in Ethiopia recently serving as a short-term nutritionist in the World Vision nutrition-health center at Alamata. Yamar was about 12 years old. For some reason he attached himself to me one day and we became friends.

Even though Yamar was so young, he seemed in some ways like he was 12 going on 30. There was no doubt that he had been affected by the drought and famine, but in a sense, that ordeal had made him strong.

The incident that marked our meeting taught me much about the character of the Ethiopian people.

I met Yamar as I was walking through a village market looking at the kinds of things available there. Since I had been asked to design a program of occupational therapy for the women at our center, I needed such information to

plan a successful program.

As I walked along, Yamar came up behind me and began to walk with me. When I bent down to look at some grain, he said, "That's tef." (Tef is the grain from which the people make bread.) A bit surprised, I asked him whether he spoke English.

"A little bit," he replied.

Yamar continued to point out different things to me in the marketplace and tried to describe them in English. Other boys began to follow us. All of them were very poor; many were in rags.

Since Yamar had been so helpful, I decided to give him some money. I was grateful to him and wanted to repay his kindness.

However, the minute I offered him one *bir* (about 50 cents), he immediately gave it back to me, exclaiming, "No, no, no. That's a bad habit. No money—bad habit."

I tried to insist. "Take it," I told him. "Buy something for yourself."

"No," Yamar firmly stated, "I'll eat your food, but I won't take your money."

That incident really touched me. It was obvious Yamar could have used the money. And he deserved it. But his sense of dignity said no. He saw it as begging.

At one time Yamar's family had been well-to-do and his upbringing had taught him not to accept money. His willingness to eat my food was perhaps because it was more like sharing between friends. Yamar probably also knew that if he accepted money from me, all the other children would have clamored, "Give me too!"

Yamar came to visit me every day while I was in Alamata. Once he brought me two lemons from his tree and invited me to his village. Yamar would often sit and talk with me about himself and his "future." He expressed a keen desire to be a doctor to help his people.

I learned much from Yamar during those visits. But I was most impressed by his dignity and sense of what was right. Amid the crises of famine and drought, he retained a sense of who he was and what he wanted to be. He lived out his principles even under the most adverse circumstances. I think that we Christians should not want to do any less. □

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*Thea Chitambar, author of this article and the one on the next page, is a former university instructor in India and mother of three grown children. She has worked extensively in community development in India and other countries. Her husband Ben is the associate director of rural development for World Vision International.*



Thea feeds a famine-weakened child.

# AN ETHIOPIAN WIDOW'S MITE

by Thea Chitambar

**G**od? There is no God. If there were a God, He would not have done this to us." That is what some destitute Ethiopians told me as they waited to be helped at World Vision's nutrition-health center in Alamata, where I served recently as a short-term nutritionist.

But not all the people I talked to felt that way. Many, when I asked them for their thoughts about why the crisis was happening to them, simply replied, "God knows what He's doing."

Their faith remains steadfast. And they don't merely talk about God; they live His reality.

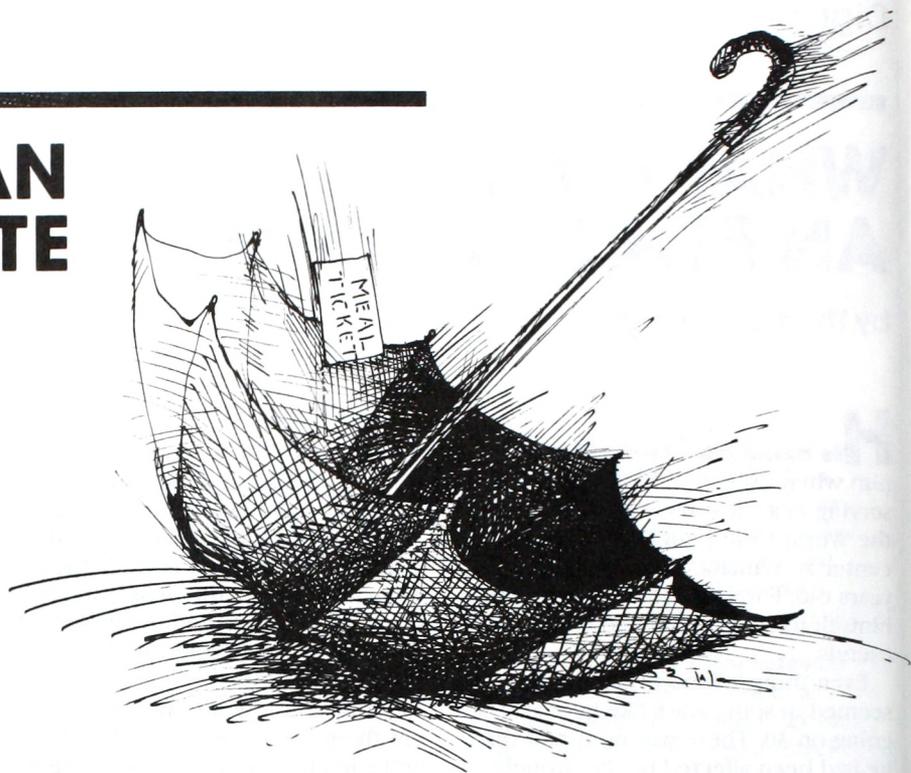
Every day between 4 and 5 a.m., I heard voices of people uniting in prayer. These voices would come from the church on the hill above our nutrition-health center. As they prayed they walked, circling the church, carrying rocks on their shoulders or on their heads. The rocks, I learned, symbolize the burdens they bear because of the famine. And the prayers are for forgiveness of their sins and for rain.

One Sunday morning I went up to that church. I watched an outdoor worship service. As the service progressed, a priest stood in front of the crowd, holding an umbrella. He held it upside down, to serve as a collection plate.

One by one, people came forward and placed in that umbrella various items that represented sacrificial giving to them.

Although another priest urged more of the people to put something into the umbrella, few had anything to give. Some from a nearby village were better off, but most were completely destitute; in fact, they had come to the area seeking the help of our center.

One elderly woman in particular caught my attention. Limp from



**When I asked why they thought the crisis was happening to them, many simply said, "God knows what He's doing."**

hunger, she wore tattered rags that hung loose on her frail frame. Although she could barely walk, she made her way up to the offering umbrella. Then I recognized her as one who had staggered to our center.

When she came forward, she took something I recognized and placed it in the umbrella. It was the meal ticket I had given her the day before—her only means of getting any food for the rest of the day!

Watching her, I was reminded of the biblical story about the widow and her two small copper coins (Mark 12:41-44). I remembered how that widow gave not of her surplus, but all she had.

Many other things too, touched my heart while I was in Ethiopia. Apart from seeing the incredible suffering, hearing the wailing children and smelling death all around, I was

extremely impressed by the dignity and faith of many of the Ethiopian World Vision staff with whom I worked. They are committed and dedicated workers, trusting God to provide the strength to serve in such a hard place.

Their source of strength? They keep close to the Lord. They pray often, especially at the end of each day.

I've seen them sit late in the evening, praying and singing for three hours after an exhausting day of work. They are not only an example to those around them but also to us who are their partners by support.

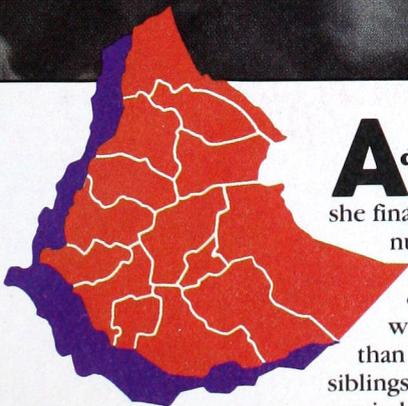
Seldom did I see any of them talk sharply to the famine victims. I was touched by the compassion, love and encouragement they gave. When they heard someone say, "There is no God," they replied, "Yes there is God; you will see. And you are going to see good days. This time will pass."

As we minister in Christ's name, I pray that we too can continue to provide that kind of hope to those who suffer through such terrible famine and drought. My prayer is that we learn from the people there, like the elderly woman and our Ethiopian staff, what it means to live a life of faith under such extreme circumstances. □

# ETHIOPIA'S LONG WALK BACK TO HEALTH

by Ken Waters

New nutrition-health centers, like this one at Ajibar, are being opened as the number of famine victims grows.



**A**dise Ayelew, 11, was a staggering skeleton when she finally reached World Vision's nutrition-health center at the town of Alamata in Ethiopia's central highlands. She had walked or been carried more than 25 miles by two of her three siblings. Her mother, Marshienye, had carried Adise's youngest sister, just a few weeks old.

The arduous trek through blast-furnace days and chilling mountain nights was necessary because the family's father had disappeared. He could no longer grow crops or find other work; Ethiopia's spreading famine had rendered him helpless to care for his family. So he left.

He left behind a pregnant wife who

could barely care for the family. Lacking money, the children begged food from neighbors until the birth of the new baby.

As soon as Marshienye regained strength, she packed the family's meager belongings, and they walked toward the place where others said food and health care were available.

When Adise and her sister Yesharage were examined by World Vision health workers, they were immediately brought to the super-intensive feeding ward to receive five high-protein meals per day. Thousands of other children were also being helped.

This intensive care paid off. A few weeks after admittance to the feeding ward, Adise was walking and playing again with her brothers and sisters.

Adise was fortunate to make it to Alamata in time.

Many children arrive too late. Like Bishenepu. Health workers found him cradled in his mother's arms outside the World Vision nutrition-health center at Lalibela. The mother whimpered quietly, rocking Bishenepu back and forth.

A nurse felt his pulse. "I think this one just died," she whispered to the doctor.

Another nurse slipped quietly away and returned a minute later with traditional burial wrappings. As gently as possible, she extracted the still child

from his mother's arms. Hardly noticing the removal of the child, the mother continued to rock as if he were still sleeping in her arms.

She stopped when she saw her son wrapped up as a mummy.

Tears filled her eyes. Her whimpering turned to wailing: "Bishenepu . . . Bishenepu!"

She tried to stand, but her legs buckled. Helped to her feet, she shuffled away. Hours later, she was observed wandering aimlessly in the feeding compound, still crying, "Bishenepu . . . Bishenepu!"

Hers was not the only sad voice that day. Before the scorching sun had set,

four other mothers at the Lalibela camp were wailing the names of their dead children.

Throughout Ethiopia as many as 2000 children like Bishenepu die daily from starvation-related causes.

**Ever since** a British Broadcasting Company TV crew, flying to famine sites on World Vision's Twin Otter airplane, brought these horrors to the attention of the world last October, assistance has been pouring in from governments, churches, corporations and individuals.

The BBC footage highlighted the tragedy at places like Korem and Alamata, normally sleepy mountain

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**People in or near the World Vision nutrition-health centers are already benefiting from aid and education aimed at overcoming long-term problems.**

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*Dr. Ken Waters is manager of communication services for World Vision International. Contributing to this story were World Vision journalists Jacob Akol, Pat Banks, Alan Hassell and Steve Reynolds.*

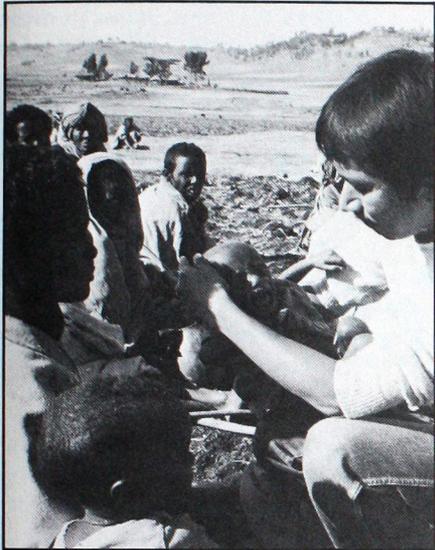
At least partial hope is restored for those like this mother and child who make it to a relief center.





towns that were overrun with thousands of dying people—people who trekked for days to find a kernel of grain once word spread through the countryside that feeding centers were being opened. Thousands of other people died before making it to one of 100 feeding centers established by aid agencies and Ethiopia's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC). Hundreds of those reaching the feeding centers were orphans.

The only way one can truly understand the tragedy of the famine is to reflect quietly and compassionately on



how it would feel to be Bishenepu's mother. Figures alone can be so overwhelming as to be incomprehensible. According to Ethiopian and United Nations relief officials, as many as 300,000 people have died this past year. About 15 percent of the children born annually will die before their first birthday. Another four percent will die before reaching the age of four.

The United Nations has estimated that as much as \$396 million in aid, including 1.33 million metric tons of food, is needed to meet shortfalls caused by drought, declining agricultural production, inadequate distribution of existing food, civil unrest and a host of other problems. Some 7.7 million people are said to be at risk of starvation—nearly one-sixth of the current population.

Since the short rains expected in March did not materialize, the outlook for the immediate future is bleak indeed. By later this year, the number of people in need could easily rise to ten million.

World Vision has expanded its ten-year-old program of assistance in Ethiopia to include what could become a \$60 million aid package in

(left) Dr. Hector Jalipa examines a severely malnourished child at Ajibar.



These newly created graves near Alamata are grim reminders of the many famine-related deaths that occur daily.

1985. Of the more than 100 projects already in operation, eight are massive nutrition-health centers feeding tens of thousands of people daily. As many as a half-million Ethiopians will receive life-sustaining assistance this year through World Vision donors.

Additionally, two World Vision-owned planes, operated by Mission Aviation Fellowship, are ferrying food, medical supplies, clothing, blankets, medical personnel and visitors to many otherwise difficult-to-reach places within this heavily mountainous nation. One plane has been operating since 1981, when World Vision began expanding its ministry to Ethiopia in response to initial indications of the now-raging famine.

**“When hundreds of thousands of people are dying, we heed the biblical mandate to minister to them in Jesus’ name.”**

**At World Vision’s Alamata center,** approximately 33,000 meals are prepared each day. Many people receive four or five meals per day, depending upon the severity of their condition.

Children are particularly susceptible at times like these. During their developing years, a prolonged decrease in protein can cause permanent physical and mental damage. Children also catch diseases more easily.

“Malnutrition reduces a person’s immunities and natural resistance,” noted Australian nutritionist Marilyn Fry, who worked at several World Vision centers. “And so long as these people are malnourished, they are extremely susceptible to an entire range of diseases.” The diseases include typhus, leprosy (Hansen’s disease),

smallpox, pneumonia and cholera.

"The trick is to reach the little ones before permanent damage sets in," said World Vision communicator Alan Hassell. "The immediately needed foods are not the fruits, vegetables and meats Westerners would think of. Rather, famine victims receive fortified grains, vegetable oils, and other foods giving the most nutrition per pound and per dollar.

"Often, very small children, badly emaciated, but caught in time, will bounce back rapidly after just a few days of intensive feeding and care," Hassell added.

A new scene of tragedy seems to arise almost daily. Today the focus has shifted from Alamata and Korem to Ajibar, some 90 miles south of Korem. Dr. Hector Jalipa, World Vision doctor at Ajibar, said recently, "The situation here is a disaster."

Dr. Jalipa opened the nutrition-health center eight days ahead of schedule to accommodate some 10,000 severely malnourished children and their parents. About 400 more people arrive each day seeking help. Ajibar is literally bursting at the seams as people huddle in the streets or lie down with animals at night for warmth. At an elevation of

9000 feet, the nights are bitterly cold.

"Most villagers we spoke to have been relying on the Ethiopian Relief and Rehabilitation Commission distribution because their food ran out

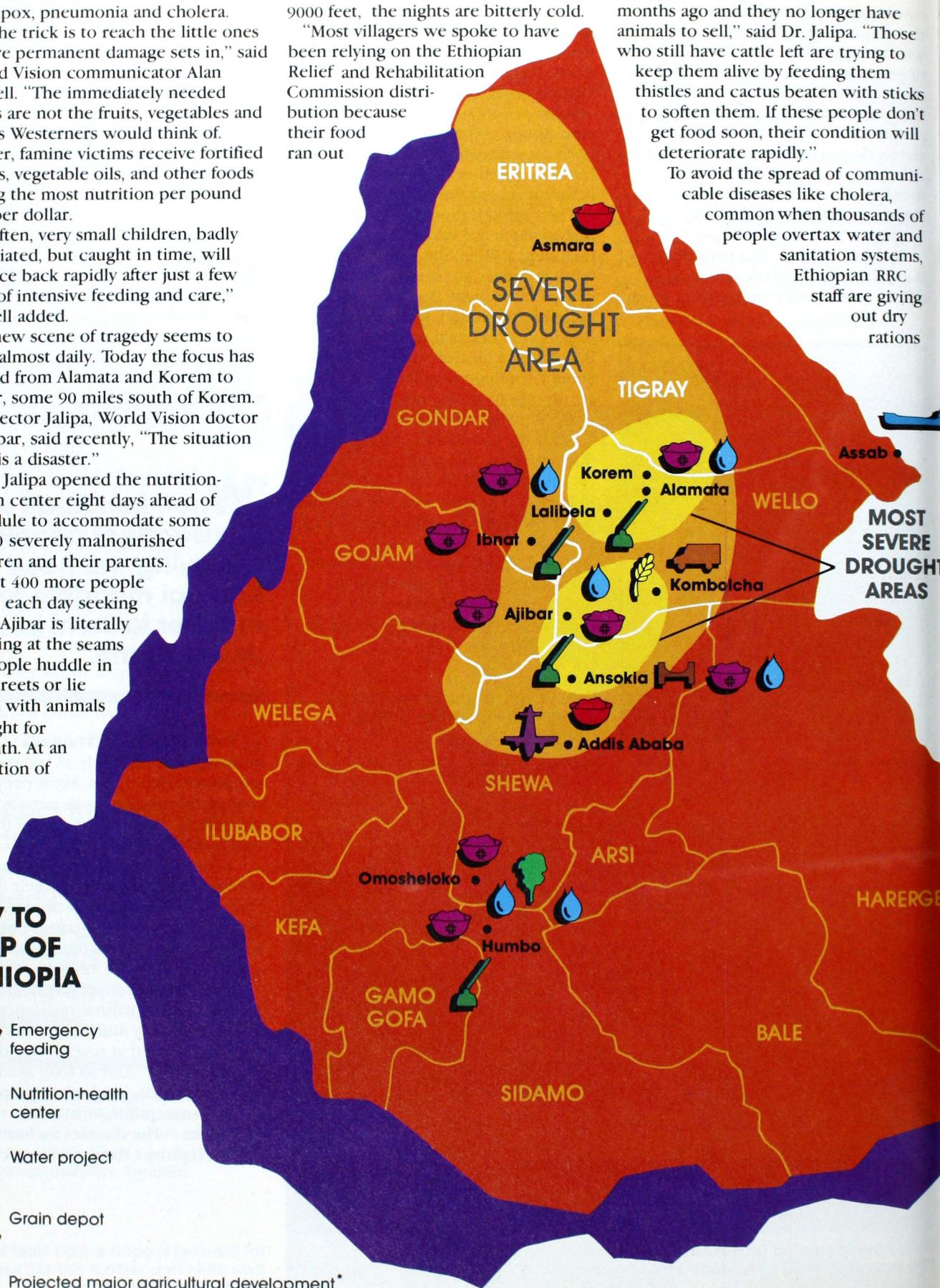
months ago and they no longer have animals to sell," said Dr. Jalipa. "Those who still have cattle left are trying to keep them alive by feeding them thistles and cactus beaten with sticks to soften them. If these people don't get food soon, their condition will deteriorate rapidly."

