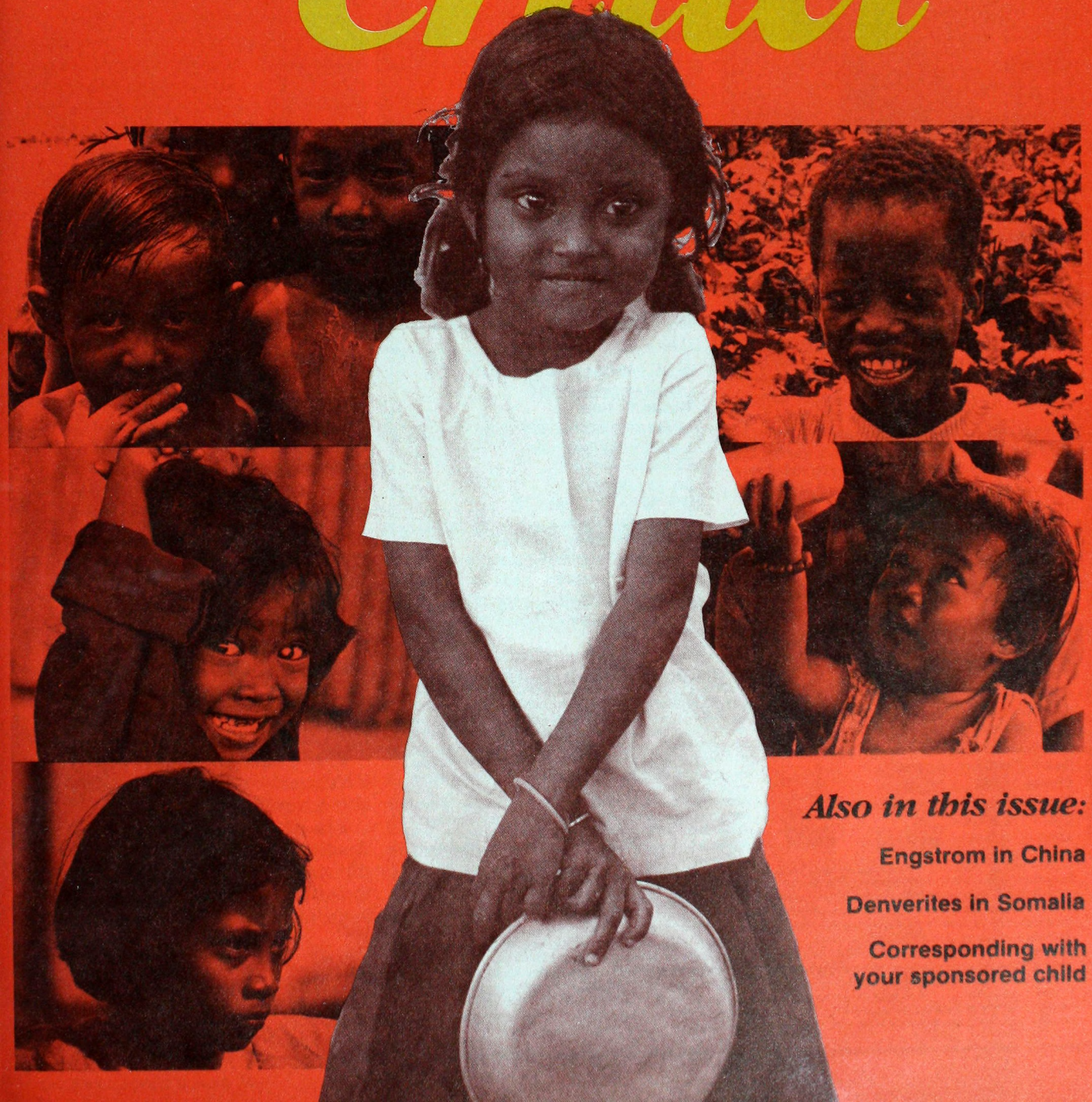


world vision JUNE 1981

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*Love that*  
**Child**



*Also in this issue:*

Engstrom in China

Denverites in Somalia

Corresponding with  
your sponsored child



*Every generation of the Chinese people needs the good news of Jesus Christ—and many extended families are receiving it through the witness of the estimated ten million believers who comprise both small house churches and large "Three-Self" churches in the now more open "Middle Kingdom."*

*This three-generation photo was taken by World Vision's Ted W. Engstrom during the recent trip he describes in this issue.*

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PHOTOS—David Adeney (from the OMF slide show "Is Anybody Praying for Us?", copyright Twentyonehundred): pages 3,4 (bottom), 6, 22. Don Aylard: page 7. Ted W. Engstrom: pages 2,4 (top and middle), 19 (bottom). Jim Jewell: pages 1 (upper right), 11. Paul Jones: page 1 (middle left). Jon Kubby: page 1 (upper left). Eric Mooneyham: pages 1 (middle right), 9, 10 (bottom), 13 (top), 21. Geoff Renner: page 14 (top). Herb Shoebridge: page 19 (top). Sanjay Sojwal: page 20 (bottom). John Stewart: pages 1 (center), 12-13 (center), 13 (bottom), 14 (left). Bryan Truman: page 1 (lower left). Bill Warnock: page 20 (right). Kenny Waters: pages 12 (lower left), 14 (right), 15. Wide World Photos: page 5. ARTWORK—Gary Lett: page 18. Rob Waters: pages 16-17.

## Reader's right

**Remember when** each issue of this magazine had a "Reader's Right" page? Those days are coming back next month. And right now I invite you to try to get into print by writing a short, specific letter to the editor.

My IN box is now open for more and spicier letters on any of our article subjects—childcare . . . refugee aid in the U.S. or abroad . . . evangelism . . . holism . . . lifestyle, whatever. Especially if you share not just theory but an insight or idea based on your own direct involvement.

This magazine is wide-ranging, as you know. Your letter can focus on any spot in the world, from China to your own house. For "Reader's Right" I'm watching mainly for letters that add perspective to our current articles. Those in your hand right now, for example. On relating to the Chinese. On beefing up your church's hunger awareness. On Salvadorans. On mail to and from the child you sponsor. On being a couple with a world view. On swordswinging.

On your choice of these, or on whichever related subject you think we underplay, why not write me, today, a *yes but* letter, or a *yes and*, or an *I disagree because*.

You can say a lot in less than a hundred well-chosen words. Do it. If you can't find an 18¢ stamp, you can even put your comments on the backside of the return envelope flap.

I won't guarantee to print your letter, but I'll guarantee:

1) attention to whatever you write if it's concise enough (especially if it's also controversial) and

2) a stimulating return of the Reader's Right page, containing bits of the minds and hearts of some each month who take me up on this challenge to interact with what you read.

David Olson



*Christians old and young make up the very-much-alive churches of China.*

## *I saw the church in China*

*by Ted W. Engstrom*

**After traveling the world** for more than 30 years, I've just had my first opportunity to visit the People's Republic of China. China is utterly fascinating—the people, the history, the culture, the beauty.

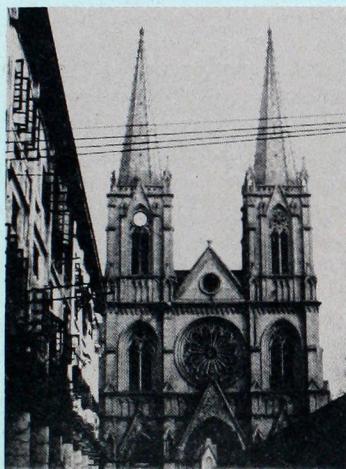
From approximately 2000 B.C. until A.D. 1911, China was ruled by various dynasties. The emperors lived in the fabulous "Forbidden City," impossible to describe, whose 9000 rooms cover many square miles of territory. The famous Ming dynasty, for example, held sway to the 17th century, followed by the Ching dynasty from Manchuria.

In 1911 the Chinese Republic was formed under the leadership of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, whose sister-in-law is

reported they had a service at five o'clock on Sunday evenings.

Only since September 1979 have any of these churches been reopened. Although all the churches are crowded beyond capacity, our conversations with the people revealed a deep concern about the future. Many people are afraid to go to church because the memory of the persecution suffered in the 60s is still too vivid.

**Small house churches** have become the mainstream of Protestant Christianity in China. They have become a popular, growing movement. Those Christians who have been underground, some of them for 30 years, have now surfaced and have become part of these 40-50,000 house churches,



*Anomaly reopened. In Shanghai, a Gothic cathedral, surrounded by structures of more indigenous design, is now in use again as a place of Christian worship.*

some of them with only seven or eight or ten persons in attendance, others with 50 or 60 or 70.