To avoid the spread of communicable diseases like cholera, common when thousands of people overtax water and sanitation systems, Ethiopian RRC staff are giving out dry rations

### KEY TO MAP OF ETHIOPIA

-  Emergency feeding
-  Nutrition-health center
-  Water project
-  Grain depot
-  Projected major agricultural development\*

\* Subject to government approval





to healthy people coming to Ajibar in search of food. Those people are asked to return home. Additionally, more than 7000 people have been voluntarily relocated by the government from Ajibar to other areas. In several other key areas, smaller satellite feeding centers have been established to provide more localized assistance and reduce overcrowding at the main centers.

**The short-term battle** is complicated by Ethiopia's geography and politics.

Ethiopia is a land of geographic variety. Mountains run roughly from north to south. The Southeast and most of the West are deserts. The geography has served to isolate many people, and it has been estimated that as many as 90 percent of the people live more than ten miles from a road.

The roads that do exist are poor and often washed out when a rain does fall. They take a brutal toll on trucks. A large decentralized supply depot is being set up in the Kombolcha region to store grain and repair World Vision trucks delivering food in the northern regions.

Another complicating factor is that Ethiopia's ten-year-old Marxist military government is not universally popular. Opposition groups in Tigray and Eritrea are strong, and food delivery sometimes is blocked by fighting. World Vision's Lalibela and Alamata centers have been cut off by air and land from Addis Ababa at times as fighting has taken place in the area. In

one instance, only a day's food and medicine remained in the Alamata camp when food delivery was resumed.

As the battle to keep people alive continues, World Vision staff members are also busy planning to institute new development projects that will prevent future tragedies of mass starvation in Ethiopia.

Any long-term project consideration must begin with water, according to Dr. John McMillin, relief and rehabilitation director for World Vision International. But it is not so much a *lack* of water that is devastating Ethiopia, he asserts, as a *lack of access*

that would trap water in the soil has been stripped away."

Rainfall has been irregular the past few years, McMillin added, and this has confused farmers. During recent planting seasons, rains came either too late and the crops withered, or too early, before seeds were planted. In some cases the rain came too quickly and heavily, washing away crops just planted.

Inevitably farmers resorted to eating seeds and selling their cattle and tools to keep alive. Even as they did, sufficient water was, in most cases, less than four feet below the surface of the ground.

"I surveyed in Alamata valley recently. I stopped the Land-Rover and began digging a small trench," McMillin said. "A few curious farmers gathered to see what I was up to. I told them I would give them some grain if they would help. A few minutes after we started, a spring of water bubbled up only a few feet under the surface. The people were amazed." McMillin went back a week later to find the water still flowing.

Because of the possible availability of water, World Vision development planners consider well-digging and

## It is not so much a *lack* of water that is devastating Ethiopia, as a *lack of access* to water.

to water. "In many places, rainfall has been normal or only slightly below normal. But the rain has simply rushed down the mountainsides and disappeared because the water retention systems are in disrepair, and vegetation



Australian hydrologist Rod Jackson works alongside Ethiopian nationals to restore Alamata's water system.

-  Truck repair facility
-  Bridge project
-  Reforestation project
-  Supply plane base
-  Relief supply port

providing water-catching basins a very high priority.

"We must 'take the people with us,' though," McMillin cautioned. "I talked with one farmer on a hillside and asked him why the terraces and trenches that had once irrigated the area were now in disrepair. He said he didn't know how to fix them. A European group came and built the system but left without telling the people how it worked or how to repair it."

The rape of Ethiopia's forests has also helped set the stage for the current crisis. Trees cut down for firewood for cooking have not been replaced. Lower-lying brush, an even greater ecological necessity because it helps create favorable ground condi-

tions for rain, has been eaten by cattle. When rains come, they cascade down the mountainsides, washing away valuable topsoil. Ethiopia's once elaborate system of terraces has all but been destroyed.

Reforestation in Ethiopia is possible. World Vision is already funding, with some success, a model reforestation project in the Shewa region, operated by the Shone Full Gospel Church.

Project staff recently completed the replanting of several hundred seedlings. "In three months the whole mountain in front of where I live will be planted," the project manager noted, "and the entire area will be potentially rich forestland."

**The shifting of the population** also poses a challenge for long-term development. The situation near the

World Vision Mekoy center illustrates this phenomenon.

Many of the people who traditionally lived in the area have left, moving closer to Addis Ababa for food. They have been replaced by nomadic peoples walking up from the desert floor, again in search of food.

At Mekoy, the original inhabitants were replaced by 70,000 nomads and their cattle. Within weeks the cattle had turned the green valley into a barren wasteland as they ate the remaining vegetation.

Then the cattle began dying. So the nomads left most of the remaining cattle and started walking toward Addis Ababa.

"I would estimate that as many as 75 percent of the people I talked with at Mekoy were not native to that valley," noted McMillin. "They did not know how to farm that soil or deal with the ecological forces in that area. So even after providing the people here with life-saving food and medical care, we have to face the challenge of either moving them back to their traditional homelands, moving them to a more fertile area, or teaching them how to survive in Mekoy."

In looking at long-term solutions, World Vision planners envisage well-digging, water retention, new medical clinics and the supplying of seeds, tools and other agricultural implements. And most of these projects will need to be enhanced by educational efforts to help the people achieve full self-reliance.

By October 1, one or two multi-

## FACTS ABOUT ETHIOPIA

**Population:** 36 million (mid-1985 estimate). 7.7 million are at risk of starvation. Number could rise to ten million. Last year 300,000 died in the famine.

**Area:** 471,800 square miles. (Population and area is about the same as California and Texas combined.)

**Health:** One doctor for every 100,000 Ethiopians. Only 6 percent of the population has access to safe water. Life expectancy is 40 years. About 15 percent of Ethiopian children born annually die before their first birthday.

**Education:** 8 percent literacy

**Capital:** Addis Ababa

**Major ethnolinguistic groups:** 40 percent Galla, 36 percent Amhara, 9 percent Kafa-Sidamo.

**Languages:** Amharic (official), Tigrinya, Tigray, Galla, Arabic, Somali, Italian, English and some 90 other minor languages.

**Religion:** 40 percent Christian, with the majority in the Ethiopian Orthodox Church; 40 percent Muslim, with Animist and Jewish (Falasha) minorities. For 800 years, Ethiopia was considered "an island of Christianity in a sea of Islam."

**Economy:** Fragile. One of the 49 low-income countries of the world. Nearly 90 percent of the people live off the land but only 7 percent of the farming is done by modern methods.



Women often walk for miles to fill their heavy crocks with water.

**Road system:** Lowest density of rural roads in the world. Close to 90 percent of the people live more than ten miles away from a road.

**Ecology:** Severe deforestation. At the turn of the century, 40 percent of the country was covered by trees. Today the figure is only 4 percent. The Sahara has advanced 62 miles in the last 20 years. Over the last century there has been a 25 percent drop in annual rainfall.

**History and government:** Ethiopia is the oldest independent country in Africa and one of the oldest in the world, with records dating to the fifth century B.C. Its long history was marked by a series of reigning emperors, with a five-year interruption initiated in 1935 by the Italian invasion and occupation.

In September 1974, the Ethiopian empire officially ended when the military leaders deposed Emperor Haile Selassie and established the present military government.

Many destitute Ethiopians, like these camped on a ridge above Lalibela, get badly burnt by open fires as they lie close to them at night for warmth.





million-dollar comprehensive development projects are expected to be in operation. An eight-to-ten person team headed by McMillin will soon arrive in Ethiopia to plan for such projects.

**While the long-term** solutions are being planned, people in or near the nutrition-health centers are already benefiting from aid and education aimed at overcoming long-term problems.

World Vision and Oxfam are restoring the water system for the town of Alamata. That move was essential. The population there has grown from 12,000 to 80,000 in just one year, putting enormous strain on the 45-year-old water system that originates about eight miles away.

Staff at several World Vision centers are now distributing agricultural packets (Ag Paks) to farmers who have left their homes and are camping in towns near the centers. The packets include farming implements, seeds, dry

food rations and other needed items. Those farmers will either return home or begin farming near the World Vision centers.

The Ag Pak program is expected to increase greatly in coming months.

In Mekoy, a bridge is being constructed over the Borkena River to ensure year-round delivery of food and supplies to that center and facilitate future development plans.

At the Alamata camp, people are learning new songs related to sanitation. One such song says, "Diarrhea is a disease that causes death. It attacks the adult and the child. Let's all come

together and avoid diarrhea. Let's all come together and use the latrines." Another variation of the song urges people to wash their hands before eating.

Dr. Peter Jordans, a Dutch doctor who has served at three World Vision camps, notes, "The idea of songs and street theater as tools to teach people can be very useful. The people are willing to learn, even though they have little formal schooling. And even so, it will take two years for a full development phase to occur."

Plans must be shaped to avert future crises, McMillin claims. "Neglect of foresighted planning happened in the mid-70's in Ethiopia. There was a terrible drought in 1972 and 1974. But when rains came, people went back to life as normal. The world community did not supply long-term assistance, and people began to live from day to day again. Few stored up for lean years."

Another fear expressed by World

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**As many as a half-million Ethiopians will receive life-sustaining assistance this year through World Vision donors.**

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Preparing porridge for famished Ethiopians is an endless task for nutrition-health center workers like these in Ajibar.





Vision staff in Ethiopia is that recent allegations of wrongdoing against some agencies could affect the resolve of donors to continue to work toward meeting both immediate and long-term needs in Africa.

To guard against any doubts about how donations are used, World Vision has employed some 200 people in Addis Ababa to monitor food distribution and logistics, and to plan projects for the future. "I am confident that virtually all the aid designated for World Vision use is actually reaching its destination," said World Vision International Vice-President Cliff Benzel, currently heading the agency's Ethiopia operation. "We check the unloading of food and supplies after

## Poor rains this year could add another three million people to the numbers facing starvation.

arrival, and we monitor distribution to people in need. Aside from the unavoidable losses due to spoilage, bugs and an occasional broken bag, we are confident that our systems of control are sufficient to ensure proper use of food. I have never been in a Two-Thirds World country where loss is lower."

Benzel also said he has encountered skeptics who feel the Ethiopian government should do more than it is already doing for its people. Expenditures for military budgets have come under press criticism. "I am impressed with the resolve of the Ethiopian people," Benzel noted. "Few countries spend as much of their income on the relief and rehabilitation of their people as Ethiopia does."

Also, the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, the country's largest and oldest church body, has long been a beacon of caring. Only recently have gifts of food and money from churchgoers been inadequate to meet the needs of hungry people flocking to Addis Ababa.



Weary children and parents await the next serving of porridge at Ajibar.

With World Vision's assistance, the Orthodox church's feeding program will open ten centers around Addis Ababa, providing three daily meals and medical care for nearly 2000 destitute people.

Critics have also charged that by helping the people of Ethiopia, World Vision and other agencies are furthering the government's socialist policies and its negative attitude toward the church.

"It has always been World Vision's policy to meet the needs of people regardless of the political orientation of their government," noted Benzel. "When hundreds of thousands of people are dying, we heed the biblical mandate to minister to them in Jesus' name. We don't make politics a pre-

requisite for extending the love of Christ."

Little Adise Ayelew has certainly felt the compassion of World Vision staff members and the donors who make the effort possible. But soon she will walk out of the Alamata nutrition-health center into an uncertain future, a future that can only be made better through the prolonged and prayerful efforts of people worldwide. □

**Thank you, on their behalf, for your continuing help in the Christ-honoring effort to provide a brighter future for Ethiopians such as Adise and her family. They are deeply grateful.**

# PIERCE AWARD NOMINEES SOUGHT

**Nominations** for the 1985 Robert W. Pierce Award are now being solicited from Christian leaders around the world. The 1984 recipient was Ms. Molly Holt, a nurse who has worked with orphaned children in Korea since 1956.

The award, which includes a \$10,000 grant, was established by World Vision as a living memorial to Dr. Bob Pierce, who founded the organization in 1950. Pierce, serving until 1967 as World Vision's first president, died in September 1978 at the age of 63.

Nominees for the award should be persons who:

1. are focusing on a specific need, generally in one locality, and who have dedicated a significant portion of their lives to accomplish their mission;
2. are involved in an unusual service or mission;



1984 Pierce Award recipient, Molly Holt

3. are combining humanitarian service with evangelism in a rounded ministry;

4. are working with minimal means and assistance;

5. are directly involved with people, not just with conceptualizing;

6. are primarily ministering overseas, in lesser developed countries, or among minority cultures;

7. have not previously been honored internationally.

Persons wishing to nominate someone for the award must obtain information and forms from the Pierce Award Committee, 800 W. Chestnut, Monrovia, CA 91016. Deadline for completed submissions is July 31, 1985.

# ENGSTROM TO GRADS: BE GLOBAL CHRISTIANS

**Seattle Pacific University** ceremonies slated for June 2 include the awarding of the Doctor of Humane Letters degree to World Vision President Ted W. Engstrom, in recognition of his leadership in the development of compassionate ministries to oppressed and deprived peoples.

During the school's commencement exercises, Engstrom is to address the graduates on the subject, "Be a Global Christian."

On May 4, he brought a similar challenge to the graduates at Azusa Pacific University.

Engstrom is a frequent speaker on evangelism and Christian social responsibility to Christian and secular college and university students, especially at graduation time.

## 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 opportunities for service. If you think you may qualify for one of these positions, send your resume to World Vision International, Human Resources, 919 W. Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016.*

### AFRICA

**Ethiopia, Nutritionists** To assess and treat nutritional needs of famine victims; involves organizing and training of national staff in Ethiopian nutrition-health centers. Needed immediately. Requires nutrition, dietetics or M.P.H. degree and previous Two-Thirds World work experience. Six months minimum contract. *Contact: Pam Kerr, World Vision U.S.*

### INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

**Director, Corporate Planning** To be responsible for the corporate planning process and for assisting managers in the identification of critical issues in the development of long-range plans. Must have extensive related experience. *Contact: Kent Stock, Employment Supervisor.*

**Macro Project Team** Professionals working according to their particular discipline in a team context to research, develop and implement a regional development plan. Positions require extensive previous experience including Two-Thirds World experience with project management experience highly desirable. Must be flexible and adaptable to a variety of living conditions. The following personnel are required to make up the team:

- |                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Hydrologist       | Nutritionist           |
| Economist         | Civil Engineer         |
| Agriculturalist   | Government Coordinator |
| Financial Analyst | Logistician            |
| Community Planner |                        |

*Contact: Kent Stock, Employment Supervisor.*

# Samaritan sampler

SOME WAYS PEOPLE ARE HELPING  
OTHERS IN THE NAME OF CHRIST



A proud mother holds one of China's future students.

## Sharing information about teaching openings in China

with prospective American teachers is a primary function of Educational Resources and Referrals—China (ERRC), previously known as Friends of the Tentmakers. Related services are also offered: counseling and orientation materials for students and teachers preparing to go to China, information on Chinese university programs for students of Chinese, and speakers on opportunities in China. ERRC also publishes a quarterly newsletter. For more information contact: ERRC, 2600 Dwight Way, Berkeley, CA 94704; (415) 548-7519.

## "Perspectives on the World Christian Movement,"

an introductory missions course, will be offered twice this summer (June 17-July 12 and July 22-August 23) by the Institute of International Studies at the Pasadena campus of the U.S. Center for World Mission. In addition, a number of extension center locations and an independent study option add to the program's accessibility. Credit transferable to secular universities is available. For

more information contact: IIS, 1605 Elizabeth St., Pasadena, CA 91104; (818) 797-4605.

## Nations presently closed to missions

are the homelands to which almost 40 percent of today's international students will eventually return. Winning such students to Christ and equipping them to minister in an environment hostile to Christianity, are the goals of International Students Inc. To reach these goals, ISI is seeking Christians nation-wide to become ISI Great Commission Partners, pledged to pray and support the work of reaching international students through local ISI ministries. For more information contact: International Students Inc., P.O. Box C, Colorado Springs, CO 80901; (303) 576-2700.

**The Other Side**, Jubilee's magazine of Christian social action, has expanded its content and is also wearing a fresh new look. Christians concerned about applying "justice rooted in discipleship" to contemporary problems in the U.S. and overseas will welcome the broader coverage of this frequently controversial, always thought-provoking periodical (\$19.75/yr.). *The Other Side*, 300 W. Apsley St., Philadelphia, PA 19144.

**Ways of helping hard-pressed farmers** affected by the current crisis in American agriculture were discussed recently by the Mennonite Central Committee. A special task force will develop "a workable plan for establishing a farm crisis mutual aid response, which will include a counseling resource and develop models for local congregations." An important part of their counsel will relate to the spiritual condition of the person in trouble.

**Spiritual awakening in the church** and an expansion of holistic worldwide evangelism will come only through unified, concerted prayer, say leaders of the National Prayer Committee. Providing information and assistance for churches and other groups who want to be a part of the "Concerts of Prayer," the NPC offers a variety of printed material and an audio tape teaching packet. For more information write: Concert of Prayer Project, National Prayer Committee, 233 Langdon St., Madison, WI 53703.

**Thousands of people in Southeast Asian refugee camps** still hope to reach the United States; displaced or terrorized people in other parts of the world continue to seek asylum. All of which means an ongoing need for churches and individuals to aid in resettling refugees. World Relief, an agency of the National Association of Evangelicals, has successfully resettled over 40,000 refugees in the United States, and offers information and guidance for those wanting to sponsor refugees. Contact: World Relief, Refugee Services

Division, P.O. Box WRC, Nyack, NY 10960; (800) 431-2808 or (914) 268-4135.

**Volunteers to work overseas** and in the United States are needed by Habitat for Humanity, an organization that builds homes for people in need of "a decent place to live." The U.S. locations need construction supervisors and project directors; overseas positions include administration, procurement, record keeping and construction. A training and orientation program is offered in Americus, Georgia. For more information, contact Ted Swisher, 419 West Church St., Americus, GA 31709; (912) 924-6935.

## Sharing Christ with Muslims

is the theme of three summer courses to be offered by the Samuel Zwemer Institute: Introduction to Islam, July 22-August 2; Gospel and Islam (cross-cultural communication principles), August 5-16, and Church Planting in Muslim Contexts, August 19-30. Both graduate and undergraduate credit are available. For more details write: Jeanette Hoffner, Registrar, S.Z.I., P.O. Box 365, Altadena, CA 91001.

**Youth involvement** in evangelization and Christian social concern is the focus of the Salvation Army's international youth congress scheduled at Western Illinois University, July 17-23. A delegate total of 5000 from most of the 85 countries in which the Salvation Army ministers is expected. Among the featured speakers will be Tony Compolo and Joni Eareckson-Tada.

**More Christian literature from Latin pens** is a goal of the Latin American Theological Fraternity. Currently, less than five percent of the evangelical books printed in Spanish are written by Latin American authors, and Fraternity leaders perceive this lack as a major problem for the evangelical movement in their part of the world. Local chapters of the Fraternity encourage the writing of more theological materials. Their *Boletín Teológico* (Theological Bulletin) is available from Plutarco Elias Calles 1962, Col. Prado, Mexico 13, D.F. for \$7 a year. The address of the Fraternity is Jose Marmol, 1734, (1602) Florida, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

**The World Congress on Japanese Evangelization**, to be held at the University of Southern California, July 24-28, 1985, will bring together Japanese Christians to fellowship, pray and develop strategies for evangelism to Japanese people. Approximately 500 participants from Brazil, Canada, Europe, Mexico, Southeast Asia, Japan and the United States, are expected to attend the major addresses, seminars and workshops which will be conducted in both English and Japanese. For more information contact the Southern California Christian Church Federation, 401 East Third St., Los Angeles, CA 90013.

**Twentyonehundred Productions**, Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship's multimedia arm, will hold its 15th Communications Study Project June 23-July 21 at their studios in Madison, Wisconsin. Ways of communicating through contem-

porary media that Jesus is Lord (the central purpose of Twentyonehundred) will be presented through seminars, field trips, laboratory projects, readings and a variety of media. For further information and applications, contact Eric J. Miller, Twentyonehundred Productions, 233 Langdon, Madison, WI 53703; (608) 257-0263.

**Challenging student leaders to become world changers** is the purpose of Leadership '85, sponsored by *World Christian* magazine. Student, church and mission leaders will gather August 12-16 at Biola University, La Mirada, California. Developing leadership-for-change skills and putting personal commitment into practical action will be emphasized by principal speakers Roger Greenway, Don McCurry, John Dawson, David Bryant and Gordon Aeschliman. For more information, contact *World Christian*, P.O. Box 40010, Pasadena, CA 91104; (818) 797-5320.

**Theological Education by Extension** (T.E.E.) has become an answer in the Boston area to the problem of accessible pastoral education for a substantial number of inner-city black and Hispanic pastors. Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary's CUME program (Center for Urban Ministerial Education) conducts classes in church facilities in the areas where these pastors live and work. T.E.E. offers a contextualized curriculum of biblical, theological and ministerial training in English, Spanish, French (for Haitian leadership) and Portuguese. Faculty and course offerings reflect an informed commitment to ethnic minority ministries.

**Leadership learning opportunities** in overseas and cross-cultural ministry are offered by the Overseas Ministries Study Center (OMSC). Upcoming course highlights are as follows: "Megatrends in Mission," Sept. 23-27; "Evangelicals and Roman Catholics in Mission," Nov. 12-15; "Mission and Global North/South Tensions," Jan. 20-24, '86; "New Forms of Mission for Tomorrow's World," Mar. 11-14, '86; "The Gospel and Urbanization," Apr. 28-May 2, '86; "Community-Based Primary Health Care," Apr. 21-25, '86. For more information contact: OMSC, P.O. Box 2057, Ventnor, NJ 08406.

**Responding with understanding to the problems of Central America** is a growing concern for many Christians. Evangelicals for Social Action (ESA) is attempting to meet the need for insights and information from a Christian perspective with a new national prayer network, Intercessors for Peace and Freedom. A twice-monthly newsletter will focus initially on Nicaragua, then expand its coverage to neighboring countries. For more information contact: Eric Olson, Project Coordinator, Evangelicals for Social Action, 712 G St. SE, Washington, DC 20003; (202) 543-5330.

**Support-staff people** can find professional help on a continuing basis in *Office Communique*, a monthly letter produced by Nancy Moyer & Associates. The topics covered are practical, wideranging and specific. Ms. Moyer, with an M.A. in management and administration and extensive top-level support-person

experience, also conducts a one-day seminar for Christian support staffers, "How to Be a Professional in Your Office." For more information, write Nancy Moyer & Associates, P.O. Box 276, Monrovia, CA 91016.

**Christian Camping**, a bimonthly journal especially for camp administrators, contains much of value to local church youth ministers as well. Articles in the March-April issue include "The Value of the Camping Experience," "Preparing Your Child for Camp," "Benefits of Spending a Summer Working in Camp" and "How to Plan an Effective Retreat." It's \$15.95/yr. (\$17.95 outside U.S.) from Christian Camping International, Box 646, Wheaton, IL 60189.

**ESA** (Evangelicals for Social Action) has issued an 11-point statement of its position on vital issues. The one-page document, called "Here We Stand," is available on request from ESA, 712 G Street SE, Washington, DC 20003.

**Unreached peoples** are the focus of the *Global Prayer Digest*. This monthly devotional guide offers a page for each day in an interest-holding and spiritually challenging format. A number of ministry organizations offer this publication in editions that contain the same core material plus some pages on their particular ministry. A generic edition is available at \$6 a year from Frontier Fellowship Inc., 1605 Elizabeth St., Pasadena, CA 91104.

# SPECIAL WAYS PEOPLE AI



Kidest Mulugetta boards a World Vision plane for the Lalibela nutrition-health center.

## RETURN TO ETHIOPIA

by Pat Banks

**In her cozy home** in York, Pennsylvania, nursing her thriving new son, Kidest Mulugetta became haunted by nightmare media pictures she saw of starving famine victims in her native land.

Night after night she wept, longing to help the emaciated mothers of Ethiopia who were unable to feed their infants enough to keep them alive. Then a few months ago, what had seemed an impossible dream became reality for this 35-year-old mother of four.

With her baby, Benji, and older sons 5, 12 and 14 in the care of her husband Melese (a pastor and founder of the International Outreach Ministry), Kidest flew to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. There she boarded one of World Vision's Twin Otter planes for the flight to the Lalibela nutrition-health center. Kidest had offered to help in any way possible, including the provision of her natural breast milk for starving Ethiopian infants.

Said a joyful Kidest, "Today is one of the happiest days of my life. At home, as I watched my son Benji grow, I cried with anguish for my sisters here who had to watch helplessly while their babies died. My son at four months weighs 17 pounds; here, there

are children of four years who scarcely weigh that. In America, there are vitamins and special diets even for cats and dogs; here, my people are dying for want of a crust of bread, a cup of water. If my milk can save just one child, I will be happy."

Kidest's return to Ethiopia after eight years in America began to take shape when her husband spoke of the European trip they had long been anticipating. "We hadn't been able to take a holiday for so long," said Kidest, "and it was to be an anniversary present to ourselves. But as soon as Melese suggested setting the time for it, I burst into tears.

"For months I had had a heavy heart over what was happening in Ethiopia but did not want to burden my husband with what I thought was an impossible dream. So I said nothing. But when he suggested the European holiday, I couldn't keep quiet any longer and told him that the "holiday" of my life would be to return home to Ethiopia to work as a volunteer."

From then on, everything fell into place. Melese gave both his support and his prayers. Kidest's church, The Living Word Community, assisted her in making the journey. World Vision welcomed her volunteer service, and suddenly she found herself embarked on a several-months' assignment in Ethiopia, giving of herself to her African sisters and their children.

*Pat Banks is with World Vision Ethiopia Communications.*

## EQUIPMENT DONATED

**Patient Technology Inc.**, of Hauppauge, New York, has given World Vision 167 portable Digimax and Digiprint electronic blood pressure checkers and 15 hand-held Survelant electronic pulse and temperature checkers for use in world-wide World Vision health care projects. Some of the units are already in use in Mexico and Zaire. Estimated value of the donated equipment is \$101,318.

## EASTERN AIRLINES PEOPLE AID ETHIOPIANS

**A prayer circle** of Eastern Airlines employees recently launched a non-profit group called "Eastern People Helping People." Management at Eastern liked the concept and agreed to support it. Result to date: two mercy flights from Miami, Florida, to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, using two wide-body L-1011's to transport teams of volunteer medical personnel with their equipment and supplies along with more than 150,000 pounds of food, tents, blankets and other essential commodities.

Eastern crew members and technicians all donated their services for the flights and Eastern employees raised funds to cover fuel costs of approximately \$100,000 a flight.

For one flight, the employees' committee was still short \$60,000 as the departure day approached. A televised appeal to the community brought an unusual response from Jane and Fred Krusell of Boca Raton, Florida.

"I saw it on TV on Wednesday afternoon and I thought about it

**Frank Borman, president of Eastern Airlines, came to see the flight take off and to tell his staff how proud he was of them for participating in this humanitarian effort on behalf of the people of Ethiopia.**



during the night, and thought, if they need it, we should send it," Krusell said. He called the Eastern committee for complete information and then called his bank to transfer the needed funds—the entire \$60,000. "We're 90 and 96 years old, so it's our last chance to do anything," explained Jane Krusell.

In a happy combination of effort—the time and skill of the Eastern flight crews, the energy, planning and fund raising of the Eastern employees, and the concerned giving of the Krusells and others—people being reached by World Vision were provided with timely and vital aid. World Vision salutes the staff and management of Eastern Airlines for their joint effort.

## RICE FOR LIFE

When **Jesse Hunsinger** first called several relief agencies to offer them rice for Ethiopians, they all turned him down.

"Most agencies had a hard time believing that he had thousands of pounds of rice to give," said Paul Samuels, World Vision's regional representative in Charlotte, North Carolina. But Paul checked it out and World Vision agreed to distribute the rice.

Jesse's story began in October 1984, when he watched a television program about starving children. He was so moved he couldn't sleep.

"I knew it was time I got up and did something," he explained. "At three in the morning I went down to my restaurant and changed the sign on the front of the building. I put 'Rice for the Ethiopian Children' at the top and 'Rice for Life' at the bottom."

Inside each of his seven restaurants he placed a glass jug and a sign:

"Donate rice for life for Ethiopia." Soon his campaign began to catch on. Children brought in money and rice. Some people mailed it in. One caller announced, "I've got 3000 pounds of it in my warehouse. Come and get it."



Gathered beside a dockside pallet of rice on its way to Senegal are (left to right): Anne M. Moise, Port Promotional Manager; Donny Foster and Ray Hawthorne, volunteer drivers; World Vision's Paul Samuels, and Jesse Hunsinger, Rice for Life organizer.

"Response was fantastic," Jesse said. "Everyone seemed tickled to death that someone was doing something."

Soon after finding World Vision, he learned of a problem. Ethiopians'

digestive systems aren't conditioned for rice. But Jesse was concerned only that the rice get to starving people. It was finally decided to send the rice to Senegal in West Africa, where rice is a normal part of the people's diet—and is desperately needed.

"It was a beautiful example of God working through a team of people," said Paul Samuels. "Jesse started with a burden for Africa and we helped him get the grain there."

On February 25, a freighter left Charleston's harbor for Senegal, including in its cargo 22,130 pounds of rice, and 1000 sweat shirts donated by E & C Industries. The rice and clothing arrived in March and now are meeting the needs of hundreds of hungry people in small villages where drought has prevented normal harvests.

"The most rewarding thing for me," Jesse said, "was to see American children bring in rice or a few dollars for the children in Africa." □

## MANAGING YOUR TIME

**Only once this year** will Ted Engstrom and Ed Dayton conduct their famous "Managing Your Time" seminar in the United States. The event, September 26-27 in Anaheim, California, will draw registrants from several states.

Like the 80-plus MYT's they've led in previous years, this one will involve registrants in two lively eight-hour days of activity that can result in new levels of ministry effectiveness. You learn how to set reasonable but challenging goals, how to set priorities, how to turn goals into reality.



Engstrom "Right" and Dayton "Center" chat with a registrant during an MYT break

Registration costs \$195, which covers valuable materials and two lunches. It's a good idea to sign up early. For a brochure, write MYT, 150 S. Los Robles, Suite 570, Pasadena, CA, 91101.

# QUESTIONS PEOPLE ASK ABOUT WORLD VISION'S U.S. MINISTRY

by Paul Landrey

## **W**hat is World Vision doing to meet needs here in the United States?

One of the critical tasks in addressing the needs of the poor here in America is that of strengthening the ministry efforts of the churches. We do this by providing special training, encouragement and other assistance. Often that means providing reinforcement in problem areas of good, ongoing programs, and then stepping aside.

Our purpose is to strengthen grassroots responses to hurting and hungry people. Our role is to bring existing resources together as local churches seek to meet human need at the neighborhood level. That is "where the rubber meets the road." As we link the resources of the church and related ministries, we more effectively carry out Christ's great commission.

As we serve the servants of Christ in urban and rural communities, we work in partnership with them to accomplish what God has called each group to do. Perhaps the best way of stating World Vision's dream is by using the words of its founder, Bob Pierce: "Find out what God is doing and become part of it."

## **So World Vision works with and through the church?**

Yes, the church is the vital link in our ministry to the poor because it already exists in the very localities where people are hurting. The church serves as a neighborhood's "lead agency" in ministry for two reasons. First, it provides the spiritual dimension so desperately needed. Government agencies and community organizations can *administer* programs, but the church is committed to *minister* with an awareness of each individual's spiritual need. In addition to that, many people—especially the poor—have a variety of personal and family needs that can best be met through the church.

World Vision has, therefore, made a



Paul Landrey

commitment to serve the poor in partnership with local churches. Only when there is a balanced ministry to spiritual as well as social and physical needs, can permanent change result.

## **What do you mean by "holistic" ministry?**

The word "holistic" indicates a broad approach to a large problem—an effort aimed at the "whole" problem and not merely one aspect of it. Christ himself fed, healed and preached to the people; His was a holistic ministry. He ministered to the whole person.

## **How can World Vision spend so much money overseas when there is so much need here in the United States?**

Part of the answer is that World Vision does both. In its effort to offer "the cup of cold water" in Christ's name to the suffering people of our hurting world, it must work with people overseas as well as here in our own country.

World Vision is an extension of the church, attempting to minister in the name of Jesus Christ where there is need of any kind. We believe the Bible calls us as Christians into all the world—to nations abroad as well as to our own communities.

## **Which does World Vision consider more important: meeting physical or spiritual needs?**

This question can only be answered in context. When an evangelist comes face to face with physical need, Christian compassion demands that, to the extent possible, the physical needs be met. Conversely, a doctor or nurse may be called to minister to people's

physical needs, but whenever Christ's invitation to new life in Him may be shared, Christian compassion demands that also.

Caring Christians are concerned about regeneration, about the work of God's Spirit in transforming lives, about the experience of wholeness for each person. These all have both physical and spiritual dimensions.

It is unfortunate that for some people a false dichotomy exists between physical and spiritual ministry. This has resulted from fear of a particular kind of "social gospel" approach in which social needs are addressed and the gospel's salvation message is not given. But the Bible makes clear that the true gospel holds both social and spiritual implications. World Vision's commitment to ministry comes from this understanding.

## **On what critical needs does World Vision focus in the United States?**

The need for evangelism is, of course, universal and is an integral part of World Vision's ministry. Perhaps the most critical physical need in cities throughout the country is for adequate, affordable housing in the inner city. Close behind this concern is the need for jobs, job training and job placement. There is also an urgent need for better medical and dental care, for affordable childcare and basic education. And, of course, food is always in short supply for those trapped in the cycle of poverty.

Throughout the country, World Vision is addressing these needs in meaningful ways through hundreds of projects tightly linked to strong local churches as well as through direct development of prototype projects, the production of strategic tools and resources, and the strengthening of Christian leadership through conferences and seminars.

*Paul Landrey is director of World Vision's U.S. Ministry.*

# WHEN THE TV IMAGE FLICKERS AWAY

**When the heart-wrenching** scenes of hunger in Africa began appearing regularly on the news, the public responded. Ad hoc groups to raise funds formed in offices, churches, neighborhoods, schools. Reporters rushed to Ethiopia, Mali, Mozambique and other countries and brought back the bad news. At World Vision in one day alone we received 57,000 letters, including gifts from preschoolers and pensioners, and one from a woman in Maine for \$250,000.

On a bus in Bridgeport, Connecticut, when the talk turned to the famine, a domestic worker walked down the aisle and collected seven dollars which she sent to us.