I saw pictures of one "house church" that meets regularly under a bridge. At least 50 or 60 people must have been there. Many of them were young. Alongside the group was a violinist who accompanied the group as they sang their hymns together.

House church meetings include testimonies, songs and sometimes messages from ministers who were formerly imprisoned. The ministers work at secular jobs to support themselves and their families. Some of the evangelical preachers have been recruited to serve in Three-Self churches. We met a couple of those in Shanghai.

There we rented a taxi one day and arranged for one of the house-church Christians, a former medical doctor, to be our interpreter and guide. We visited all five of the Shanghai churches (there were 150 to 200 churches in Shanghai before the Liberation). In each of them we met at least one of the pastors, most of whom could speak English.

The first church we wanted to visit was the famed Moore Memorial Methodist Church, where World Vision's founder, Bob Pierce, had his great campaigns in the late 40s. An elderly pastor was there. For 30 years the church building had been used as a warehouse. It just reopened as a church in September 1979. Two services are now held there every Sunday morning, with over 2000 people crowded into each service.

The second church we visited in Shanghai was the well-known Community Church where most of the foreign visitors attend. It's supposed to seat 700, but a total of about 2000 crowd into their two Sunday morning services. The building had been a printing plant during the revolution.

The third church we visited was the Y-un Church, which is, we were told, the most evangelical of the five churches. They have six pastors, two of whom we met. I sensed real fellowship with these men. They talked about Christ and their willingness to keep on suffering, if necessary, for Him. Theirs is the church that has Sunday evening services with about 1600 people crowded in.

One of the pastors told me with

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***Although the churches are crowded beyond capacity, our conversations with the people revealed a deep concern about the future.***

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great delight, "Next Sunday we are baptizing 45 new believers!" I asked if these were children or older people. He indicated that most were young adults who had been recently married, had found the Lord and wanted to be baptized.

We also visited the two other Shanghai churches—the Ching-Ling and Ching-Chin.

**The future of the church in China** lies largely, in my judgment, with what we call the Chinese diaspora—the church in dispersion. About 40 million Chinese live outside of China. An estimated 1.5 million of them are evangelical Christians. With them lies a great opportunity for ministry back in their homeland, the People's Republic. They can go in, most of them, without visas. They can travel without difficulty. They know the

### ***Christianity: not a product of the West but a fruit of heaven***

**"The growth** of Christianity in contemporary China without any Western connections has proven, even to the Communists, that essentially the gospel has nothing to do with imperialism.

"By being completely cut off from their Western connections [for decades] . . . Chinese Christians were exposed to the power of an atheist state. In maintaining their faith throughout this time, they proved to many of their peers and rulers that Christian faith is not a product of the West but a fruit of heaven.

"Throughout this process, Christians remained Chinese citizens in identity, loyalty and livelihood—and successfully disproved the accusation of being "slaves of foreigners." Today, Christianity is no longer regarded as a foreign-administered institution but as the most vital of all major religions in China."

—Jonathan Chao, editor of *China and the Church Today*,  
a publication of the Chinese Church Research Center

language. They can be heard. They can meet in the house churches as others cannot.

I close with a quote from my friend Jonathan Chao, who heads up the Chinese Church Research Center in Hong Kong: "These are the years in which China is charting a new course. China needs friends and encouragement. Christians in the business, commercial, scientific and technical worlds can help her in an unselfish manner as she charts her future course under God's sovereign care. In due time, God's plan for China will be made manifest in history to the glory of His name."

Pray for the house churches. Pray for the Three-Self churches. Pray for the pastors, the leaders, the workers—that they will have strength and continued courage. And pray that the Holy Spirit may work powerfully and mightily in these wonderful days of new opportunity. □



*Eyes to behold. This girl and tens of millions like her in China were in the mind of Jesus when He said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."*

## El Salvador report



**Here are some developments,** as of May 1, related to the conflict in El Salvador and World Vision's involvement:

- Violence continues unabated inside El Salvador, with 17,500 persons dead. The same ratio of deaths to population in the United States would mean a toll of 800,000.

- Letters to the White House in March ran ten to one against U.S. military aid to El Salvador's ruling junta. *Time* magazine (May 4) said any attempt by the Administration to send more arms would run into "fierce congressional opposition."

- Many Catholic, Episcopal and evangelical church leaders in the U.S. and Britain have denounced U.S. involvement.

- Salvadoran refugees in the U.S. are being deported, in spite of their well-founded fears of being killed upon returning to their country.

- The church in El Salvador is experiencing a revival. Church leaders are astounded by the number of persons committing their lives to Christ and attending worship services.

- According to the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of San Salvador, the leftist opposition voiced willingness to negotiate a settlement with the government. The ruling junta gave no immediate reply, but promised national elections in 1982 or 1983.

- Thousands of people displaced within El Salvador cannot return to their homes while the fighting lasts. So far, World Vision donors have made possible the distribution of 190 tons of food to over 52,000 people.

- Project leaders are continuing to make every effort to keep the childcare and other World Vision ministries on course throughout El Salvador.

- Thinking of the future, World Vision leaders are discussing a rehabilitation plan for suffering Salvadorans.

- World Vision is assisting 7000 Salvadoran refugees in Honduras. An average of 80 Salvadorans arrive each week at World Vision's refugee camp in Guarita. In addition to being fed, they are getting help with construction of a school building and a bridge. World Vision has provided cloth for those refugees who are seamstresses. Clothing is made in a sewing workshop and sent to market. Bibles, tracts and a personal witness have been given to many interested persons in the area. □



*Salvadoran children are traumatized—often made orphans—by a war they don't understand.*

# A \$250,000 cup of water

by Jim Jewell

**A tall American oilman** kneels in the hot sand, surveying the activity around him and wondering whether the well diggers will be successful on this long February day.

Another American—an athletic trucking executive—leaps into an unattended three-ton truck and drives over seven miles of unbelievably rough road to pick up cargo in the absence of the regular driver.

Another day filled with typical activities. Typical . . . but not for these two Denver church members. They are temporarily displaced, in a barren outpost: Las Dure refugee camp in Somalia—home for more than 76,000 people living on the edge of survival.

The oil driller, Orville Slaughter, stoops alongside Somali women in a dry riverbed. They dig, not for oil but for the hidden layer of mud that will

yield precious ounces of water.

The cargo for Don Digby, co-owner of an American trucking firm, is nothing more than tumbleweeds and fragile sticks—scant fuel for cooking what there is to cook at Las Dure. But nowhere will a day's payload be more appreciated.

Orville, Don, Don's 14-year-old son Terry and Pastor Charles Blair of Denver's Calvary Temple had accom-

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***"We all got out, walked to the top of the hill and saw the huts. . . . From that point on, our only thought was What can we do to help?"***

panied World Vision workers to Las Dure to see firsthand the needs of the Somali refugees. Together they planned to report what they saw and heard to the church's large congregation.

Calvary Temple, an independent church with a 33-year history of substantial missionary involvement, was determined to reach across the miles to help the people at Las Dure. But first, they sent these front-runners into the rough and harsh expanses of north-west Somalia to assess the situation.

The front-runners enjoyed themselves en route. They were greeted in Kenya by warm African hospitality. Then they went on to Hargeisa, Somalia, for a final briefing by World Vision staff. After a three-hour ride in a Land-Rover on what trucking veteran Don Digby called "roads that cover you with dust," the Denverites and their hosts pulled to a stop near a barren hill.

"I wondered why we were stopping," Don said. "Then we all got out, walked to the top of the hill and saw the huts. Thousands of them, as far as you could see. From that point on, our only thought was *What can we do to help?*"

It was no longer an enjoyable journey. It had become a mission.

## **A shocking experience**

"We realized that famine and starvation would be hard to describe to the people of our church," explained Orville. "As a congregation we wanted to raise \$250,000 for these refugees. We needed to experience the tragedy firsthand."

*Don Digby (in cap), owner of an American trucking firm, gets his first experience trucking for refugees in the rough Somalia terrain.*



*Somalia refugee scoops polluted water out of a hole in the riverbed near Las Dure camp.*

Driving into the crowded valley that is Las Dure, the first bit of reality was the smell. "The air became pungent," said Orville. And people were everywhere. "I knew before I went that it would be bad," said young Terry Digby, "but I had no idea there would be so many people. And then I found out that the death rate is 10 a day and the birth rate 12.