The story that moved me the most came from the Union Rescue Mission in downtown Los Angeles. On Thanksgiving Day, the mission's director compared the options of Los Angeles street people and those of millions of Ethiopians—and decided the street people were better off. So he took an offering, and the 400 or so homeless men and women who ate Thanksgiving dinner at the mission scraped up \$175 to send our organization for the hungry in Ethiopia.

I've heard stories about women who organized a walk-a-thon and others who asked fast-food restaurants to donate one cent for each hamburger sold. Black clergymen have banded together, and so have groups of Ethiopians in this country. Young people have planned their own "famines" and missed a few meals to raise funds. Americans, long known for their ingenuity and entrepreneurship, have lived up to their reputation.

All this excites me and leaves me with a deep sense of gratitude. When I get such reports my heart wells up with a loud "Praise the Lord!"

At the same time, I'm more than a little concerned. Will this momentary rush of compassion soon fade? When TV newscasters tire of the scene and

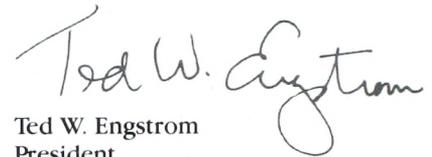
the last appalling image flickers away, will public sympathy pass with it?

We've had crises before—Kampuchea, Bangladesh, El Salvador—and we'll have many more. But the problems in these places don't evaporate when we stop thinking about them. The current crisis in Africa will continue for years to come. The critical problems will go on, with or without our knowledge or help. Two-thirds of the world is still classified as underdeveloped—which is a fancy way of saying poor and hungry.

Through the current travail of Africa, I believe some of God's people will find themselves drawn to the poor. Many, I suspect, will be involved for years to come. A few will dedicate their lives to serve the needy in the name of Jesus Christ. I've seen it happen before. It's one small island of hope in a sea of misery.

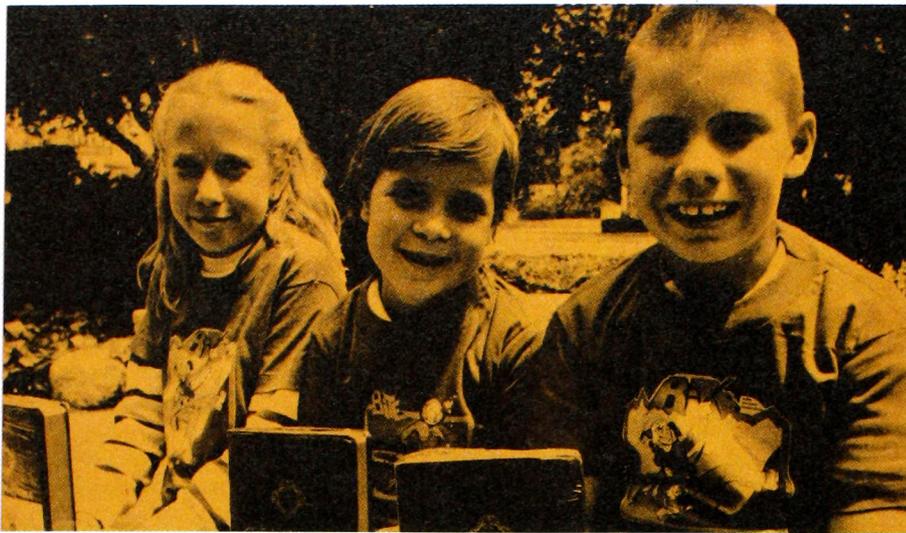
Everyone can't go to Africa, of course, as I have on several occasions in recent months. Not all the young people can join Youth With a Mission or the Peace Corps. Parents and business people and civic leaders and factory workers can't leave their present callings and responsibilities and enlist fulltime.

Each of us can, however, have some small part in the never-ending process of feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting those in prison, caring for widows and orphans, and reconciling people to God and to each other. What about you?

  
Ted W. Engstrom  
President



Dr. Engstrom looks on as Dr. Roger Bruce examines a sick child at Ansokia.



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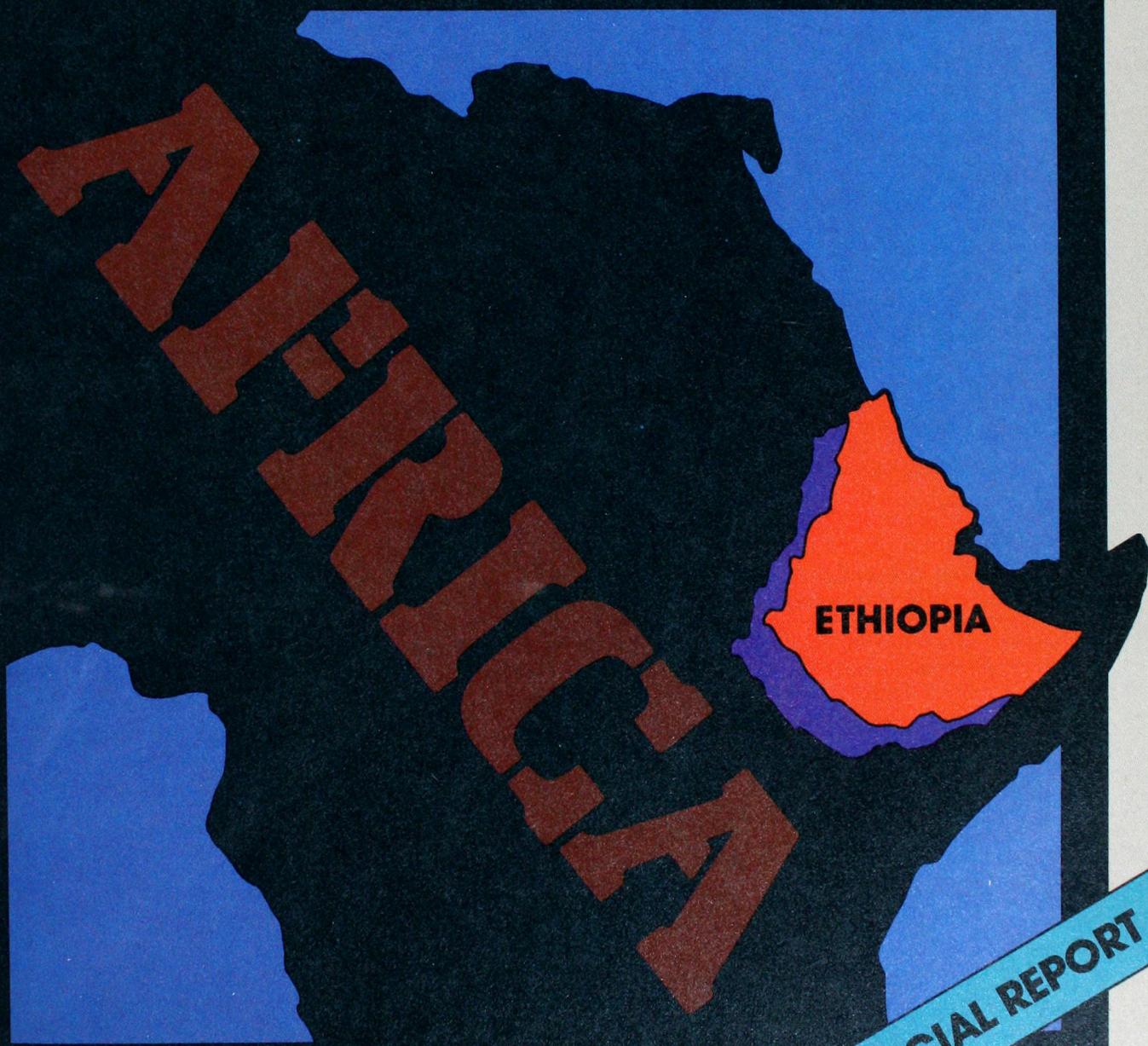
A sponsored girl  
in Zimbabwe

Women share  
the burden

What I learned from  
an Ethiopian boy

June-July 1985

# World Vision®



A SPECIAL REPORT

# Readers write

## A shared question

"I Still Feel Your Suffering" (Rory Starks, April-May '85 issue) brought back poignant memories of our experience with suffering humanity while missionaries in Peru.

Rory's statement, "Why, I wondered, am I so fortunate, while you struggle daily just to survive? There was no answer. I wept," reflects the questions I had while in Peru. The disparity of it all overwhelmed me also.

I, too, wept as I viewed the extreme material, physical and spiritual poverty of those dear Indian people. I asked, "God, why have you blessed us so bountifully?" I was thinking primarily of our beloved America; then the question became very personal: "Why have you blessed *me* so bountifully?" And the answer came through loud and clear in the words of our Lord Jesus, "Freely ye have received, freely give."

He has so bountifully blessed us that we may (and must) share joyfully, spontaneously and generously with others. That, then, is the answer.

The disparity still overwhelms me occasionally, but then I think of Peru, and words from your very own magazine (a past issue) give me inspiration to keep praying, giving, sharing and caring: "Do something even if everything can't be done."

Hazel Welton  
Morton, IL

## "I can't sit by."

I just read through my first issue of WORLD VISION. It moved me to tears as much as the television broadcast that enlightened me as to who World Vision is and what you are doing in Christ's name for the starving, hurting people in the world.

For at least two months before I saw the program, I had been reading so much on the plight of Ethiopians and other Africans. There was a lot of bad publicity about how the funds and relief being sent to these countries were not reaching the hungry, but staying in the hands of the greedy. I really wanted to help, but I could not make the decision without asking the Lord, "Who should I give my help through?"

My prayers became heightened the week I caught the World Vision program. It was about 1:45 a.m., an unusual time for me to be watching TV. My husband was out of town and I just wasn't sleepy. Then the

program came on and as I watched, the Holy Spirit within wept from depths that I have rarely tapped in my life. I knew it was the Lord's tears for His people, and I knew that this was my time to act.

It isn't like me to pledge a monthly sum without consulting my husband, but knowing the impulse was from the Lord, I knew there would be no problem.

Now after reading the magazine, I wish I could be involved in a more personal way. I can understand what Gary Collins means when he says, "As a Christian, I can't sit by . . ." I'll just keep asking the Lord to use me to minister to His people—especially to those who have never known Him as their personal, living Savior. If there is anything I can do to help, I will.

Felice Brooks  
Roswell, GA

## Why can't we meet everyone's basic needs?

I was moved to write after reading the letter from Dr. Jim Owens and the article by Liz Kliewer in the April-May issue of World Vision.

I was very troubled by references to persons waiting as long as three days to be seen in the clinics, lack of sufficient food and medical supplies to meet basic needs of some persons coming to the camps, and lack of shelter for the people at night.

I feel a need to understand why the combined efforts of the relief community in general and World Vision in particular cannot, despite the great outpouring of financial and volunteer help, meet the basic needs of all persons arriving at the camps. Are funds collected so far insufficient to meet the needs? Or is there a lack of competent personnel at the camps? Or other factors?

If you could enlighten me further, I would be most grateful. If there is anything more you or I or anyone can do to further alleviate the suffering of these people, it is incumbent upon us as Christians to do so.

Thank you for bringing the plight of these impoverished African brothers, sisters and children home to me in a most eloquent way.

C. Scott Bucher, RN  
Boiling Springs, PA

*World Vision is feeding 100,000 people daily, but even though we utilize every resource we have and give the aid directly to the people, there is not yet enough grain*

*available for everyone. A second problem is that the delivery of food is very difficult. Ethiopia, one of the poorest nations in the world, has much mountainous terrain and very few roads or trucks.*

*Between six and seven million people in Ethiopia are considered "at risk," which means they will die unless they are fed. The overwhelming numbers of hungry people mean that the total relief that everyone is working toward is not yet attainable.*

*As to relief personnel, both expatriate and national staffs are unusually capable and dedicated, working beyond the exhaustion point under incredibly difficult conditions. But relief agencies, including World Vision, struggle constantly to recruit enough trained, experienced people to deal with the acute, specialized needs of the famine-stricken.*

## God's heartbeat

The scenes of precious little ones (and the parents also, for they too are God's little children) and their suffering, have not let me rest and God has given me a lullaby telling of His love for children. I am in the process of having this song copyrighted, but if you would like to use the words in WORLD VISION, you have my permission. Maybe someone who reads them will feel God's heartbeat and want to share an extra gift of love.

## Dear Little One

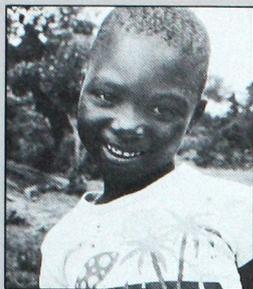
Oh dear little one, dear precious one,  
You're a gift from God above  
To our family, to nurture you  
In His wisdom and His love.  
Long before we ever knew you,  
You were part of His great plan  
He in secret formed each feature  
Each tiny finger of your hand.

Jesus loves you, dear little one,  
The Bible tells us so.  
He said, "Come to me, forbid them not,  
'Bring the lambs into my fold.'"  
So rest now, dear little one,  
Close your eyes and go to sleep.  
For His angels, watching o'er you,  
Their tender vigil will keep.

Thank you, Father, how we love You,  
Seek your guidance for each day.  
May this little one, this precious one  
Grow to walk your Holy Way.

Harriet Harting  
Tinley Park, IL

# World Vision®



## 4 A sponsor for Melania

How sponsorship is making a difference in a Zimbabwean girl's life.

## 6 Sharing the burden

World Vision women share their responses to ministry-related stress.

## 11 Ethiopia's long walk back to health

What's happened and what lies ahead for weary famine victims.

### Also

- 9 What I learned from an Ethiopian boy
- 10 An Ethiopian widow's mite
- 19 Do you know the Peace Giver?
- 20 Samaritan sampler
- 21 Please pray
- 22 A precious gift
- 24 Children "come back to life"
- 25 When the TV image flickers

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**Bill Kiewer**, executive vice-president  
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**WORLD VISION**

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## PEOPLE WANT TO KNOW

**Questions about Ethiopia?** The list is long:

- How could such a massive tragedy develop?
- How many lives are being saved?
- How many more need rescue from starvation?
- Can't food be sent faster?
- Where are the major projects located?
- What about resettlement?
- Are the rains adequate yet?
- How is the Bread of Life shared?
- How are Ethiopian Christians faring?
- Who will care for the orphans?
- What will World Vision's roles be during the next five years?
- Although even he does not have an

answer for every such question, Dr. Ken Waters has written the most complete report our magazine has ever carried on the Ethiopia situation in which you are involved with World Vision. The story is on pages 11 through 18. His overview-update and the accompanying map and photos will clarify important facts for you and for those with whom you share your copy of the magazine.

*David Olson*

PHOTOS, ILLUSTRATIONS: Cover, pp. 14, 15 (left): Judith Walker; pp. 4, 5: Phillip Muko; p. 9: Thea Chitambar; p. 10: Richard J. Watson; pp. 11-13, 16 (left), 17, 18, 25: Steve Reynolds; p. 15 (right): Jim Owens, M.D.; p. 16 (right): Jacob Akoi; return envelope: David Ward; p. 20: Carol Jean Cox; pp. 22, 23: Merrill Weale; p. 24: Charles Bascom, M.D.

West Germany to Zimbabwe

# A SPONSOR FOR MELANIA

by Phillip Muko

**D**oes sponsorship really work? Does it make any change in the life of an individual child? What does he or she feel when receiving a letter or Christmas card from a sponsor? And the child's parents, relatives and friends: What reactions do they have when their boy or girl receives a letter from that benevolent but unknown person in some faraway land?

These are questions I've asked myself during the two years of my association with World Vision and its child sponsorship program. Instead of just wondering, I decided to go and find out for myself.

So at 7:30 one cloudy Tuesday morning, a colleague and I drove to Itainomazvo Community Development Project, about 50 kilometers (31 miles) south of the provincial town of Masvingo in my southern African country—Zimbabwe. In about an hour we reached Itainomazvo where there are more than 400 sponsored children.

Our visit had two specific purposes: to conduct a health assessment survey of the sponsored children and to find out how a child feels when she or he receives a sponsor's letter. I asked the project worker to select for me one child who has regular communication with a sponsor.

Melania Rashirayi has been

*Phillip Muko is World Vision Zimbabwe's communications associate.*

sponsored for three years by Petra Kuenstar of West Germany, who regularly sends her cards and letters. Sponsorship has made a great difference in the life of this beautiful little six-year-old girl.

Melania's father died when she was very young. Her mother, alone and hopeless, became a prostitute. The task of rearing Melania was left to *Mbuya* (grandmother) Jestina Rashirayi, aging and poverty-stricken. The grandmother's economic plight has resulted from the drought that has plagued her area for four years. "I was expecting to sell some of my cattle and maintain my *muzukuru* (grandchild), but alas! God dealt a serious blow upon my life," she lamented. "Thirty of my cattle died because of the drought."

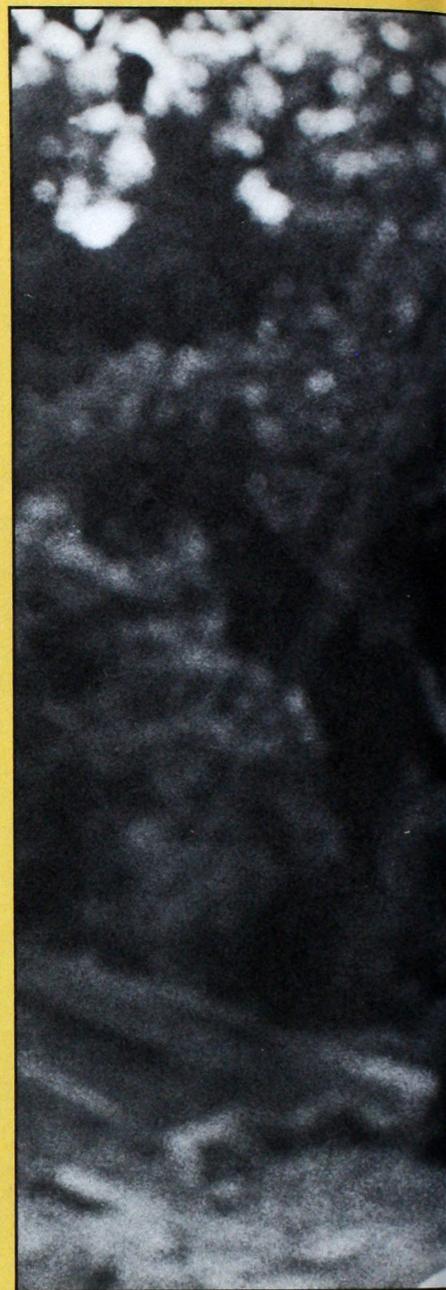
Though malnutrition, and even starvation, have been the order of the day during these drought-stricken years, Melania is in good health due largely to Petra's generous sponsorship through World Vision's child care program.

Another benefit that sponsorship has provided for Melania is her oppor-

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**Sponsorship has helped to give Melania nutrition, schooling and other basic necessities.**

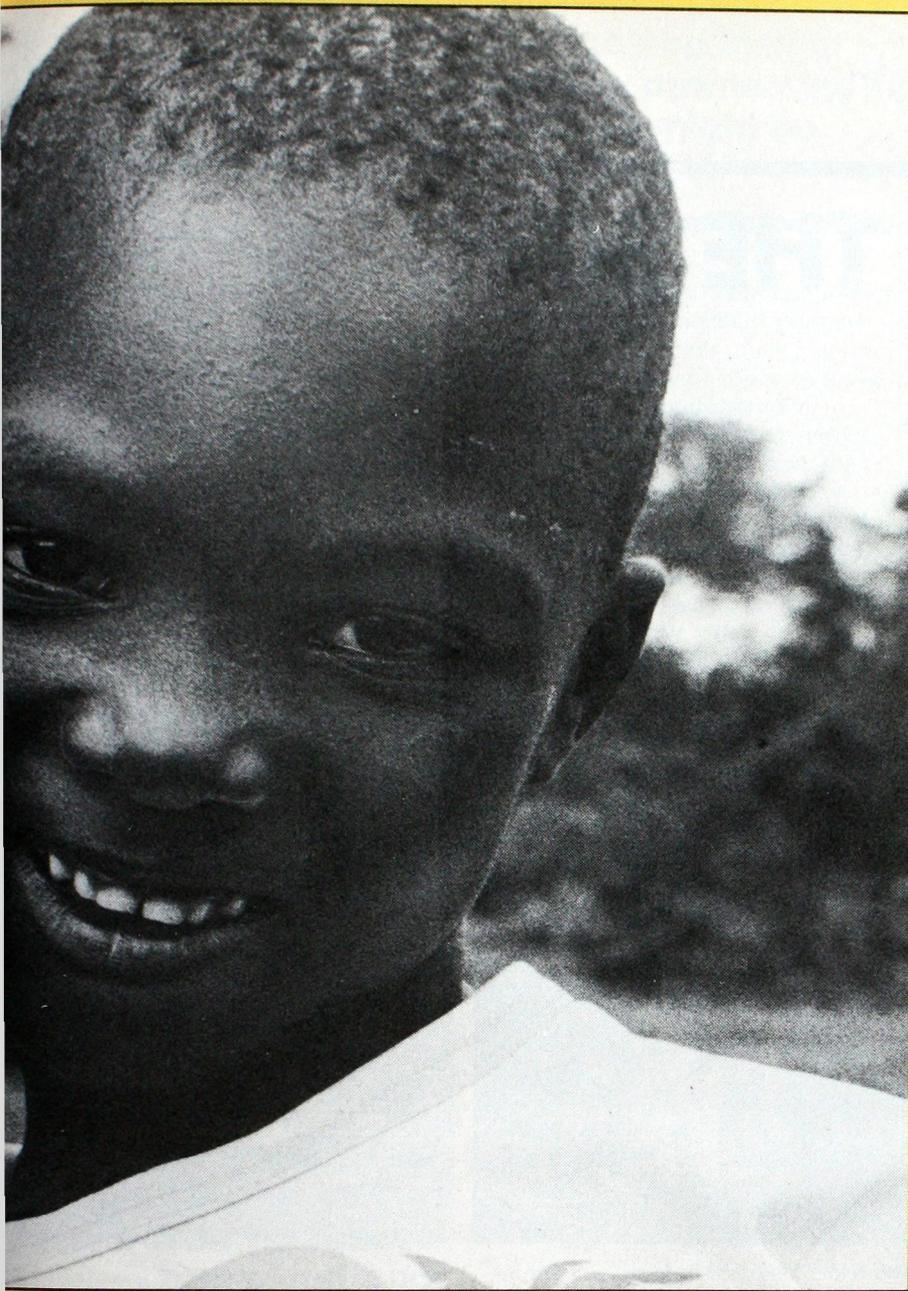
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Six-year-old Melania, a World Vision sponsored child from Zimbabwe, smiles shyly for World Vision communications worker Phillip Muko.

tunity to attend preschool, an advantage not available to many children in the rural areas of Zimbabwe. Along with learning and play activities, school also includes several cups of *mabewu*, a nutritious food drink, each day. Melania has fully responded to all of these good things brought into her life. "She is one of the most active and energetic children around," reported her preschool teacher.

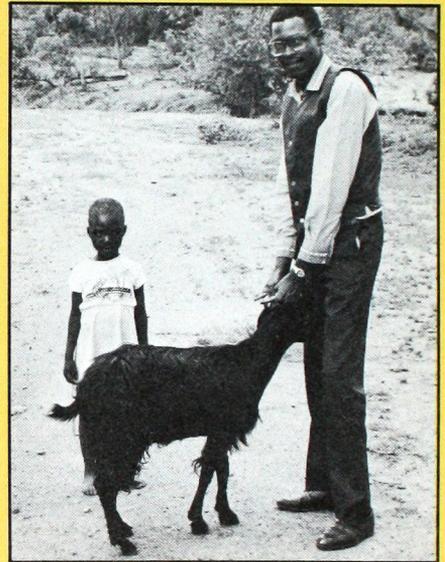
Petra's sponsorship has helped to supply not only nutrition and schooling for Melania, but other basic needs



Phillip Muko

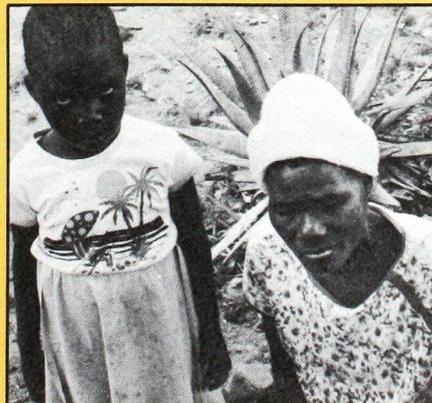


Melania recently received a pet goat through the Itainomazvo Community Development Project manager, shown holding the goat's horns.



as well. She was recently outfitted with two dresses, underclothing, a pair of canvas shoes and two blankets—all things beyond her grandmother's ability to provide. With the assistance of the project manager, Melania now even has a pet goat, of which she is very fond. "When it gives birth to many kids," she said, "I will sell them and buy a cow."

The interest of Petra in the child he is sponsoring is also important. When Melania receives a letter or postcard from Petra, it's a family affair. The project worker translates the correspondence and reads it aloud. Then the translations are sent to Melania's



Mbuya Rashirayi, who is rearing Melania, became impoverished when 30 of her cattle died from the drought.

older brothers and sisters to read. "They love to hear stories about other countries," said Mbuya Rashirayi.

Most significant of all, perhaps, is the fact that Petra's generosity as a sponsor has laid the foundation of a unique relationship between him and Melania. The love that his sponsorship represents is symbolic of God's love. It is a source of hope for the child, just as such love and care on the part of other World Vision sponsors show God's love and His hope for thousands of other children.

Does sponsorship make a difference? I'll never wonder about that again. □

# SHARING THE BURDEN

**O**ne of my constant battles as the wife of a World Vision employee is to willingly accept the long hours and absences related to my husband's work." By supplying variations on the organization name, countless women could make these words of Marlene Dick (World Vision of Canada) their own.

At World Vision, this kind of lonely struggle was recognized as part of a whole range of women's felt needs, and six years ago a quarterly newsletter was initiated. A dictionary definition of its name, *Parakaleo*, includes "encourage, comfort, build up." Although originally intended for the wives of World Vision expatriate staff, the publication was welcomed by other World Vision women as well. In recognition of this broader audience, *Parakaleo* was recently given a new sub-title: *A Newsletter by and for World Vision Women*.

A variety of women's concerns are dealt with in the newsletter, but the focus of the March 1985 issue was on meeting creatively the special needs of families with ministry-absentee husbands/fathers. Because this is a problem with which many of our readers must deal, we asked several of the *Parakaleo* writers if they would allow us to share selections from their articles with you.



*Marlene Dick is not only a World Vision wife (her husband Ken is group director, corporate and financial services, WV Canada) but also serves as a volunteer in a WVC office. She is on the executive committee of the Christian Women's Club, is a frequent speaker for women's groups, and is active in a local church. The Dicks have four children (one of whom works full time for WVC) and two grandchildren.*

**Marlene Dick**, quoted earlier, speaks frankly of her effort to accept her husband's time-and-energy-consuming schedule. In "For His Glory," she recounts the experience that changed her perspective and has helped her repeatedly through the years.

"Shortly after my husband Ken joined World Vision, he was scheduled for a three-to-four-week orientation trip

through Asia. He had never been away from home for that length of time before, and I struggled for weeks prior to his departure because I didn't want him to go.

"While in Hong Kong, Ken was taken on a day trip to the China border, accompanied by Christina Lee from the local World Vision office. During the day, Ken learned that Christina was not a Christian. He shared his testimony with her, and promised that he would pray for her salvation.

**O**ne of my constant battles is to willingly accept my husband's long hours and absences."

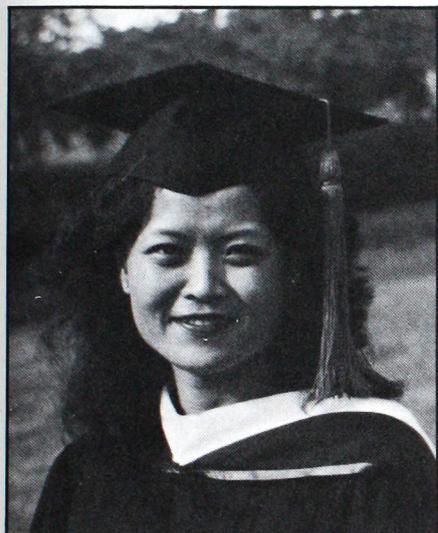
"About four months later, Christina wrote that she had accepted Jesus Christ as her personal Savior, and another letter some time after that, told him she had been baptized.

"I felt very rebuked when I realized that God had used this trip for His glory in spite of my attitude. I had the joy of meeting Christina in Canada while she was here for orientation, and again in Taiwan with Ken when Christina was in charge of the work there.

"On that same trip, we went from

Taiwan to Australia where Ken shared in the World Vision chapel service. A young Chinese woman introduced herself and said how happy she was to meet Ken. She had been working in the office in Hong Kong at the time of his visit, she explained, and was to have accompanied him to the China border that day. She became ill, however, and Christina was asked to take her place. She told us that everyone in the office had been praying for Christina. They had been so thankful that God had sent Ken to witness to her that day.

"It was at that point I began to be able to accept the fact that traveling was part of Ken's ministry with World Vision, and since then it has been much easier for me to let him go, although we always miss him very much. And I am deeply thankful to God that we are part of the World Vision family."



*Christina Lee first worked for World Vision Hong Kong, then successively as operations director for WV Taiwan and as project consultant with WV Asia. Now on leave of absence from WV, Christina received her master's degree in communication in 1984 and is currently working on a doctorate in adult and continuing education at Michigan State University.*

**Christina Lee**, the young Chinese woman of Marlene's story, is now on leave of absence from World Vision, working on a doctorate at Michigan State University. In 1982 she had written to *Parakaleo* in response to a readership questionnaire. Some of her comments are quoted in the March 1985 issue.

"I've gained insight on how my future married life (if I marry) might

**"I've gained insight on how my married life (if I marry) might be affected. . ."**

be affected should I continue to be a World Vision workaholic, perhaps neglecting the needs of my husband, or not being able to count on his being supportive and understanding.

"I've often said that the wives of World Vision executives have the toughest jobs in the world; their husbands are subject to such great demands, diversity of assignments and responsibilities. It really takes God's wisdom, much love and much patience to be a supportive wife.

"Through this newsletter, we can share, and fellowship with, and support and encourage one another, brothers and sisters in World Vision, all over the world."

**Laura de Chuquín**, in "Priorities," speaks forthrightly and practically about a perspective she feels has been largely neglected in *Parakaleo*.

"All the articles I have read up to now concerning the problems caused by a husband who, of necessity, works late and travels frequently, try to teach the wife that it's her responsibility to be patient and pious and tolerate things. The articles never mention the fact that the husband also has a great responsibility in this area.

"Obviously, a large part of this does fall on the wife, but marriage should involve compromise, with each partner carrying his/her part. Our family had learned to accept the fact that José was seldom home, but it still caused resentment, as much on my own part as on that of the children. Through Bible study and training as family counselors, José and I have come to the following conclusions:

"The husband's role, seen from a biblical perspective, is that of ministering to his wife and family. That means seeing that harmony exists in the home and providing for the personal growth of each individual member. That's a big responsibility, and one that can't be done by correspondence alone.

"Unfortunately, the husband's role frequently degenerates to that of provider and part-time companion while the wife suffers 'heroically' to maintain a strong Christian family, feeling guilty when she can't fulfill both roles (husband/father and wife/mother) perfectly. This is a mistaken interpretation of what the Bible has taught us about our roles in marriage. It's not just up to the wife to see that family and marriage survive. It's a shared responsibility as is very clearly shown in Ephesians 5:21-33.

"José has reevaluated his responsibilities and cut out unnecessary traveling and meetings. Once a month, we take an entire day for just ourselves. We use this time to review our marriage, see what areas we need to work on, share, and just be together. We also save 15-20 minutes for sharing daily and another 10-15 minutes for



*Laura de Chuquín graduated in Spanish culture and language from Warren Wilson College in North Carolina, where she also met and married her husband, José, now World Vision field director in Bogotá, Colombia. Laura is studying biblical family counseling from a Latin perspective, and is training in systemic psychotherapy. She is director of their church's family ministry and outreach committee and operates a low-income family counseling service. Laura and José together conduct marriage enrichment seminars. The Chuquíns have three children.*

**"It's not just up to the wife to see that family and marriage survive."**

praying together before going to bed.

"We try to go out one night a week after the children are asleep; on Saturday nights we have a family worship, and Sunday is our family day, dedicated to the church and the children—and with lunch fixed by José. He and I have our own devotional time Sunday evening after the children are asleep, combining Bible study, singing, praying and reading books aloud.

I now know that whatever meetings José attends or trips he takes, are important. I also know that we will have our scheduled time together. I am no longer resentful, and am able to give him the support he needs, so that he can travel without feeling guilty or worried. I'm also able to care for the children with a positive spirit when he's gone.

"I invite all of you to study Ephesians 5, and in the light of that, ask the Lord to help you evaluate your priorities. What position do we really give our spouses and families?"

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**Barbara Kohl**, current editor of *Parakaleo*, writes in her article, "Insights": "Some comments I heard recently on managers helped me to understand and accept some of my husband's characteristics and attitudes, simply by realizing that they were shared by managers in general. This issue of *Parakaleo* was prompted by a search for insights on how to become a better helpmate for a particular manager, my husband, who works for a particular organization, World Vision,

**"I asked my husband how I could be a better helpmate. His answer: 'By understanding.'"**

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which demands (or inspires him to give) so much of his time and energy. Absences from home, long hours at the office, and stress levels have not diminished in the eight years we have been with World Vision. I have often felt lonely, neglected and depressed.

"But in various ways over the past twelve months, as I have thought about my own unmet needs, the Lord has been prompting me to ask, 'Am I meeting my husband's needs? How can I be the kind of helpmate God intended me to be?'"

**How can I be a helpmate of any kind when I'm so in need myself when the waiting for your presence, your companionship for the dripping tap to be fixed for your decision on something important leaves me with nothing to share except my emptiness?**

"In seeking my own answer to how I could be a better helpmate, I searched the Scriptures, read Christian books, talked to other Christians. Then one day recently, I asked my husband. His answer was a short one: 'By understanding . . . (that I need to do what I am doing—working so hard and such long hours).'

"When Manfred called from Ethiopia



*Barbara Kohl graduated in modern history from the University of Toronto and taught in high school, later earning a Master of Divinity degree from the then Gordon Divinity School. Following her marriage to Manfred Kohl, Barbara and her husband spent seven years in a Massachusetts pastorate. Manfred joined World Vision in 1977 and is now national director in the West German branch of WV Europe. The Kobls have two sons, 10 and 12.*

yesterday, on a trip he felt he needed to make even though he was ill, he said, 'I'm glad you understand.' I think I really do."

Accepting . . . reevaluating . . . understanding. The need for positive family relationships where the husband and father must deal with deep and distant problems is always great. Four World Vision women have generously shared their own God-guided thoughts. □

## WRITE YOUR EDITOR

**Magazine editors** love mail from their readers. Letters from readers—whether they affirm, challenge or add to a published article—indicate that readers think, feel and possibly act on what they read. And often, such letters provide useful information, insights or ideas which can be used in one way or another.

Because I value readers' remarks on any subject WORLD VISION

magazine touches on or ought to touch on, I want to encourage you—you reading these words now—to send me a short note if something on one of our pages provokes an unanswered question or produces a deep urge to share with me (and possibly with other readers) a special observation about Christian ministry to the world's needy.

Write "Yes, but," "No, but" or whatever. Although I cannot promise

you a letter in reply, I assure you I'll read what you write. And I'll print at least excerpts from some of the most pertinent letters I receive.

Your chance of getting into print is better if you write pointedly and concisely, in 100 words or less—preferably on the perforated slip you'll find alongside the return envelope near page 19. The earlier the better.