"Mom had always said, when we didn't eat everything at the dinner table, that there were starving kids all over the world. That's about all I'd known about it," Terry continued. "But now I've *seen* starving people."

The guests stayed in the World Vision complex of tents at Las Dure, where they spent restless nights on cots, and where the only available food was "terrible." No one complained about that, though, after surveying the problems in the vast camp. "The little children and their hunger—I just couldn't get them out of my mind," Don grieved. "The children with their stomachs swollen from malnutrition, their eyes sunken in their heads. Flies and bugs on them—and yet often a smile on their faces.

"My wife and I have five children. Every time I saw one of those little ones in such bad shape, I pictured one of ours," Don said.

"On our first morning at Las Dure, we saw World Vision bring in food for the refugees," Orville remembered. "The people wasted nothing. If any bit of corn fell to the ground, they picked it up. The distribution was orderly, starting at sunrise and ending at sunset."

The scarcity of food is, of course, just one of the crises at Las Dure. Another is the scarcity of water. "There's such little water in the camp—



and water is the key," exclaimed Orville. "That's why we're working closely with World Vision." With an increased budget for work in Somalia, World Vision will dig a number of 15- to 20-foot wells and use solar pumps to bring the water up to holding tanks.

"We learned about the water and food problems during our first day there," Terry reminisced. "The next day, when Dad and Orville went to the feeding centers, I went around with Barbara Walker, a World Vision nurse from New Zealand. It was discouraging for her when she didn't have enough

of the right kind of medicine to treat the people.

"Here in the States everyone expects to live about 70 years. But over there, they have to try every day to get enough food, medicine and shelter just to keep their families alive. Their lives are constantly on a string."

Pastor Blair, who has traveled in 90 nations and seen plenty of poverty, said, "It's been years since I've seen such a bad situation."

### **Watching**

Another purpose of the trip to Somalia was to see World Vision in

action, to check out the field team before forming a "partnership."

"Being in the business world," Don commented, "the first thing I watch for is the kind of people I'm dealing with. The staff at Las Dure are super. They were up at 4:30 A.M. to pray and to go over the order of the day. They worked all day, and their lights were on late in the evening while they were doing paperwork. I was impressed by their dedication."

Orville picked up the conversation. "The nursing staff was training nationals in great detail. How to mix powdered milk. What to look for in disease-ridden bodies. What injections to give. With this training, the nationals can continue to provide care after the nurses someday leave Las Dure.

"When the nurses come back from weighing children, they look like they have been changing truck tires. Covered with dust and dirt. If they could get a good, hot shower and scrub up with Lava soap . . . but only once a week do they get to return to Hargeisa for basic physical refreshment.

"And the milk that the staff had to put on their cereal . . . I didn't grimace, but it brought tears to my eyes. It tasted like castor oil!"

The staff efforts are not without satisfying results. Orville was amazed at how the children's health responded to supplemental feeding. "In this situation, food is medicine. When they get enough food in them and they hit a certain point, they take off and start rallying. The rate of severe malnourishment has been reduced from 30

percent to 17 percent in six months.

"Now you see some of the kids who have gone through the feeding program in school, and their bodies are healthy; they show that we can overcome the famine. This community is going to be one that the whole world watches. I'm convinced of that."

The visitors worked hard to help the staff in every way possible, offering advice and wishing they could do more. "I was happy to drive the truck with a load of wood," Don said. "It was a way to contribute something immediately. And they were so grateful.

"We felt a natural urge to roll up our sleeves and get moving," Orville said. "There was no way we wanted to walk out on a team of 12 tired nurses and two tired doctors and the people digging in the riverbed. But there were too few of us. So we got back to Denver to gain more partners in the effort."

#### **Exciting a church**

"If we can give in Jesus' name that cup of cold water, we feel we are doing what He has called us to do." The words were those of Pastor Blair, prime mover of the Calvary Temple-World Vision Somalia connection. "My

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***"Here in the States everyone expects to live about 70 years. But over there, they have to try every day . . . to keep their families alive."***



*Learning about food needs at Las Dure are (left to right) Don Digby, Orville Slaughter and Pastor Charles Blair.*

personal concern for the poor has intensified in the last few years, because of what is happening in our world." After accepting an invitation from Stan Mooneyham to visit the world's worst refugee situation, Blair sought laymen in the church who would help him bring Somalia and its needs to the people of Colorado's mile-high city.

Don Digby and Orville Slaughter said yes . . . and, along with Terry, were now back in Denver to accomplish that task.

"Orville and I have talked in four services at Calvary Temple every Sunday during the two-month campaign," Don said. "I've made several slide presentations and spoken to





various groups." The two have orchestrated an awareness and fund-raising effort among the adults, and Terry has lit a fire under the youth, both at church and at school.

"When I told my classmates I was going to Africa, they thought it was a big vacation," Terry said. "They thought I just wanted to get out of school. But as soon as I showed them the film *Crisis in the Horn of Africa*, they changed their attitudes."

"We used dynamic things," Orville said. "For instance, we built African huts in several places in the church. We suggested that families go into the huts to pray."

The four Las Dure visitors were on the church's weekly TV broadcast aired throughout the Rocky Mountain region. "We're getting the word out to people," Orville said.

At the same time their own lives have changed. "There's no reason why it shouldn't be me and my wife, Lydia, and our children over there trying to find a place just to exist," Don said. "Lydia keeps telling me she sees a change in me. I feel it, too. Just seeing those people made me know that God has a purpose for us—to minister to other people in word and deed."

"I thought I knew poor people," Orville noted, "but I had no idea what it meant to live on 500 calories a day by eating roots. The trip has rubbed off not only on me but on my wife, Connie. Our eating habits have changed, and we're more conscious of missions."

There's no doubt where Orville's heart is. He keeps his wristwatch on Somalia time. "That way I can picture what the people are doing at any point in the day," he said.

One of the exciting and productive

## ***There's no doubt where Orville's heart is. He keeps his wristwatch on Somalia time.***

elements of Calvary Temple's effort was the active involvement of the congregation. "Orville, Terry and I are working people like others in the congregation," Don said. "And we've got families like they do. So communication is very effective."

The effectiveness was verified on Palm Sunday, the culmination of the church's campaign. The church reached its \$250,000 goal for aid to Somalia.

"Two things have been happening at our church through this effort," Pastor Blair explained. "One is that the people

have been hearing their fellow laymen, not a promoter or a pastor, saying, 'We've got to remember the poor.' That helps people respond.

"The other thing is that our church people's view of World Vision has changed. Before, some thought World Vision was a giant organization that didn't need us. But for them to see in print a brochure that said 'World Vision and Calvary Temple working together' gave them confidence and a feeling of importance in the effort.

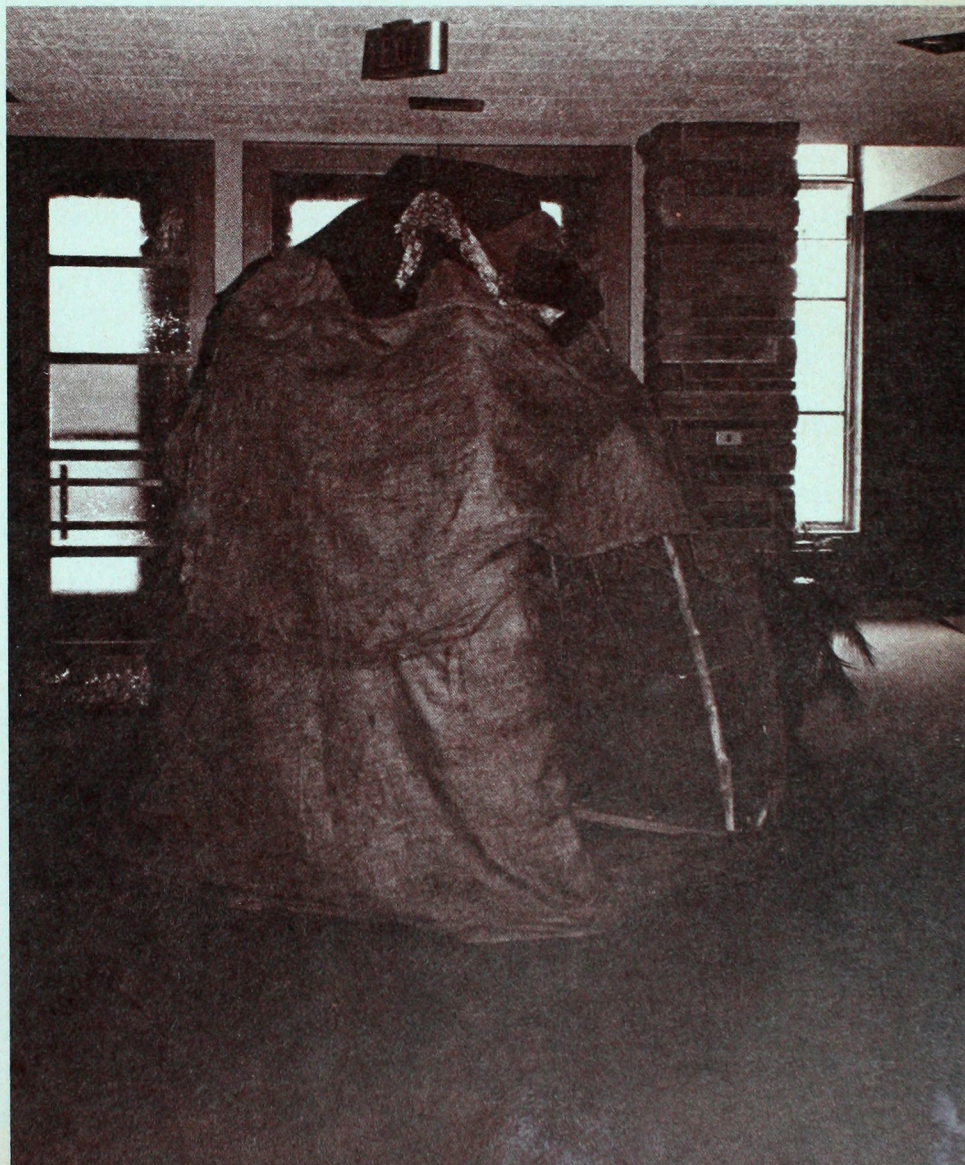
"When we hitch up our little wagon with World Vision, who is there and has been aiding the poor for some 30 years, it does something. There's no overlapping. There's no sense of competition. We're one in Christ.

"To me, every church ought to have this experience." □

*Jim Jewell is associate director of World Vision's public relations division.*



***Fourteen-year-old Terry Digby (above) played a big part in helping members of his church learn about Somalia. That effort included building a Somali refugee hut in the narthex of the Denver church building.***



Love  
that  
*child*

**What moods** the camera conveys!

Its eye captures the feelings of the wide world's children—happy at play . . . frightened in turmoil . . . responsive when loved . . . grateful when helped.

And clinging to smidgens of hope.

Of course, deprivation diminishes hope. But compassionate people around the world are doing something about that.





Through World Vision's sponsorship program, 125,000 Americans each provide regular monthly assistance to some child who has no parents or whose parents cannot provide enough for him or her.

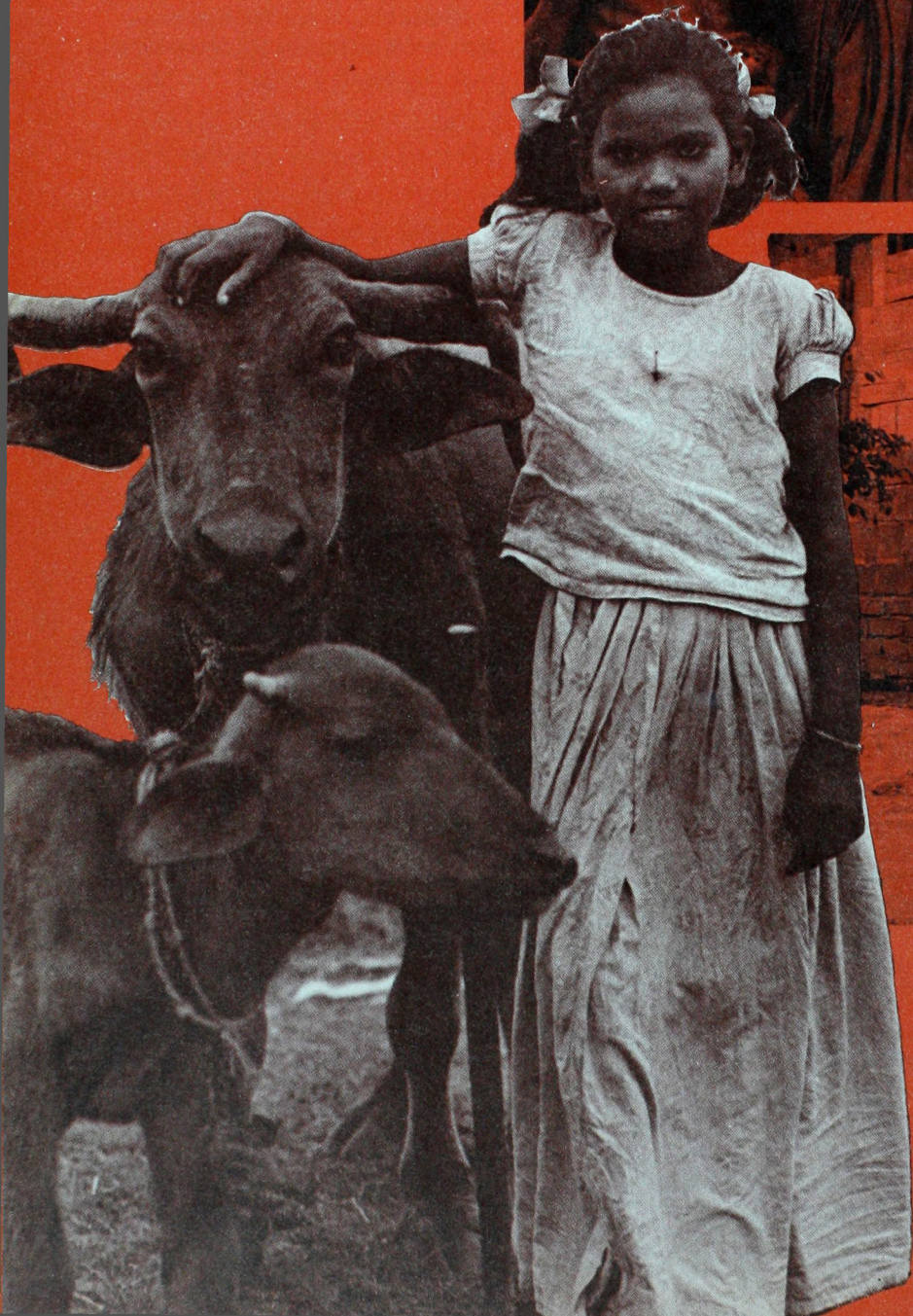
Each sponsor has the name and photo of that certain child. And each is making a lifelong difference for at least one precious young person—usually one month at a time. And enjoying contact through the mail at least twice each year.

Meanwhile, other children desperately need such help. If *you* would like



to assist a needy Third World child regularly, World Vision invites you to become the sponsor of a boy or a girl in one of its more than 1400 childcare projects around the world.

To take this opportunity, which will cost you \$18 each month, please use the return envelope that came in this magazine. □



# No more talk of moving

**"How can we** make enough money to keep ourselves and our two children alive? Should we move from our small rural village to a city slum? At least in the city there might be jobs available."

These were questions Francisco Valdovina and his wife, Cristina, once struggled with daily. In their village of Marañon in northern Colombia, almost everyone was extremely poor. Jobs were seasonal and scarce; Francisco considered himself fortunate if he could earn \$2.75 in a day—usually by working as a field hand for a rich landowner.

Poverty and hunger go hand in hand, and malnutrition plagued the family. Disease was rampant because no medical care could be obtained locally and most families knew nothing about hygiene. The Valdovina children also had no hope of an education, for this remote part of Colombia had only two schools; in fact, 90 percent of the area's people were illiterate.



(above) Cristina Valdovina teaches school in a village near Marañon. (right) Working in the garden is a family affair for the Valdovinas.

Then in 1978, World Vision joined with Christian Care for Colombian Children (part of Latin America Mission) to begin a health, education and literacy project in northern Colombia.

Today, thanks to the Lifesharing Partners who are now making this project possible, Marañon is alive with hope and new prosperity. (Lifesharing Partners are people who give \$12 a month to support projects that help poverty-stricken communities. Currently 60,000 partners are helping communities throughout Africa, Asia and Latin America.)