*David Olson*

# WHAT I LEARNED FROM AN ETHIOPIAN BOY

by Thea Chitambar

**H**is name was Yamar. I met him when I was in Ethiopia recently serving as a short-term nutritionist in the World Vision nutrition-health center at Alamata. Yamar was about 12 years old. For some reason he attached himself to me one day and we became friends.

Even though Yamar was so young, he seemed in some ways like he was 12 going on 30. There was no doubt that he had been affected by the drought and famine, but in a sense, that ordeal had made him strong.

The incident that marked our meeting taught me much about the character of the Ethiopian people.

I met Yamar as I was walking through a village market looking at the kinds of things available there. Since I had been asked to design a program of occupational therapy for the women at our center, I needed such information to

plan a successful program.

As I walked along, Yamar came up behind me and began to walk with me. When I bent down to look at some grain, he said, "That's tef." (Tef is the grain from which the people make bread.) A bit surprised, I asked him whether he spoke English.

"A little bit," he replied.

Yamar continued to point out different things to me in the marketplace and tried to describe them in English. Other boys began to follow us. All of them were very poor; many were in rags.

Since Yamar had been so helpful, I decided to give him some money. I was grateful to him and wanted to repay his kindness.

However, the minute I offered him one *bir* (about 50 cents), he immediately gave it back to me, exclaiming, "No, no, no. That's a bad habit. No money—bad habit."

I tried to insist. "Take it," I told him. "Buy something for yourself."

"No," Yamar firmly stated, "I'll eat your food, but I won't take your money."

That incident really touched me. It was obvious Yamar could have used the money. And he deserved it. But his sense of dignity said no. He saw it as begging.

At one time Yamar's family had been well-to-do and his upbringing had taught him not to accept money. His willingness to eat my food was perhaps because it was more like sharing between friends. Yamar probably also knew that if he accepted money from me, all the other children would have clamored, "Give me too!"

Yamar came to visit me every day while I was in Alamata. Once he brought me two lemons from his tree and invited me to his village. Yamar would often sit and talk with me about himself and his "future." He expressed a keen desire to be a doctor to help his people.

I learned much from Yamar during those visits. But I was most impressed by his dignity and sense of what was right. Amid the crises of famine and drought, he retained a sense of who he was and what he wanted to be. He lived out his principles even under the most adverse circumstances. I think that we Christians should not want to do any less. □

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*Thea Chitambar, author of this article and the one on the next page, is a former university instructor in India and mother of three grown children. She has worked extensively in community development in India and other countries. Her husband Ben is the associate director of rural development for World Vision International.*



Thea feeds a famine-weakened child.

# AN ETHIOPIAN WIDOW'S MITE

by Thea Chitambar

**G**od? There is no God. If there were a God, He would not have done this to us." That is what some destitute Ethiopians told me as they waited to be helped at World Vision's nutrition-health center in Alamata, where I served recently as a short-term nutritionist.

But not all the people I talked to felt that way. Many, when I asked them for their thoughts about why the crisis was happening to them, simply replied, "God knows what He's doing."

Their faith remains steadfast. And they don't merely talk about God; they live His reality.

Every day between 4 and 5 a.m., I heard voices of people uniting in prayer. These voices would come from the church on the hill above our nutrition-health center. As they prayed they walked, circling the church, carrying rocks on their shoulders or on their heads. The rocks, I learned, symbolize the burdens they bear because of the famine. And the prayers are for forgiveness of their sins and for rain.

One Sunday morning I went up to that church. I watched an outdoor worship service. As the service progressed, a priest stood in front of the crowd, holding an umbrella. He held it upside down, to serve as a collection plate.

One by one, people came forward and placed in that umbrella various items that represented sacrificial giving to them.

Although another priest urged more of the people to put something into the umbrella, few had anything to give. Some from a nearby village were better off, but most were completely destitute; in fact, they had come to the area seeking the help of our center.

One elderly woman in particular caught my attention. Limp from

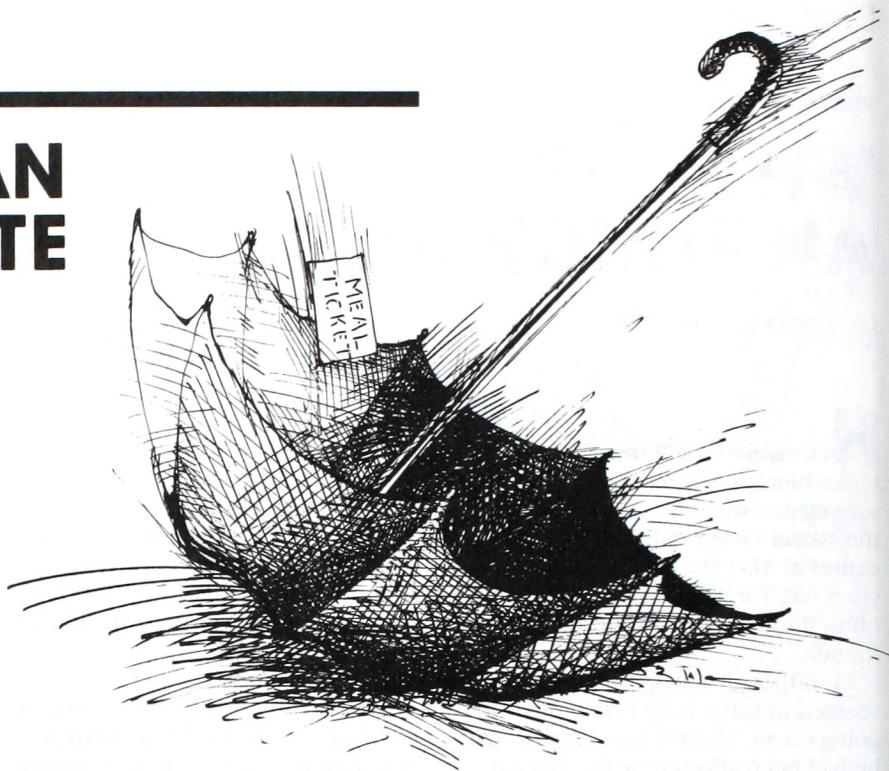
**When I asked why they thought the crisis was happening to them, many simply said, "God knows what He's doing."**

hunger, she wore tattered rags that hung loose on her frail frame. Although she could barely walk, she made her way up to the offering umbrella. Then I recognized her as one who had staggered to our center.

When she came forward, she took something I recognized and placed it in the umbrella. It was the meal ticket I had given her the day before—her only means of getting any food for the rest of the day!

Watching her, I was reminded of the biblical story about the widow and her two small copper coins (Mark 12:41-44). I remembered how that widow gave not of her surplus, but all she had.

Many other things too, touched my heart while I was in Ethiopia. Apart from seeing the incredible suffering, hearing the wailing children and smelling death all around, I was



extremely impressed by the dignity and faith of many of the Ethiopian World Vision staff with whom I worked. They are committed and dedicated workers, trusting God to provide the strength to serve in such a hard place.

Their source of strength? They keep close to the Lord. They pray often, especially at the end of each day.

I've seen them sit late in the evening, praying and singing for three hours after an exhausting day of work. They are not only an example to those around them but also to us who are their partners by support.

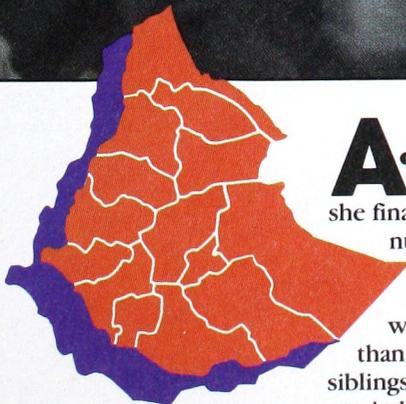
Seldom did I see any of them talk sharply to the famine victims. I was touched by the compassion, love and encouragement they gave. When they heard someone say, "There is no God," they replied, "Yes there *is* God; you will see. And you are going to see good days. This time will pass."

As we minister in Christ's name, I pray that we too can continue to provide that kind of hope to those who suffer through such terrible famine and drought. My prayer is that we learn from the people there, like the elderly woman and our Ethiopian staff, what it means to live a life of faith under such extreme circumstances. □

# ETHIOPIA'S LONG WALK BACK TO HEALTH

by Ken Waters

New nutrition-health centers, like this one at Ajjibar, are being opened as the number of famine victims grows.



**A**dise Ayelew, 11, was a staggering skeleton when she finally reached World Vision's nutrition-health center at the town of Alamata in Ethiopia's central highlands. She had walked or been carried more than 25 miles by two of her three siblings. Her mother, Marshienye, had carried Adise's youngest sister, just a few weeks old.

The arduous trek through blast-furnace days and chilling mountain nights was necessary because the family's father had disappeared. He could no longer grow crops or find other work; Ethiopia's spreading famine had rendered him helpless to care for his family. So he left.

He left behind a pregnant wife who

could barely care for the family. Lacking money, the children begged food from neighbors until the birth of the new baby.

As soon as Marshienye regained strength, she packed the family's meager belongings, and they walked toward the place where others said food and health care were available.

When Adise and her sister Yesharage were examined by World Vision health workers, they were immediately brought to the super-intensive feeding ward to receive five high-protein meals per day. Thousands of other children were also being helped.

This intensive care paid off. A few weeks after admittance to the feeding ward, Adise was walking and playing again with her brothers and sisters.

Adise was fortunate to make it to Alamata in time.

Many children arrive too late. Like Bishenepu. Health workers found him cradled in his mother's arms outside the World Vision nutrition-health center at Lalibela. The mother whimpered quietly, rocking Bishenepu back and forth.

A nurse felt his pulse. "I think this one just died," she whispered to the doctor.

Another nurse slipped quietly away and returned a minute later with traditional burial wrappings. As gently as possible, she extracted the still child

from his mother's arms. Hardly noticing the removal of the child, the mother continued to rock as if he were still sleeping in her arms.

She stopped when she saw her son wrapped up as a mummy.

Tears filled her eyes. Her whimpering turned to wailing: "Bishenepu . . . Bishenepu!"

She tried to stand, but her legs buckled. Helped to her feet, she shuffled away. Hours later, she was observed wandering aimlessly in the feeding compound, still crying, "Bishenepu . . . Bishenepu!"

Hers was not the only sad voice that day. Before the scorching sun had set,

four other mothers at the Lalibela camp were wailing the names of their dead children.

Throughout Ethiopia as many as 2000 children like Bishenepu die daily from starvation-related causes.

**Ever since** a British Broadcasting Company TV crew, flying to famine sites on World Vision's Twin Otter airplane, brought these horrors to the attention of the world last October, assistance has been pouring in from governments, churches, corporations and individuals.

The BBC footage highlighted the tragedy at places like Korem and Alamata, normally sleepy mountain

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**People in or near the World Vision nutrition-health centers are already benefiting from aid and education aimed at overcoming long-term problems.**

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*Dr. Ken Waters is manager of communication services for World Vision International. Contributing to this story were World Vision journalists Jacob Akol, Pat Banks, Alan Hassell and Steve Reynolds.*

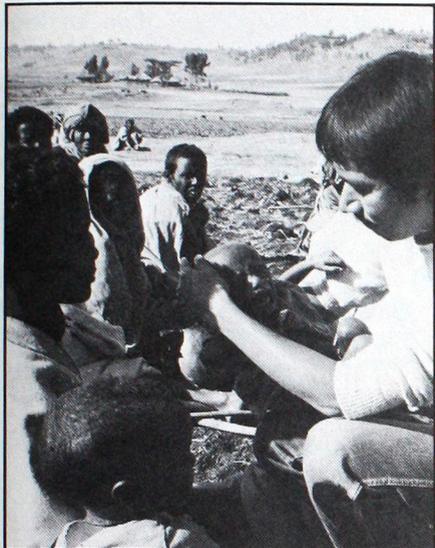
At least partial hope is restored for those like this mother and child who make it to a relief center.





towns that were overrun with thousands of dying people—people who trekked for days to find a kernel of grain once word spread through the countryside that feeding centers were being opened. Thousands of other people died before making it to one of 100 feeding centers established by aid agencies and Ethiopia's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC). Hundreds of those reaching the feeding centers were orphans.

The only way one can truly understand the tragedy of the famine is to reflect quietly and compassionately on



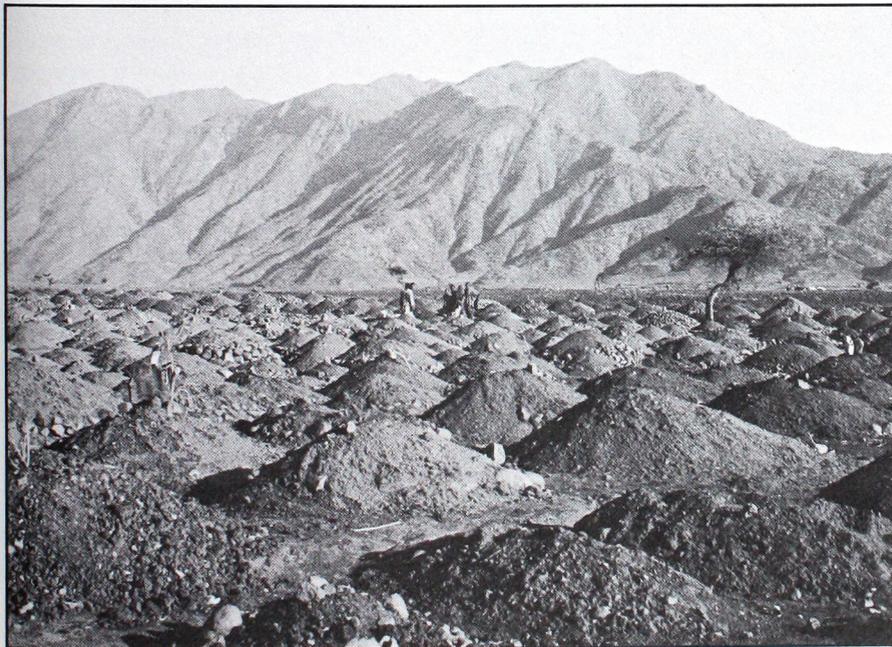
how it would feel to be Bishenepu's mother. Figures alone can be so overwhelming as to be incomprehensible. According to Ethiopian and United Nations relief officials, as many as 300,000 people have died this past year. About 15 percent of the children born annually will die before their first birthday. Another four percent will die before reaching the age of four.

The United Nations has estimated that as much as \$396 million in aid, including 1.33 million metric tons of food, is needed to meet shortfalls caused by drought, declining agricultural production, inadequate distribution of existing food, civil unrest and a host of other problems. Some 7.7 million people are said to be at risk of starvation—nearly one-sixth of the current population.

Since the short rains expected in March did not materialize, the outlook for the immediate future is bleak indeed. By later this year, the number of people in need could easily rise to ten million.

World Vision has expanded its ten-year-old program of assistance in Ethiopia to include what could become a \$60 million aid package in

(left) Dr. Hector Jalipa examines a severely malnourished child at Ajibar.



These newly created graves near Alamata are grim reminders of the many famine-related deaths that occur daily.

1985. Of the more than 100 projects already in operation, eight are massive nutrition-health centers feeding tens of thousands of people daily. As many as a half-million Ethiopians will receive life-sustaining assistance this year through World Vision donors.

Additionally, two World Vision-owned planes, operated by Mission Aviation Fellowship, are ferrying food, medical supplies, clothing, blankets, medical personnel and visitors to many otherwise difficult-to-reach places within this heavily mountainous nation. One plane has been operating since 1981, when World Vision began expanding its ministry to Ethiopia in response to initial indications of the now-raging famine.

**“When hundreds of thousands of people are dying, we heed the biblical mandate to minister to them in Jesus’ name.”**

**At World Vision’s Alamata center**, approximately 33,000 meals are prepared each day. Many people receive four or five meals per day, depending upon the severity of their condition.

Children are particularly susceptible at times like these. During their developing years, a prolonged decrease in protein can cause permanent physical and mental damage. Children also catch diseases more easily.

“Malnutrition reduces a person’s immunities and natural resistance,” noted Australian nutritionist Marilyn Fry, who worked at several World Vision centers. “And so long as these people are malnourished, they are extremely susceptible to an entire range of diseases.” The diseases include typhus, leprosy (Hansen’s disease),

smallpox, pneumonia and cholera.

"The trick is to reach the little ones before permanent damage sets in," said World Vision communicator Alan Hassell. "The immediately needed foods are not the fruits, vegetables and meats Westerners would think of. Rather, famine victims receive fortified grains, vegetable oils, and other foods giving the most nutrition per pound and per dollar.

"Often, very small children, badly emaciated, but caught in time, will bounce back rapidly after just a few days of intensive feeding and care," Hassell added.

A new scene of tragedy seems to arise almost daily. Today the focus has shifted from Alamata and Korem to Ajibar, some 90 miles south of Korem. Dr. Hector Jalipa, World Vision doctor at Ajibar, said recently, "The situation here is a disaster."

Dr. Jalipa opened the nutrition-health center eight days ahead of schedule to accommodate some 10,000 severely malnourished children and their parents. About 400 more people arrive each day seeking help. Ajibar is literally bursting at the seams as people huddle in the streets or lie down with animals at night for warmth. At an elevation of

9000 feet, the nights are bitterly cold.