Francisco and Cristina no longer talk of moving. Instead, they are enjoying the new prosperity the project has brought them. Their small piece of land, once unproductive because they didn't know how to work with their limited resources, now brims over with vegetables. Instructors on the



project staff showed them some new ways to garden and supplied them with seeds to get them started. Cristina completed a class on weaving offered by the project. Now she makes and sells saddle blankets and hammocks, which helps to boost her family's income. She even completed her primary school education and has become a teacher in kindergarten and first grade.

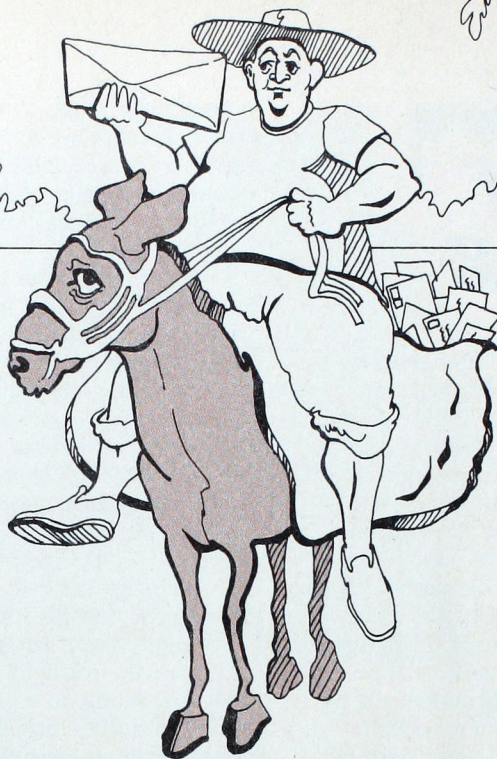
**The Valdovinas** are only one family among many in northern Colombia that have benefited from the generosity of Lifesharing Partners. The health, nutrition and literacy project has established 20 primary schools in the area; hundreds of adults and children have already graduated. In addition, more than 150 adults have been trained as teachers. The schools also serve as centers for a variety of programs: medical care; lending libraries; training in health, handicrafts and agriculture.

Most important of all, this project has had a strong spiritual impact in the affected communities. The schools are run by Christians; so many people are learning about Jesus. The Valdovinas have found strength in their Christian faith. "We have security in Jesus even though we are poor," says Cristina. Thanks to Lifesharing Partners, the people of rural Colombia are finding hope for the future. □



# By donkey express

by Eldon D. Simonson



**I didn't realize** what it takes to get a letter to and from my sponsored child. As slow as the postal system sometimes is in America, it's greased lightning compared to the mail systems in most countries overseas.

True, airlines fly daily from our shores to countries all over the world. But it's not uncommon for mail to take a month to be delivered to Manila in the Philippines—or five weeks to reach even the main post office in urban India—or three weeks to Guatemala City—or six weeks to Ghana in Africa. And that's only the time it takes to reach the city in which your child's field office is located.

Then comes the paperwork in the field office that is set up to make certain your letter gets answered. Many times, the translation of your letter into your child's language takes place in the field office; other times it's done at the project, or even as the project worker reads your letter to the child if he or she is too young to read. If a child can read his own language, an attempt is made to have your letter translated.

Usually the field office sends the mail by courier or the postal system to the various projects, to be delivered to the children. A six-week due date is assigned

for the reply to be back in the field office, where it is translated and returned to you.

Getting the mail from the project office into the hands of your child isn't exactly a speedy process either. Each week the project may get mail for 30 or 40 children, many of whom live three to five kilometers in different directions. Rarely are the children in a close community where mail can be delivered in a normal manner. Moreover, for all the hundreds of huts or homes I've seen in which sponsored children live, never have I seen one with a house number. It's not at all like the mailman dropping a letter in your slot or putting it in your mailbox.

Come to think of it, in most countries I've never seen a slot or a mailbox either!

The ideal situation occurs when the project person delivering your letter is able to take it to the child when his or her family is at home (if he has a family). Then the project worker can sit down with them to discuss your letter and your love for the child and entire family.

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***It's not at all like the mailman dropping a letter in your slot.***

This is a great opportunity to explain that your love and concern is a picture of God's love for them. But rarely are the parents home during the working day, and in the evening there are no electric lights. It's just not that easy to find this opportunity.

**All this** is not to discourage you from writing. I want only to help you understand why it's hard for the child to get a prompt reply back to you. I have seen many examples of how children around the world treasure their correspondence with sponsors. Children in the mountain villages of Taiwan make scrapbooks in their classrooms of everything you send—letters, stickers, bookmarks, greeting cards, pictures of you and your family, postcards—just everything. And they proudly show it to visitors.

I guess the most touching example I've seen was in the remotest part of Kenya. A small boy about eight years old, smiling from ear to ear when he saw this big man from America, came and took me by the hand and led me into a crumbling, mud-walled hut. The floor was of damp, smooth earth, and bits of sky showed through parts of the thatched straw roof. After my eyes became accustomed to the gloom of the windowless interior, I could see he was pointing to a postcard that had

## More about child sponsorship



been pegged to the mud wall with a small, pointed stick. It was a snow scene from a sponsor in Vermont—the only thing on any wall in that hut. He was thoroughly proud of it!

Children all over the world treasure postcards. They “show and tell” them until they are barely recognizable. So next time you write, or each time you write, consider sending a scenic postcard from your part of the country.

And ask the postal clerk for a colorful stamp—the children like those, too.

Your correspondence with that little one overseas will take on new meaning when you remember these things:

- Be patient in waiting for a reply; in most places it takes a minimum of four months; in many places up to six months.

- You are writing to a child. And your letter must be translated. So make your letters or cards simple and not too long.

- Be sure to put your return address on the envelope. Do *not* put it on the letter or on a postcard; instead write the child's name and ID number. That cuts down on field office paperwork and tends to speed up a reply.

- Best of all, send a scenic postcard; children all around the world treasure them.

Happy writing! □



### How is my sponsorship money spent?

World Vision is committed to using your money so that every sponsored child has an opportunity to be everything God intended. We believe that the achievement of this goal depends on sound management practice. Our support and field offices are regularly audited by professional accountants, and we maintain careful internal audits of child sponsorship projects. We make sure that only a small portion (20-25 percent) of your sponsorship gift pays the overhead and fund-raising costs in your country's support office. The remainder of the funds helps the child and his or her family in many ways, providing such things as clothes, books and food as well as Christian nurture, training, evaluation and supervision. Teachers and community workers offer counsel and expertise to help both your child and that community move toward self-reliance.

### What happens if I am late with my contribution? Or if I can't pay cost-of-living increases?

If a sponsor is behind in making contributions, the child is not dropped from the program. Support is taken from the general fund. If the sponsor does not resume payments after a reasonable time, the child is reassigned to another sponsor. Some children, however, may not be reassignable. This is true if, for example, they are over 14 years of age. In such a case they are not dropped, but their support is taken from the general fund.

Not every sponsor contributes the same amount of money. When inflation necessitates an increase in monthly contributions, sponsors are asked—but not required—to support their children at the new rate. A sponsor in the United States, for example, may be

contributing as little as \$10 a month or as much as \$18 a month, depending on the support rate when the sponsor first was linked with the child.

### Does World Vision work with anyone else in providing for children and families?

We seldom work alone in our child sponsorship projects. Rather, we work through local churches or Christian agencies. We see ourselves as enablers, helping people to help themselves. Our ministry is through local residents or institutions that already have credibility in a community and thus are best able to serve the people effectively. Also, they provide continuity after World Vision completes its involvement in a project.

Neither are all services provided by the project. Fram Jehangir, deputy regional director for World Vision in South Asia, says, “World Vision serves as a catalyst. If we do everything for the people, something is wrong. When we leave the community in three, five or seven years, they won't know what to do.” Instead of doing the thinking and planning for a community, World Vision relies on a local project board to make decisions within World Vision's general project guidelines. Thus the people also learn to lead themselves, an important facet of self-reliance.

The community also assists with materials, funds or manpower. And World Vision staff members often show community leaders how to take advantage of free government services. For example, if a government or mission clinic is available, local residents are told how they can receive health services there. Government agricultural assistance, nutrition programs and other free services are often requested for a community. □

For a reply to your question on sponsorship or any other World Vision ministry, write WORLD VISION Magazine, 919 W. Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016.

## A newlywed's letter to Jesus

Dear Jesus,

My engagement ring reminds me of You! It is a pearl—and You are the Pearl of great price. It reminds me that I do not want to lay up my treasures on earth but with You.

No other ring could be more beautiful to me, Lord. Yet we chose it because it cost less than diamonds—so we could give to your Kingdom and so all our treasures would not be laid up on my finger. Thank you for the joy of this pearl ring.

I have a wedding ring now, too. As I look around our new home, my eyes are blessed. Most everything I see was given to us: the chairs, the lamp, the curtains, the rugs, the desk—even a stereo! Years ago, when You led me to sponsor a World Vision child, I knew I would not be able to save as much money for the future. But You said, "Give and it will be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over." I can see You meant what You said.

It's our joy as a new "family" to have a rice meal on Wednesday nights. That's our "poor meal" for the week so that we can give the money we save to the needy. What a small sacrifice compared to your sacrifice on the cross! Please take it and multiply it as You did the five loaves and two fishes. And please multiply our love for You. And our ability to give.

Jesus, I want to share with others the great joy of giving to You and the love You pour back on us. Silly as it is, when I tell others what I have sacrificed I'm tempted to feel self-righteous and proud. But when I look into your eyes I feel humbled. My heart begins to break when I realize how little I have given You.

So I've written You this letter, Lord, with my focus on You. You may share it with others if You like.

Lovingly,

Gail Clifford

*Gail and her husband, Bryan, married last February, live in Trenton, New Jersey. The "letter" relates their own experience.*

## Do you possess the new life?

"I have come," said Jesus, "that they may have life, and have it to the full" (John 10:10, NIV).

The full life which the Lord made possible for us by His death and resurrection is not just a deluxe version of our earthly existence. It is a whole new dimension of life, whose highest fulfillment will occur after our earthly existence has been completed. Yet it can begin here and now.

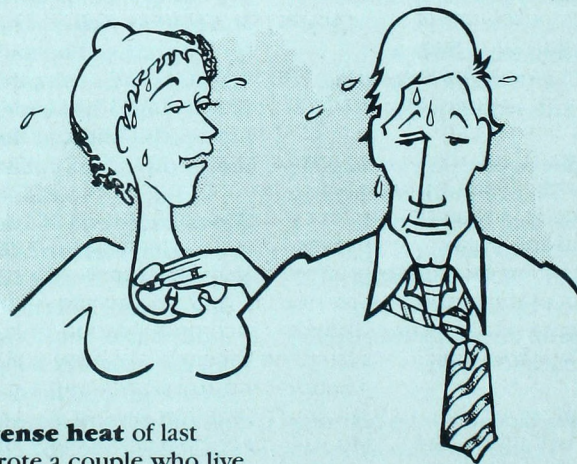
If you do not yet personally possess that new, eternal life, we at World Vision urge you to read, openheartedly, the entire Gospel of John, and to give yourself to the Savior-Lord of whom it tells. It is

in surrendering to Him that you will receive the life He offers.

We recommend also that you seek to serve and worship Him in union with a Christ-centered church in your community. Be His in partnership with others!

*If you are trying to find the reality of life in tune with Christ, we'll be glad to send you a small, free booklet called "Becoming a Christian." Just write Editor David Olson, WORLD VISION Magazine, 919 W. Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016. □*

## Sweating it out for the hungry



"In the intense heat of last summer," wrote a couple who live in Westchester, Ohio, "we investigated the possibility of air conditioning our home. We determined that we could afford to install the system ourselves for approximately \$2000. But the Lord convicted us that spending \$2000 for our comfort was not compassionate use of our wealth when some people's very lives were threatened by starvation. Although \$2000 is not much compared to the enormous need, it is a lot of money to us.

"After much deliberation we decided to give the \$2000 to feed

the hungry, because our spirits will not rest until we do. Then came the question: who to give it to? We decided to give it to World Vision because we are impressed that you will share the Lord Jesus Christ with those you help and you'll provide self-help measures in addition to immediate relief.

"We thank the Lord that World Vision exists so that we can help feed the hungry through you. We also thank Him that we have something to share at all." □



# Samaritan sampler

## Bread for the World

offers churches a number of educational resources dealing with world hunger and public policy. "A Hungry World," a six-week course, is suitable for use in adult Sunday schools and groups of late teens. A high school course is also available. Write BFW Educational Fund, 32 Union Square East, New York, NY 10003.

## The Fellowship of Isa

(Arabic for Jesus Christ) has issued a series of tracts and distributed them in the U.S. and 26 African and Asian nations. Aimed at reaching Muslims with the love and forgiveness of Christ, the tracts deal with the person and ministry of Jesus, His redemptive sacrifice, the validity and reliability of Scripture, and other essential teachings of Christianity. Plans are to translate the tracts into other languages as well. Write Fellowship of Isa, P.O. Box 1206, Minneapolis, MN 55440.

## The Chinese World

**Mission Center**, an affiliate member of the U.S. Center for World Mission, this year offers a Summer Institute of Chinese Missions, as well as a Mandarin language program and an M.A. degree program in applied Chinese studies. For further information on these and other services, write Chinese World Mission Center, 1605 E. Elizabeth Dr., Pasadena, CA 91104.

**Learn how** to help your church become a seedbed for cultivating new missionaries—by attending the 1981 national conference of the



*Dr. Sam Wilson talks with student at last year's ACMC conference.*

Association of Church Missions Committees (ACMC). Twenty-seven workshops will zero in on specifics; six main speakers (including Gordon MacDonald, Billy Melvin and John Kyle) will give the broader picture. The conference will be held August 6-9 at Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois. For registration or information, write ACMC, 1620 S. Myrtle Ave., Monrovia, CA 91016.

"**Christian Witness to the Chinese People**," a report from the Congress on World Evangelization (COWE) held in Thailand last summer, has been published in both Chinese and English. This report surveys the Chinese church throughout the world, and outlines various approaches to the task of bringing the gospel to one billion Chinese people. You can get it for \$1 from the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization, P.O. Box 1100, Wheaton, IL 60187.

Other COWE papers available to date deal with the evangelization of large cities, refugees, Jews and secularists.

**The Bible Society of Mexico**, one of 66 societies worldwide that together form the United Bible Societies (UBS), provides Scriptures to

both Roman Catholic and Protestant Christians in Mexico. While Mexico's official language is Spanish, the people speak more than 200 other languages, eight of which have more than 100,000 speakers.

In 1979, the UBS published a new, easy-to-read Spanish translation called the "Versión Popular." To date more than 300,000 copies have been distributed in this hemisphere, and another 359,000 copies are scheduled to be shared this year.

**Wheaton College** has for five years been offering students a chance to learn firsthand what human needs exist in the underprivileged countries. Its Human Needs and Global Resources (HNGR) study program includes required courses, electives, and a 5-12 month internship in a Third World country. Internship usually involves learning a foreign language and living in a primitive environment while helping in some aspect of community development.

About 40 students have participated in the HNGR

program. Several of them have taken up related overseas careers.

**William Carey International University** (part of the U.S. Center for World Mission) and the Chinese government have worked out an agreement in which the university will send two teams of English teachers to Beijing. Consideration will be given to expanding the program in the future.

"**Is Anybody Praying for Us?**" is the title of a stimulating slide show on the believers in China, available from Overseas Missionary Fellowship, 404 S. Church St., Robesonia, PA 91551 or from David Adeney, 1423 Grant St., Berkeley, CA 94703.

**A China travel guidebook** has been written especially for Christians by Leona Frances Choy, an experienced visitor to that country. Titled *On Your Mark*, the 88-page paperback is published by Christian Communications Ltd., Hong Kong, and is available for \$2.60 including postage, from the author at 21 Oak Hill Dr., Paradise, PA 17562.



*Tots perform for tourists at the Dragon Well Tea Commune in Shanghai (during the Engstroms' visit.).*

## Kampuchea relief continues

Seed rice is being planted in three districts of Kampuchea through a massive program that World Vision has agreed to manage. Purchase of the rice, fertilizer and oil for irrigation pumps is made possible by a grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Over 200,000 acres in three districts of Takeo province are being cultivated in the program. World Vision will monitor the distribution of the supplies, assist in planting, and measure the yield obtained. The wet planting season lasts from May to November.

## Grain for Upper Volta

A cooperative effort by several Christian agencies, including World Vision, is bringing 1500 tons of cereal to 6000

families in a famished part of northern Upper Volta. The grain has been purchased by the Federation of Evangelical Churches and Missions in Upper Volta (FEME). Wherever food deficits are found, FEME will distribute cereal to farmers for a minimal price. The money will help support farming cooperatives that have been established with the FEME's help. Other agencies involved are World Relief, Brot für die Welt and the Mennonite Central Committee.