"Most villagers we spoke to have been relying on the Ethiopian Relief and Rehabilitation Commission distribution because their food ran out

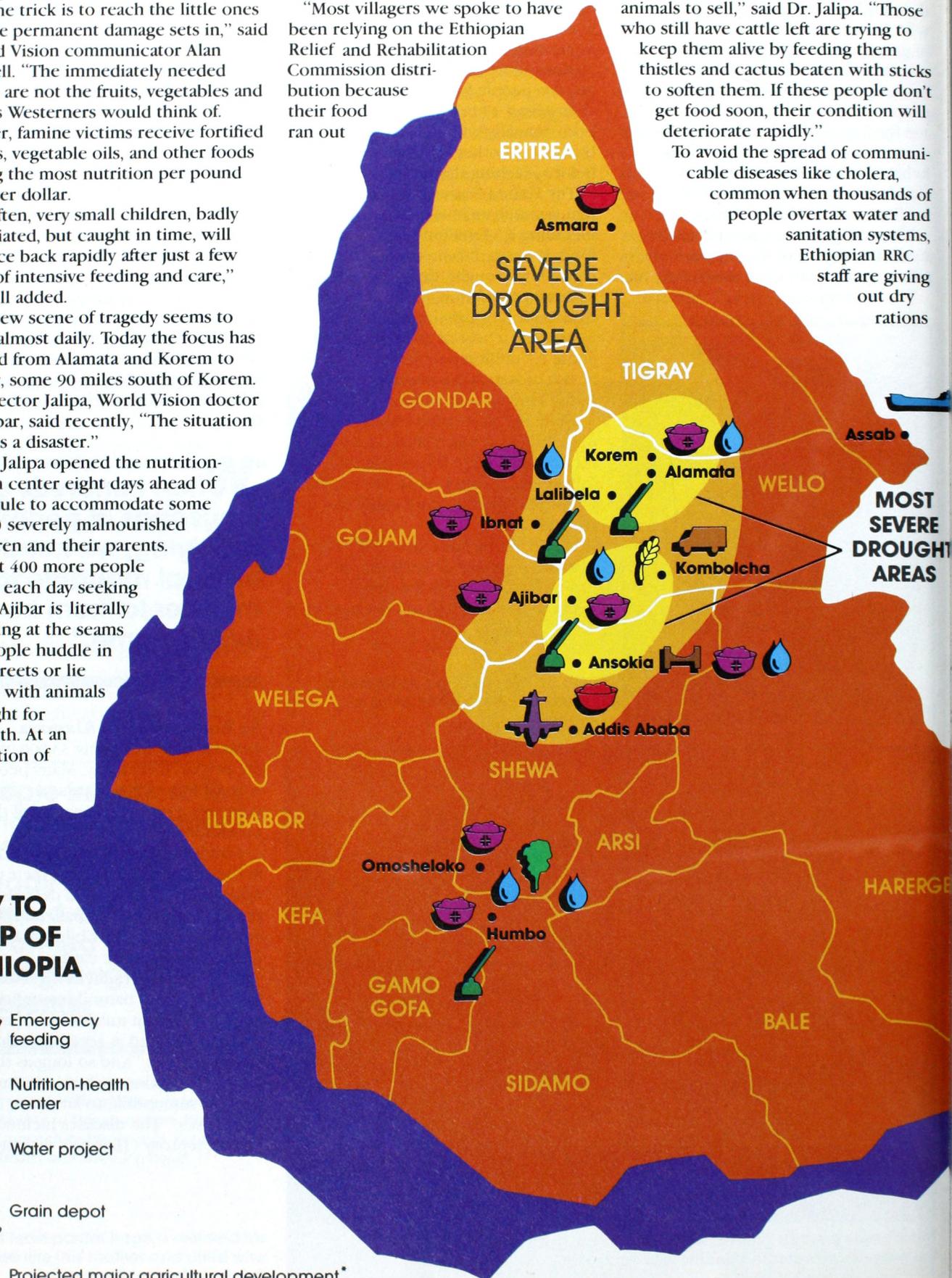
months ago and they no longer have animals to sell," said Dr. Jalipa. "Those who still have cattle left are trying to keep them alive by feeding them thistles and cactus beaten with sticks to soften them. If these people don't get food soon, their condition will deteriorate rapidly."

To avoid the spread of communicable diseases like cholera, common when thousands of people overtax water and sanitation systems, Ethiopian RRC staff are giving out dry rations

## KEY TO MAP OF ETHIOPIA

-  Emergency feeding
-  Nutrition-health center
-  Water project
-  Grain depot
-  Projected major agricultural development\*

\* Subject to government approval





to healthy people coming to Ajibar in search of food. Those people are asked to return home. Additionally, more than 7000 people have been voluntarily relocated by the government from Ajibar to other areas. In several other key areas, smaller satellite feeding centers have been established to provide more localized assistance and reduce overcrowding at the main centers.

**The short-term battle** is complicated by Ethiopia's geography and politics.

Ethiopia is a land of geographic variety. Mountains run roughly from north to south. The Southeast and most of the West are deserts. The geography has served to isolate many people, and it has been estimated that as many as 90 percent of the people live more than ten miles from a road.

The roads that do exist are poor and often washed out when a rain does fall. They take a brutal toll on trucks. A large decentralized supply depot is being set up in the Kombolcha region to store grain and repair World Vision trucks delivering food in the northern regions.

Another complicating factor is that Ethiopia's ten-year-old Marxist military government is not universally popular. Opposition groups in Tigray and Eritrea are strong, and food delivery sometimes is blocked by fighting. World Vision's Lalibela and Alamata centers have been cut off by air and land from Addis Ababa at times as fighting has taken place in the area. In

one instance, only a day's food and medicine remained in the Alamata camp when food delivery was resumed.

As the battle to keep people alive continues, World Vision staff members are also busy planning to institute new development projects that will prevent future tragedies of mass starvation in Ethiopia.

Any long-term project consideration must begin with water, according to Dr. John McMillin, relief and rehabilitation director for World Vision International. But it is not so much a *lack* of water that is devastating Ethiopia, he asserts, as a *lack of access*

**It is not so much a lack of water that is devastating Ethiopia, as a lack of access to water.**

to water. "In many places, rainfall has been normal or only slightly below normal. But the rain has simply rushed down the mountainsides and disappeared because the water retention systems are in disrepair, and vegetation

that would trap water in the soil has been stripped away."

Rainfall has been irregular the past few years, McMillin added, and this has confused farmers. During recent planting seasons, rains came either too late and the crops withered, or too early, before seeds were planted. In some cases the rain came too quickly and heavily, washing away crops just planted.

Inevitably farmers resorted to eating seeds and selling their cattle and tools to keep alive. Even as they did, sufficient water was, in most cases, less than four feet below the surface of the ground.

"I surveyed in Alamata valley recently. I stopped the Land-Rover and began digging a small trench," McMillin said. "A few curious farmers gathered to see what I was up to. I told them I would give them some grain if they would help. A few minutes after we started, a spring of water bubbled up only a few feet under the surface. The people were amazed." McMillin went back a week later to find the water still flowing.

Because of the possible availability of water, World Vision development planners consider well-digging and



Australian hydrologist Rod Jackson works alongside Ethiopian nationals to restore Alamata's water system.



Truck repair facility



Bridge project



Reforestation project



Supply plane base



Relief supply port

providing water-catching basins a very high priority.

"We must 'take the people with us,' though," McMillin cautioned. "I talked with one farmer on a hillside and asked him why the terraces and trenches that had once irrigated the area were now in disrepair. He said he didn't know how to fix them. A European group came and built the system but left without telling the people how it worked or how to repair it."

The rape of Ethiopia's forests has also helped set the stage for the current crisis. Trees cut down for firewood for cooking have not been replaced. Lower-lying brush, an even greater ecological necessity because it helps create favorable ground condi-

tions for rain, has been eaten by cattle. When rains come, they cascade down the mountainsides, washing away valuable topsoil. Ethiopia's once elaborate system of terraces has all but been destroyed.

Reforestation in Ethiopia is possible. World Vision is already funding, with some success, a model reforestation project in the Shewa region, operated by the Shone Full Gospel Church.

Project staff recently completed the replanting of several hundred seedlings. "In three months the whole mountain in front of where I live will be planted," the project manager noted, "and the entire area will be potentially rich forestland."

**The shifting of the population** also poses a challenge for long-term development. The situation near the

World Vision Mekoy center illustrates this phenomenon.

Many of the people who traditionally lived in the area have left, moving closer to Addis Ababa for food. They have been replaced by nomadic peoples walking up from the desert floor, again in search of food.

At Mekoy, the original inhabitants were replaced by 70,000 nomads and their cattle. Within weeks the cattle had turned the green valley into a barren wasteland as they ate the remaining vegetation.

Then the cattle began dying. So the nomads left most of the remaining cattle and started walking toward Addis Ababa.

"I would estimate that as many as 75 percent of the people I talked with at Mekoy were not native to that valley," noted McMillin. "They did not know how to farm that soil or deal with the ecological forces in that area. So even after providing the people here with life-saving food and medical care, we have to face the challenge of either moving them back to their traditional homelands, moving them to a more fertile area, or teaching them how to survive in Mekoy."

In looking at long-term solutions, World Vision planners envisage well-digging, water retention, new medical clinics and the supplying of seeds, tools and other agricultural implements. And most of these projects will need to be enhanced by educational efforts to help the people achieve full self-reliance.

By October 1, one or two multi-

**Many destitute Ethiopians, like these camped on a ridge above Lalibela, get badly burnt by open fires as they lie close to them at night for warmth.**

## FACTS ABOUT ETHIOPIA

**Population:** 36 million (mid-1985 estimate). 7.7 million are at risk of starvation. Number could rise to ten million. Last year 300,000 died in the famine.

**Area:** 471,800 square miles. (Population and area is about the same as California and Texas combined.)

**Health:** One doctor for every 100,000 Ethiopians. Only 6 percent of the population has access to safe water. Life expectancy is 40 years. About 15 percent of Ethiopian children born annually die before their first birthday.

**Education:** 8 percent literacy

**Capital:** Addis Ababa

**Major ethnolinguistic groups:** 40 percent Galla, 36 percent Amhara, 9 percent Kafa-Sidamo.

**Languages:** Amharic (official), Tigrinya, Tigray, Galla, Arabic, Somali, Italian, English and some 90 other minor languages.

**Religion:** 40 percent Christian, with the majority in the Ethiopian Orthodox Church; 40 percent Muslim, with Animist and Jewish (Falasha) minorities. For 800 years, Ethiopia was considered "an island of Christianity in a sea of Islam."

**Economy:** Fragile. One of the 49 low-income countries of the world. Nearly 90 percent of the people live off the land but only 7 percent of the farming is done by modern methods.



**Women often walk for miles to fill their heavy crocks with water.**

**Road system:** Lowest density of rural roads in the world. Close to 90 percent of the people live more than ten miles away from a road.

**Ecology:** Severe deforestation. At the turn of the century, 40 percent of the country was covered by trees. Today the figure is only 4 percent. The Sahara has advanced 62 miles in the last 20 years. Over the last century there has been a 25 percent drop in annual rainfall.

**History and government:** Ethiopia is the oldest independent country in Africa and one of the oldest in the world, with records dating to the fifth century B.C. Its long history was marked by a series of reigning emperors, with a five-year interruption initiated in 1935 by the Italian invasion and occupation.

In September 1974, the Ethiopian empire officially ended when the military leaders deposed Emperor Haile Selassie and established the present military government.





million-dollar comprehensive development projects are expected to be in operation. An eight-to-ten person team headed by McMillin will soon arrive in Ethiopia to plan for such projects.

**While the long-term** solutions are being planned, people in or near the nutrition-health centers are already benefiting from aid and education aimed at overcoming long-term problems.

World Vision and Oxfam are restoring the water system for the town of Alamata. That move was essential. The population there has grown from 12,000 to 80,000 in just one year, putting enormous strain on the 45-year-old water system that originates about eight miles away.

Staff at several World Vision centers are now distributing agricultural packets (Ag Paks) to farmers who have left their homes and are camping in towns near the centers. The packets include farming implements, seeds, dry

food rations and other needed items. Those farmers will either return home or begin farming near the World Vision centers.

The Ag Pak program is expected to increase greatly in coming months.

In Mekoy, a bridge is being constructed over the Borkena River to ensure year-round delivery of food and supplies to that center and facilitate future development plans.

At the Alamata camp, people are learning new songs related to sanitation. One such song says, "Diarrhea is a disease that causes death. It attacks the adult and the child. Let's all come

together and avoid diarrhea. Let's all come together and use the latrines." Another variation of the song urges people to wash their hands before eating.

Dr. Peter Jordans, a Dutch doctor who has served at three World Vision camps, notes, "The idea of songs and street theater as tools to teach people can be very useful. The people are willing to learn, even though they have little formal schooling. And even so, it will take two years for a full development phase to occur."

Plans must be shaped to avert future crises, McMillin claims. "Neglect of foresighted planning happened in the mid-70's in Ethiopia. There was a terrible drought in 1972 and 1974. But when rains came, people went back to life as normal. The world community did not supply long-term assistance, and people began to live from day to day again. Few stored up for lean years."

Another fear expressed by World

**As many as a half-million Ethiopians will receive life-sustaining assistance this year through World Vision donors.**

Preparing porridge for famished Ethiopians is an endless task for nutrition-health center workers like these in Ajibar.





Vision staff in Ethiopia is that recent allegations of wrongdoing against some agencies could affect the resolve of donors to continue to work toward meeting both immediate and long-term needs in Africa.

To guard against any doubts about how donations are used, World Vision has employed some 200 people in Addis Ababa to monitor food distribution and logistics, and to plan projects for the future. "I am confident that virtually all the aid designated for World Vision use is actually reaching its destination," said World Vision International Vice-President Cliff Benzel, currently heading the agency's Ethiopia operation. "We check the unloading of food and supplies after

## Poor rains this year could add another three million people to the numbers facing starvation.

arrival, and we monitor distribution to people in need. Aside from the unavoidable losses due to spoilage, bugs and an occasional broken bag, we are confident that our systems of control are sufficient to ensure proper use of food. I have never been in a Two-Thirds World country where loss is lower."

Benzel also said he has encountered skeptics who feel the Ethiopian government should do more than it is already doing for its people. Expenditures for military budgets have come under press criticism. "I am impressed with the resolve of the Ethiopian people," Benzel noted. "Few countries spend as much of their income on the relief and rehabilitation of their people as Ethiopia does."

Also, the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, the country's largest and oldest church body, has long been a beacon of caring. Only recently have gifts of food and money from churchgoers been inadequate to meet the needs of hungry people flocking to Addis Ababa.



Weary children and parents await the next serving of porridge at Ajibar.

With World Vision's assistance, the Orthodox church's feeding program will open ten centers around Addis Ababa, providing three daily meals and medical care for nearly 2000 destitute people.

Critics have also charged that by helping the people of Ethiopia, World Vision and other agencies are furthering the government's socialist policies and its negative attitude toward the church.

"It has always been World Vision's policy to meet the needs of people regardless of the political orientation of their government," noted Benzel. "When hundreds of thousands of people are dying, we heed the biblical mandate to minister to them in Jesus' name. We don't make politics a pre-

requisite for extending the love of Christ."

Little Adise Ayelew has certainly felt the compassion of World Vision staff members and the donors who make the effort possible. But soon she will walk out of the Alamata nutrition-health center into an uncertain future, a future that can only be made better through the prolonged and prayerful efforts of people worldwide. □

*Thank you, on their behalf, for your continuing help in the Christ-honoring effort to provide a brighter future for Ethiopians such as Adise and her family. They are deeply grateful.*

## Mini-message

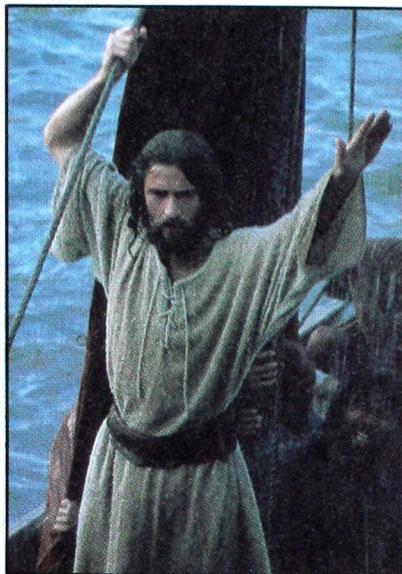
### DO YOU KNOW THE PEACE GIVER?

**When you read** the Gospel of Luke you see Jesus not only stilling wind and waves (as in this scene from the film *Jesus*), but calming His disciples' hearts.

The latter He did many times. And He still does it today.

Because He is well able to calm stormy seas and even the most troubled hearts that submit to Him, you and I have a sure way to experience peace of mind and soul whatever our situation. To us, as to the disciples who looked to Him during His days on earth, He says, plainly, *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid* (John 14:27, NIV).

The original context of this promise was Jesus' discourse on the Holy Spirit, whom He calls the Comforter, the Counselor. And the



promise is as applicable and as dependable for you and me in this nuclear age as it was for those who heard it from His lips outside Jerusalem two millennia ago. He does give His followers peace. Not through blindness to circumstances but through awareness of His love and power.

Have you tasted—and do you daily experience—the true inner peace which Christ, by His Holy Spirit, gives to all who receive it through faith in Him? If you are seeking peace and not finding it, we at World Vision urge you: Change the focus of your quest. Don't merely seek peace; *seek God through Jesus Christ*. For only through receiving Him as your Lord and Savior can you find the inner peace you crave.

For more light on this subject, read and re-read—today—the fourteenth chapter of John. And then why not read Luke's and John's entire accounts?

We urge you also to talk with a pastor or other helpful member of a Christ-centered church in your community. And please write us at WORLD VISION magazine, 919 W. Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016, if you would like a copy of a helpful booklet. We'll be glad to send it, free.

Like others in the first century and in our own, you *can* experience peace when you give yourself wholly to the one authentic Peace Giver. □

## 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 opportunities for service. If you think you may qualify for one of these positions, send your resume to World Vision International, Human Resources, 919 W. Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016.*

### AFRICA

**Ethiopia, Nutritionists** To assess and treat nutritional needs of famine victims; involves organizing and training of national staff in Ethiopian nutrition-health centers. Needed immediately. Requires nutrition, dietetics or M.P.H. degree and previous Two-Thirds World work experience. Six months minimum contract. *Contact: Pam Kerr, World Vision U.S.*

### INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

**Director, Corporate Planning** To be responsible for the corporate planning process and for assisting managers in the identification of critical issues in the development of long-range plans. Must have extensive related experience. *Contact: Kent Stock, Employment Supervisor.*

**Macro Project Team** Professionals working according to their particular discipline in a team context to research, develop and implement a regional development plan. Positions require extensive previous experience including Two-Thirds World experience with project management experience highly desirable. Must be flexible and adaptable to a variety of living conditions. The following personnel are required to make up the team:

Hydrologist	Nutritionist
Economist	Civil Engineer
Agriculturalist	Government Coordinator
Financial Analyst	Logistician
Community Planner	

*Contact: Kent Stock, Employment Supervisor.*

# Samaritan sampler

SOME WAYS PEOPLE ARE HELPING  
OTHERS IN THE NAME OF CHRIST



A proud mother holds one of China's future students.