## Thailand work unaffected

A brief coup in Thailand did not interrupt World Vision ministry in that country. A skeleton staff continued working even through the event's tensest hours.

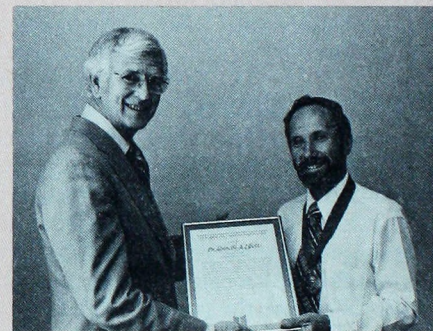
## Drought aid in Zimbabwe

Seventy thousand drought victims in a 90 by 50 mile area of Zimbabwe's Zambezi Valley are getting food. UNICEF and Christian Care have been helping in the area, but the assistance of World Vision was needed to feed that many

persons. Aid is being given in two phases. In the first phase, a four-month supply of maize flour, groundnuts, beans and powdered milk is being distributed through the local Methodist church and Church of Christ. In the second phase, seed and fertilizer will be distributed in an effort to restore self-sufficiency.

## Pierce award presented

The first Robert W. Pierce award for Christian Service was recently presented



by Stan Mooneyham to Dr. Kenneth Elliott, a missionary doctor in Upper Volta. An Australian citizen, Dr. Elliott has served in West Africa for the last 13 years and is founder of a hospital in Djibo, Upper Volta.

Originally planned for last November, the award presentation was rescheduled because of a government coup that prevented World Vision's president from entering the country. The ceremony took place in Ouagadougou, Upper Volta.

Nominations for the 1981 Pierce award recipient closed in May.

## Pierce biography wins award

*Man of Vision, Woman of Prayer*, the intensely personal story of World Vision's founder, Dr. Bob Pierce, and his wife, Lorraine, was honored recently at the annual Religion in Media "Angel" Awards as the outstanding religious biography of the year.

The book chronicled the Pierces' lives with openness and honesty. Published by Thomas Nelson, it is sold in Christian bookstores.

Marilee Pierce Dunker (Pierce's daughter and the author of the book) thanked

## MANAGING YOUR TIME

A two-day seminar for pastors and Christian leaders



**Ted Engstrom**  
Executive Director  
World Vision



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

Mail to:

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

- Sept. 24-25, Dallas, TX  
 Nov. 5-6, Hartford, CT  
 Jan. 28-29, Atlanta, GA
- Send complete details.  
 I enclose \$25 now, the balance of \$100 to be paid at the seminar.  
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 City \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Telephone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_



*Sulking water buffalo gives child a lift at Sharadbanagar, India. The community is getting help from World Vision after a tidal wave devastated the state of Andhra Pradesh in 1977.*

RIM for confirming that "it's all right to talk about the negatives as long as we know we serve a God who is greater than the pain or problems or failures."

### Projects in Uganda

Churches in the West Nile area of Uganda are encouraged by World Vision's prompt response to the people's needs there. Through Africa Inland Mission, relief supplies were distributed to 10,000 people displaced by civil strife.

Twenty Ugandan Christian leaders are benefiting from a World Vision grant that has enabled them to attend courses in rural community development. The classes are being taught by Daystar International Institute in Nairobi, Kenya.

Six hundred young farmers in western Uganda are about to receive training in animal husbandry and agriculture, through a joint effort of World Vision and the Salvation Army. The farmers will also receive loans in the form of seeds or livestock. They will repay the loans after harvest, and the money will be used to help other farmers.

### Storm damages refugee camp

A powerful storm struck Hmong refugees in Thailand's Ban Vinai refugee camp in March, killing four and destroying many of their homes. According to the *Bangkok Post*, "All tall, semi-concrete buildings and houses on high ground were flattened, and 114 trees were uprooted." World Vision medical

staff treated several dozen injured persons in the camp hospital.

### Progress seen in Somali children

The crash feeding program in Somalia's Las Dure refugee camp is showing results. The rate of severe malnutrition in children under five dropped from 39 percent last August to 17 percent in March. A significant increase in funding for Somalia will now enable workers at Las Dure to continue feeding programs, expand and redirect health care, improve sanitation, develop a water supply, and begin rehabilitation efforts.

One of World Vision's goals is to train Somali health workers to meet the refugees' initial health needs. Approximately 60 Somalis are now in a government-sponsored training program assisted by World Vision.

Water is still scarce in the camp.



Barbara Walker examines a child at Las Dure.

World Vision has begun working with Oxfam in an effort to help the refugees dig wells.

World Vision supporters have responded to the latest famine in East Africa with unprecedented generosity.

### Please pray for:

- **Christians in China** as they work to strengthen the church and be witnesses to Christ among so many who do not know Him.
- **childcare workers** in orphanages, schools and communities around the world. Pray that they may have continued strength to give each child the love and attention he or she needs.
- **an end** to El Salvador's fighting. Pray for the children orphaned in recent months.



### Resources for Life...

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

Yes, I would like more information on:

- Unitrusts
- Missions Agreement Plan
- Annuities
- Life Estate
- Gifts-in-kind
- Continuous Childcare Trust
- Estate Planning
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

My name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**WORLD VISION**  
 Attention: Trust Department  
 919 West Huntington Drive  
 Monrovia, CA 91016

### Is God calling you . . .

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

#### MANAGER, MANAGEMENT DECISION SYSTEMS

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

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

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

#### SENIOR PROGRAMMER/ANALYST

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

# Globe at a glance

NEWS BRIEFS FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND INTERCESSION

**Refugee resettlement** should become a "priority ministry," resolved participants in a conference of the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service. They voiced concern about a continuing decline in the number of churches willing to sponsor refugees, and pointed to the increasing need for ongoing ministry with refugees already in the U.S.

**Less food per person** is being produced in Africa now than a decade ago, while cash crops (sugar, coffee, tobacco, etc.) grown for export to the West are booming. *New African* magazine comments: "Before the impact of colonialism, Africa was self-sufficient in food. . . . But as European powers divided up Africa, they also forced cash-crop production onto African societies."

**Children** under 15 years of age constitute about 40 percent of the population in less developed nations. Infant mortality in those nations is five times what it is in developed nations. Complete statistics on the world's children are published annually by the Population Reference Bureau in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund.

**Mission sending** by North American churches is a picture of "health and flexibility," according to Dr. Samuel Wilson, director of MARC for World Vision International. Summarizing recent findings, he said, "More career personnel are being sent, income is growing, short-termers are making an ever-increasing contribution, and churches . . . are responding to evangelistic and humanitarian concern."

**Africa's refugees** will receive \$285 million in American aid over the next two years, if Congress approves. The U.S. pledge came at the opening session of the International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa. United States' aid will go to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, to the International Red Cross, and to refugee resettlement efforts in Africa and the U.S.

**Freedom of worship** has increased in communist Laos, observed a Mennonite couple after visiting there some months ago. They were told by Pastor Saly of the Lao Evangelical Church that the government had announced a new policy recognizing Christianity—putting it on a par with Buddhism. They also noted that as many as 300 persons had recently been released from forced "reeducation" camps.

**El Salvador's** Roman Catholic clergy remain deeply divided over that country's strife, according to a signed article in the *Los Angeles Times*. Some priests work actively with the opposition to the government, while others serve as chaplains in government military units. Steering a middle course, Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas "denounces all violence—from the right, the left, and the government."

**Shells hit schools and church buildings** in Beirut and South Lebanon in the worst fighting that nation has seen since 1978. A British evangelical school in Beirut was struck just minutes after the children had gone to the basement shelter. Thirty-six thousand children in South Lebanon have had their schools destroyed; hundreds of teachers have fled the area.

**The problem of illegal aliens** moving to the United States from Mexico is viewed differently south of the border, said Billy Graham after meeting with Jose Lopez Portillo, Mexico's chief of state. He explained, "They view it as their people 'going home,' since most of Texas and all of Arizona, New Mexico and California used to be part of Mexico."

**Many of China's youths**, troubled and confused in the Cultural Revolution, have turned to Christianity because of



*Not only Christian but many curious non-Christian youth often attend the services in China's large and small churches today.*

the example set by Christians during those years. Xiao Xianfa, director of China's national Religious Affairs Bureau, admits this is so, though he also says, "As far as I'm concerned, religion is not a truth which young people should seek."

**An epidemic of infant deaths** has hit the Yemen Arab Republic "as a direct result of a shift from breast-feeding to powdered milk," says *New African* magazine. Sixty brands of baby formula reportedly compete through massive advertising campaigns in Yemen. Mothers in that country, 98 percent of whom are illiterate, are often not able to use feeding bottles hygienically.

**Pakistan** said in late March that another 300,000 Afghan refugees have crossed its borders this year, bringing the total to 1.7 million. When combined with those who fled to Iran, the refugees constitute 12 to 15 percent of Afghanistan's population. Poul Hartling, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, said he was "not optimistic" that the Afghan refugees could be resettled soon.

**The Church of Scotland** is in "sad decline," said Scottish theologian Thomas Torrance, noting that the church has lost nearly 2000 congregations since 1929. He called attention to the winning of Scotland's three million unchurched people, saying, "Just as fire can exist only by burning, so the church can exist only through mission and expansion."

## ***Sword without a handle***

**Except for one** piece of equipment, all the materiel stockpiled in God's armory and awaiting our requisition is defensive in nature. Belt, breastplate, foot covering, shield, helmet are all designed to offer protection from attacks of the enemy.

The one exception: "... the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God" (Ephesians 6:17). A sword is for offensive action. For *laying to*.

It is not always cowardly to employ defensive tactics when you are being assailed by fiery darts. There are times when it is more prudent to hunker down under the Christian's armor and hang in through patience and prayer. That's the heroism of lasting. But there are also times when it is necessary to go on the offensive, to unscabbard the double-edged sword.

When that time comes, certain facts about swords ought to be remembered.

In some situations, a sword can look attractive indeed. When you've absorbed blow after unreturned blow, taken it on the chin or wherever, been patient, long-suffering, sweet and kind as a Christian ought to be, the thought of unsheathing the sword and letting somebody have it right between the spiritual ribs can be terribly appealing. I know. Furthermore, it doesn't appear to be very dangerous, especially when you can lunge out from a well-padded position inside all that protective armor.

In fact, going after some gross sinner or some exasperating saint can be enormously satisfying to the flesh. It is frequently done with gusto, made easier because the wounds inflicted are emotional and spiritual instead of physical. The lacerations are on the heart, not on the body. Tears flow instead of blood. Discouragement, not death, results.

So we sometimes use the Word of God and the words of God as swords, fearlessly and gleefully. The choice of blade and the style of handling may vary, but most of us are clearly out for blood. Some employ the broadsword approach that requires both hands. Lifted high, it is brought down with a mighty blow that cleaves asunder, splits, dismembers—publicly, indiscriminately. At the other end of the scale is the stiletto style, front or back, requiring closer, more private, almost surreptitious contact, but no less deadly. In between is a whole range of swords and recognizable techniques of spiritual swordsmanship.

So a word of caution seems to be in order. Those who delight in aggressive Christian swordplay need to remember that the sword of the Spirit has a critical difference from other swords. Your usual, everyday sword has at least three distinct parts to it: blade, guard, and handle or hilt. The blade has a cutting edge along its length and may be two-edged. The handle provides a safe, smooth grip. The guard prevents your hand from sliding accidentally down onto the cutting edge when you're thrusting the blade into someone's vitals.

Lane Adams, a friend of mine, once pointed out to me that the sword of the Spirit has only one part: blade. All blade. No exempt handhold for the wielder. Who picks up this sword to use as a weapon is as subject to its judgment, its sharp discernment, as the one to whom it is pointed. So swordsman, beware! You can't use it on others without at the same time using it on yourself.

This single offensive weapon in the Christian's inventory needs to be handled carefully, gently, even gingerly. Unless your hands are covered with tough, unfeeling calluses, grasping the sword barehanded will mean blood on your own fingers—your own motives weighed, your own actions judged. And anyone who has become calloused in the use of the Word of God is in a dangerous spiritual condition.

Nothing about the sword of the Spirit allows me the reckless impunity of the handle while it gives you the hazard of the blade, or vice versa. "God will judge you in the same way you judge others," the Bible says, "and he will apply to you the same rules you apply to others" (Matthew 7:2, TEV).

That ought to make us a little slower to reach for the sword, a little more meticulous in its use. "For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword,

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***The sword of the Spirit has only one part: blade. All blade. No exempt handhold for the wielder.***

piercing to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12, RSV). *My heart, too. My joints and marrow. My soul and spirit.*

Don't try to craft a handle for this sword and tape it in place. I have—and can show you the scars as proof that it doesn't work. God is no respecter of persons, or of fingers. He offers no favored-person or favored-nation status. He doesn't say, "This commandment, this precept, this stewardship applies to those other people, but not to you." He doesn't say, "You were meant to be at the head of the line." There are no "firsts in the kingdom" when it comes to hearing and obeying the Word of God.

Sword of the Spirit.

Sword without a handle.

Use with care and gentleness.

It cuts both ways.

*Stan Mooneyham*

President, World Vision International

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# CHECK ONE

**If you had five children... and your wife had TB... if your meager harvest failed again, and your children were always hungry... if this were your oldest child, and you could no longer care for him without jeopardizing the survival of the younger children...**

What would you do?

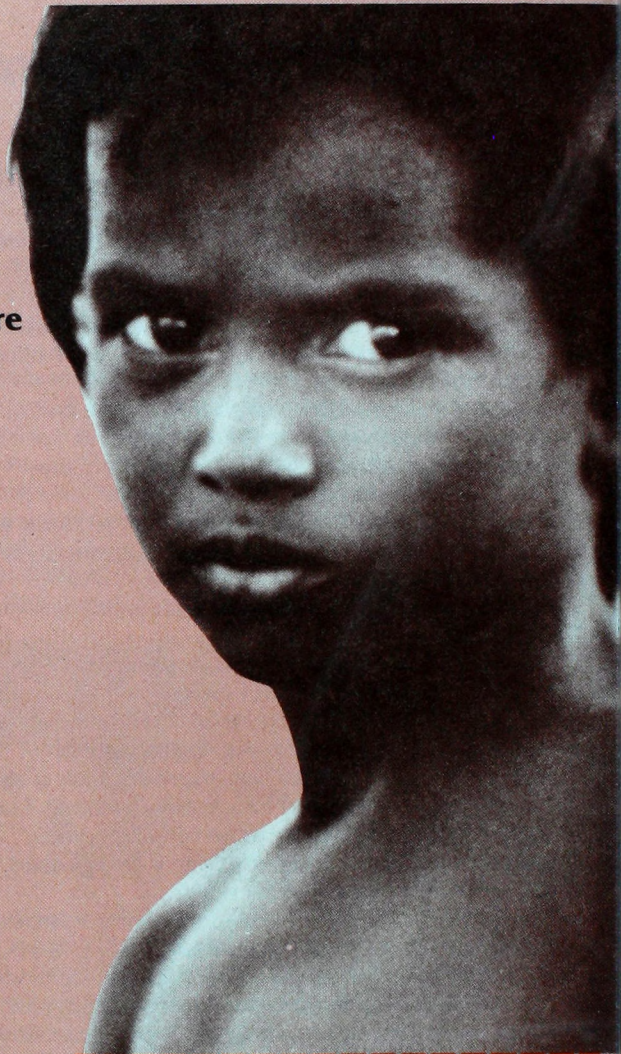
- Withhold his food so the others would have enough?
- Abandon him on the street and hope that someone might take him in?
- Give him up to an orphanage?
- Sell him as a child laborer for enough food and medicine to last the rest of the family awhile?
- Do nothing and hope that something would change before it was too late?

In the world of poverty, those choices are made daily by millions of people. But there's another alternative: World Vision Childcare. People like you helping provide food, clothes, medical care, a basic education, help for the family and community, and Christian teaching.

For \$18 a month there's nothing that will bring you more satisfaction. You'll receive a complete description of the child you sponsor, and an opportunity to develop a very special relationship through letters and pictures.

Help a family in need make their choice. Be a World Vision Childcare sponsor.

  
**WORLD VISION**  
Helping people care



**Yes, I want to be a World Vision Childcare sponsor for at least \$18 per month. I understand my commitment is for one year or more:**

- I want to be a Childcare sponsor for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month.
- Enclosed is my first monthly Childcare gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.
- Please send me additional information on World Vision Childcare sponsorship.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone: Area code (\_\_\_\_) Number \_\_\_\_\_  
1001-H61-101

Mail today to:

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