## Sharing information about teaching openings in China

with prospective American teachers is a primary function of Educational Resources and Referrals—China (ERRC), previously known as Friends of the Tentmakers. Related services are also offered: counseling and orientation materials for students and teachers preparing to go to China, information on Chinese university programs for students of Chinese, and speakers on opportunities in China. ERRC also publishes a quarterly newsletter. For more information contact: ERRC, 2600 Dwight Way, Berkeley, CA 94704; (415) 548-7519.

## "Perspectives on the World Christian Movement,"

an introductory missions course, will be offered twice this summer (June 17-July 12 and July 22-August 23) by the Institute of International Studies at the Pasadena campus of the U.S. Center for World Mission. In addition, a number of extension center locations and an independent study option add to the program's accessibility. Credit transferable to secular universities is available. For

more information contact: IIS, 1605 Elizabeth St., Pasadena, CA 91104; (818) 797-4605.

## Nations presently closed to missions

are the homelands to which almost 40 percent of today's international students will eventually return. Winning such students to Christ and equipping them to minister in an environment hostile to Christianity, are the goals of International Students Inc. To reach these goals, ISI is seeking Christians nation-wide to become ISI Great Commission Partners, pledged to pray and support the work of reaching international students through local ISI ministries. For more information contact: International Students Inc., P.O. Box C, Colorado Springs, CO 80901; (303) 576-2700.

**The Other Side**, Jubilee's magazine of Christian social action, has expanded its content and is also wearing a fresh new look. Christians concerned about applying "justice rooted in discipleship" to contemporary problems in the U.S. and overseas will welcome the broader coverage of this frequently controversial, always thought-provoking periodical (\$19.75/yr.). *The Other Side*, 300 W. Apsley St., Philadelphia, PA 19144.

## Ways of helping hard-

**pressed farmers** affected by the current crisis in American agriculture were discussed recently by the Mennonite Central Committee. A special task force will develop "a workable plan for establishing a farm crisis mutual aid response, which will include a counseling resource and develop models for local congregations." An important part of their counsel will relate to the spiritual condition of the person in trouble.

## Spiritual awakening in the church

and an expansion of holistic worldwide evangelism will come only through unified, concerted prayer, say leaders of the National Prayer Committee. Providing information and assistance for churches and other groups who want to be a part of the "Concerts of Prayer," the NPC offers a variety of printed material and an audio tape teaching packet. For more information write: Concert of Prayer Project, National Prayer Committee, 233 Langdon St., Madison, WI 53703.

## Thousands of people in Southeast Asian refugee camps

still hope to reach the United States; displaced or terrorized people in other parts of the world continue to seek asylum. All of which means an ongoing need for churches and individuals to aid in resettling refugees. World Relief, an agency of the National Association of Evangelicals, has successfully resettled over 40,000 refugees in the United States, and offers information and guidance for those wanting to sponsor refugees. Contact: World Relief, Refugee Services

Division, P.O. Box WRC, Nyack, NY 10960; (800) 431-2808 or (914) 268-4135.

## Volunteers to work overseas

and in the United States are needed by Habitat for Humanity, an organization that builds homes for people in need of "a decent place to live." The U.S. locations need construction supervisors and project directors; overseas positions include administration, procurement, record keeping and construction. A training and orientation program is offered in Americus, Georgia. For more information, contact Ted Swisher, 419 West Church St., Americus, GA 31709; (912) 924-6935.

## Sharing Christ with Muslims

is the theme of three summer courses to be offered by the Samuel Zwemer Institute: Introduction to Islam, July 22-August 2; Gospel and Islam (cross-cultural communication principles), August 5-16, and Church Planting in Muslim Contexts, August 19-30. Both graduate and undergraduate credit are available. For more details write: Jeanette Hoffner, Registrar, S.Z.I., P.O. Box 365, Altadena, CA 91001.

**Youth involvement** in evangelization and Christian social concern is the focus of the Salvation Army's international youth congress scheduled at Western Illinois University, July 17-23. A delegate total of 5000 from most of the 85 countries in which the Salvation Army ministers is expected. Among the featured speakers will be Tony Compolo and Joni Eareckson-Tada.

## PLEASE PRAY . . .

help starving Ethiopians—support that will see that country's helpless victims through this crisis and safety beyond it.

□ **for staff workers** like Phillip Muko of Zimbabwe who daily help put hands and feet on the work of World Vision around the globe.

□ **for World Vision "spouses"** who, due to their mates' work, often face periods of separation, and who are challenged with maintaining stability and continuity in the home.

□ **for Ethiopian famine victims** who continue to struggle for survival in their drought-stricken land.

□ **for WV Ethiopian and expatriate staff members** working side by side to meet both immediate and long-range needs in that country's famine-plagued regions.

□ **for steadfast, enduring and heartfelt support** from Westerners who have chosen to

□ **for volunteers** like Susan Constable who freely give of their time and talents to help meet physical and spiritual needs in Africa, Asia or Latin America.

□ **for urban pastors and spouses** in the U.S. as they reach out to one another for mutual support in their common ministry to those in inner-city areas.

□ **For Indonesia**, where a great movement toward Christianity is occurring. This is the only country in the world where significant numbers of Muslims have turned to Christ. Pray for the leaders to continue to be open to Christianity.

□ **for Dr. Samuel Kamaleson** and his team as they conduct a Pastors' Conference June 17-21 in Brasilia, Brazil. Pastors will travel great distances hungry for the fellowship and instruction this conference will afford.

**Unreached peoples** are the focus of the *Global Prayer Digest*. This monthly devotional guide offers a page for each day in an interest-holding and spiritually challenging format. A number of ministry organizations offer this publication in editions that contain the same core material plus some pages on their particular ministry. A generic edition is available at \$6 a year from Frontier Fellowship Inc., 1605 Elizabeth St., Pasadena, CA 91104.

**Challenging student leaders to become world changers** is the purpose of Leadership '85, sponsored by *World Christian* magazine. Student, church and mission leaders will gather August 12-16 at Biola University, La Mirada, California. Developing leadership-for-change skills and putting personal commitment into practical action will be emphasized by principal speakers Roger Greenway, Don McCurry, John Dawson, David Bryant and Gordon Aeschliman. For more information, contact *World Christian*, P.O. Box 40010, Pasadena, CA 91104; (818) 797-5320.

**ESA** (Evangelicals for Social Action) has issued an 11-point statement of its position on vital issues. The one-page document, called "Here We Stand," is available on request from ESA, 712 G Street SE, Washington, DC 20003.

## Planned giving



by Daniel Rice

*World Vision's Associate  
Director of Planned Giving*

## CAN ANYTHING GOOD COME OUT OF TAX-LAND?

**Yes! For example** there is good news for those who take the standard deduction (non-itemizers).

About 70 percent of all taxpayers do not itemize their deductions, and until recently, these taxpayers could not deduct their charitable gifts. But now, donors who take the standard deduction are permitted a limited deduction for their charitable gifts.

Be sure to keep your receipts during 1985, because you may

deduct 50 percent of all contributions on your 1986 tax return. And on your 1987 return, 100 percent of all contributions made in 1986 may be deducted.

Remember, these are limits on the amount you may deduct (the left hand)—not on the amount you may contribute (the right hand)! And you never let your right hand know what your left hand is doing, do you?

## A nurse's six months in West Africa

# GOD HANDED ME A PRECIOUS GIFT

by Sheryl Johansen Watkins

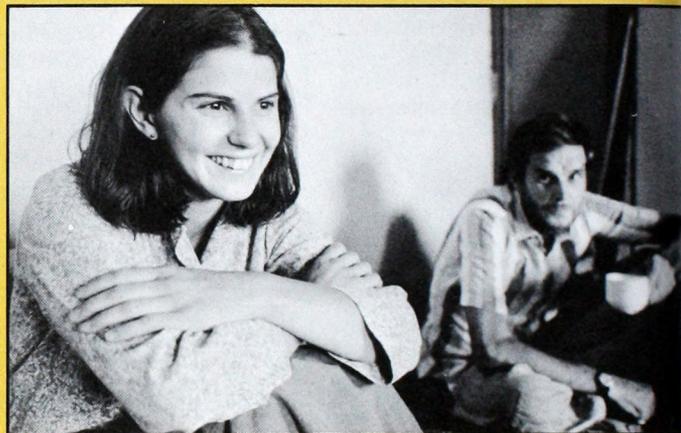
**W**hen you see children who previously had no energy start to play, you know God is handing you a precious gift."

During her six-month contract with World Vision in Mauritania last summer, Susan Constable, a slight, soft-spoken Canadian nurse/midwife, received several precious gifts like that. Her sojourn in Africa resulted when she heeded a call in a World Vision Canada publication for nurses to work at Mauritania's Tagant relief project. There she would become involved in helping communities set up nutrition-health centers where children weighing less than 90 percent of their expected weight-for-height receive supplementary food.

"It was hard work, but it was very worthwhile," said the 28-year-old nurse, who grew up in Montreal, studied nursing in Ottawa and took her midwifery training in Newfoundland. "There were discouragements, at times, but there were also little perks—like seeing desert sunsets, or watching goats frolic.

"The work required persistence and determination," she said. "Especially since the centers are new to the Mauritians. It requires a lot of patience to get the centers started and involve workers, recipients and

Susan shares a smile with project visitors as team leader Rick Williams looks on.



the entire community. But many people became enthusiastic participants."

According to Susan, the best part of her Africa experience was seeing examples of success. "We were reweighing children who had been in one feeding program for a month," she said. "A mother told me, 'My child started trying to walk for the first time in his life.' I asked how old he was, and she told me three years. I can't help thinking that this was a

**Even living in isolated parts of Canada did not fully prepare Susan for life in Tidjikdja.**

miracle for that woman, who'd had no hope of ever seeing her child walk."

At the end of her contract in Mauritania, Susan realized she had learned a lot about herself and her profession. "It's been valuable to me professionally," she said. "I've learned a lot, although it's not what I thought I would learn before I came." For example, she saw firsthand the importance of hygiene and immunization.

After seeing people suffering the effects of diphtheria and polio, diseases she had never seen in Canada, Susan was reminded of the importance of immunization. "Working in Mauritania was like taking a course in infectious diseases: We saw so many of them."

*Sheryl Watkins is a writer for World Vision International Communications.*



Susan prepares tea for visitors to the Tagent relief project.

Susan took her midwifery course at an outpost for Canadians living in isolation, "places you can only get to by airplane or boat." Still, living in isolated parts of Canada did not fully prepare her for life in Tidjikdja, the capital of the Tagant region. Two days of driving, or a once-a-week commercial flight, span the distance between Tidjikdja and Nouakchott, Mauritania's capital. The plane brings mail and, sometimes, foods which aren't available in Tidjikdja (including many fruits, vegetables and meat, breakfast cereal, fruit juices and spices).

Is she open to the idea of going overseas again? Yes. She advised any

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**"I've gotten to know God on a deeper level, something I don't think I would have done in an easier situation."**

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nurse planning to work in a feeding program to talk with people who've had that experience. A tropical health course would be very useful. And personnel working in feeding projects should bring with them as much information as possible on nutrition and communicable diseases.

Speaking French was an advantage. She also learned a little Hassania, the local Arabic dialect.

Probably the most difficult adjustment was living in a non-Christian country. "After one month, I realized how very much I missed Christian society: being able to go to church, or having Christian music or books whenever I wanted them."

Still, with all the difficulties, she found her six months of service a time of tremendous spiritual growth. "I've gotten to know God on a deeper level, something I don't think I would have done in an easier situation." □

Unfortunately, Susan learned even more about health care when she herself became ill. While in Tidjikdja, where vegetables and often water must be carefully treated before consumption, she developed amoebic dysentery. She spent several weeks in Dakar for diagnosis and treatment. "Some diseases you can pick up in the developing world aren't simple to treat. A lot of the medicines we

take are designed to help your body to do what it's already doing. But there are some things your own body can't do.

"Learning to recognize diseases which are relatively rare in North America also has been valuable. It's important to be able to recognize them and be able to stop their spread. Medical people still see some of these diseases in isolated parts of Canada," she explained.

## SEEING CHILDREN 'COME BACK TO LIFE'

by Kay Bascom

**M**y doctor husband, Charles, had just returned from two months of famine relief work in southern Ethiopia. Before he went back to work we hid him for three days—to let his soul begin to catch up with his body.

Each evening I'd sneak him into the car and we'd drive out to watch the sunset over our lush Kansas fields, far from the barren ground of Ethiopia where crop-producing rains have been lacking for the seventh season.

Last night's sky was particularly glorious. As the colors changed, we watched the stars come out against a deep azure background. We talked of people he'd known at the nutrition-health centers in the parched valley below Humbo mountain, over which the sun set each evening in Africa.

"What got to me the most was the children," he said. "I'll never forget a little fellow about five. After he'd registered and was accepted for feedings, he went around with great soberness and dignity and shook the hand of each worker. In Ethiopia, even the children have that gracious politeness and poise so characteristic of their people.

"At first the weak children sat—or lay—motionless and silent. As their food intake took effect, they began to speak and smile and even play a little. That's what kept us going—to see the children come back to life. Of all the appreciation shown, the mothers of the worst-off children were most expressive. They had lost so many."

I asked Charles about the extent of the drought. It seems to be widespread yet uneven, so some of the people are worse off than others. And some had



A young Ethiopian looks on as Dr. Bascom measures out flour.

fewer resources to begin with. But everybody works, hunting for food.

"Even children have to take a lot of responsibility over there," he said, "taking care of younger children, tending cattle, carrying wood or water. I saw one child with an unusual assignment. Hardly four years old, he served every day as a tiny guide for two blind men, leading them, barefoot and ragged, ever so carefully, into the nutrition-health center.

"And when you look at them, you hardly notice the rags and the nakedness. What stands out most is the smile. Their smiles just seem to light up their faces—so open, warm, total.

"The one that touched me most was a little boy we began to notice on the roadside a few miles out of base camp. We'd see him each morning and evening as we drove by. He stood there like a silent little sentinel, one thin arm half raised, as if his part in the famine work was to signal our team on our way. We could see a white band on his wrist, which indicated he'd been enrolled in the feeding program—where the children are carefully monitored for attendance and progress. Yet we didn't recognize him as one who was coming in for the daily feedings. We

wondered why he wasn't being brought. Were his parents too weak or too burdened down to bring him? Did it seem too far?

"I wanted to somehow adopt him and spirit him away with me. We didn't go by at the same time each day on our rounds, so he must have stood there for hours to do his self-appointed part."

When my husband became quiet for a moment at that point, I asked, "Where did he come from?"

"There was a hut about forty yards back from the road."

Charles could hardly talk about him. As we sat in silence, I remembered a conversation earlier in the day. Someone had reported to me that, according to the news, "It's too late to turn the tide of the disaster in Africa." I could hardly argue the point, because for some it is. All I could say was that it's not too late for each person, *one by one*.

As Charles and I drove home in the dusk, along our road I kept seeing that little child with the half-cocked arm. The silent little sentinel on the edge of too-far-out.

"He also serves who only stands and waits." May his faithful waiting somehow widen the circle of those who are helped, one by one. □

# WHEN THE TV IMAGE FLICKERS AWAY

When the heart-wrenching scenes of hunger in Africa began appearing regularly on the news, the public responded. Ad hoc groups to raise funds formed in offices, churches, neighborhoods, schools. Reporters rushed to Ethiopia, Mali, Mozambique and other countries and brought back the bad news. At World Vision in one day alone we received 57,000 letters, including gifts from preschoolers and pensioners, and one from a woman in Maine for \$250,000.

On a bus in Bridgeport, Connecticut, when the talk turned to the famine, a domestic worker walked down the aisle and collected seven dollars which she sent to us.

The story that moved me the most came from the Union Rescue Mission in downtown Los Angeles. On Thanksgiving Day, the mission's director compared the options of Los Angeles street people and those of millions of Ethiopians—and decided the street people were better off. So he took an offering, and the 400 or so homeless men and women who ate Thanksgiving dinner at the mission scraped up \$175 to send our organization for the hungry in Ethiopia.

I've heard stories about women who organized a walk-a-thon and others who asked fast-food restaurants to donate one cent for each hamburger sold. Black clergymen have banded together, and so have groups of Ethiopians in this country. Young people have planned their own "famines" and missed a few meals to raise funds. Americans, long known for their ingenuity and entrepreneurship, have lived up to their reputation.

All this excites me and leaves me with a deep sense of gratitude. When I get such reports my heart wells up with a loud "Praise the Lord!"

At the same time, I'm more than a little concerned. Will this momentary rush of compassion soon fade? When TV newscasters tire of the scene and

the last appalling image flickers away, will public sympathy pass with it?

We've had crises before—Kampuchea, Bangladesh, El Salvador—and we'll have many more. But the problems in these places don't evaporate when we stop thinking about them. The current crisis in Africa will continue for years to come. The critical problems will go on, with or without our knowledge or help. Two-thirds of the world is still classified as underdeveloped—which is a fancy way of saying poor and hungry.

Through the current travail of Africa, I believe some of God's people will find themselves drawn to the poor. Many, I suspect, will be involved for years to come. A few will dedicate their lives to serve the needy in the name of Jesus Christ. I've seen it happen before. It's one small island of hope in a sea of misery.

Everyone can't go to Africa, of course, as I have on several occasions in recent months. Not all the young people can join Youth With a Mission or the Peace Corps. Parents and business people and civic leaders and factory workers can't leave their present callings and responsibilities and enlist fulltime.

Each of us can, however, have some small part in the never-ending process of feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting those in prison, caring for widows and orphans, and reconciling people to God and to each other. What about you?

*Ted W. Engstrom*  
Ted W. Engstrom  
President



Dr. Engstrom looks on as Dr. Roger Bruce examines a sick child at Ansokia.



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