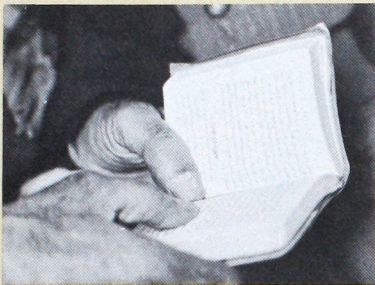


an expression of gratitude;
grateful acknowledgement of
something received or done.

Thanksgiving

the act of intentionally parting
with something for some cause;
to devote energy, time or means
to someone or to some pursuit.



(top) Ted Engstrom checks program notes with conference coordinator Abdul Istaphanos during the World Vision-sponsored Pastors' Conference in Alexandria, Egypt. (below) Egyptian hands hold a copy of the Scriptures.

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PHOTOS—Jacob Akol: page 15 (upper right). Choi Ok Chun: page 20 (right). Joni Eareckson Tada: page 18. Paul Jones: page 14. Ake Lundberg: page 16. Terry Madison: page 15 (lower left). James Matagaro: page 20 (left). Eric Mooneyham: page 2 (lower). Jim Morud: pages 10, 11, 12, 13, 21 (left). Larry Nichols: pages 3, 21 (right). David Ward: page 22. Kenny Waters: pages 2 (upper), 5, 6, 7.

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THANKSGIVING

'I see, God, what You have done'

by Kenneth L. Wilson



When we Americans are urged to count our blessings, most of us can easily come up with a substantial total. Especially at Thanksgiving, we are aware of the bounty spread before us. Only those who are numbed by self-indulgence or deliberate ingratitude would neglect to give thanks.

But give thanks to whom? Or Whom? Thanksgiving festivity easily becomes an exercise in self-congratulation. "See, God, what we have done!"

In large part, the bounty that blesses us is unearned. Depth and richness of soil, ample rain and sunlight, an intricate and wonderfully balanced ecology—these are the ingredients of abundance. Amber oceans of grain depend not only upon energy of machine and muscle, but upon what we cannot do for ourselves.

Thanksgiving, then, means remembering the part we did not

play in our plenitude, the elements of nature we did not and cannot control, the health of human body and productive land that build upon each other. It means saying, "I see, God, what *You* have done." That's one dimension of Thanksgiving.

The other has to do not with plenty but with famine, flood, drought; not with peace but with war; not with life but with death; not with health but with sickness. A greater number of people live in that kind of world than in our kind of world. There are more of them than of us. What about *their* Thanksgiving?

Granted, anyone, anywhere, no matter how depleted or shattered his or her circumstance, can find something to be thankful for. (That's not a message the empty-handed well-fed can deliver convincingly.) Some of those potential thanksgivers, however, are going to have to scrape the bottom of the barrel. Those of us whose barrels are filled and running over could do something about that.

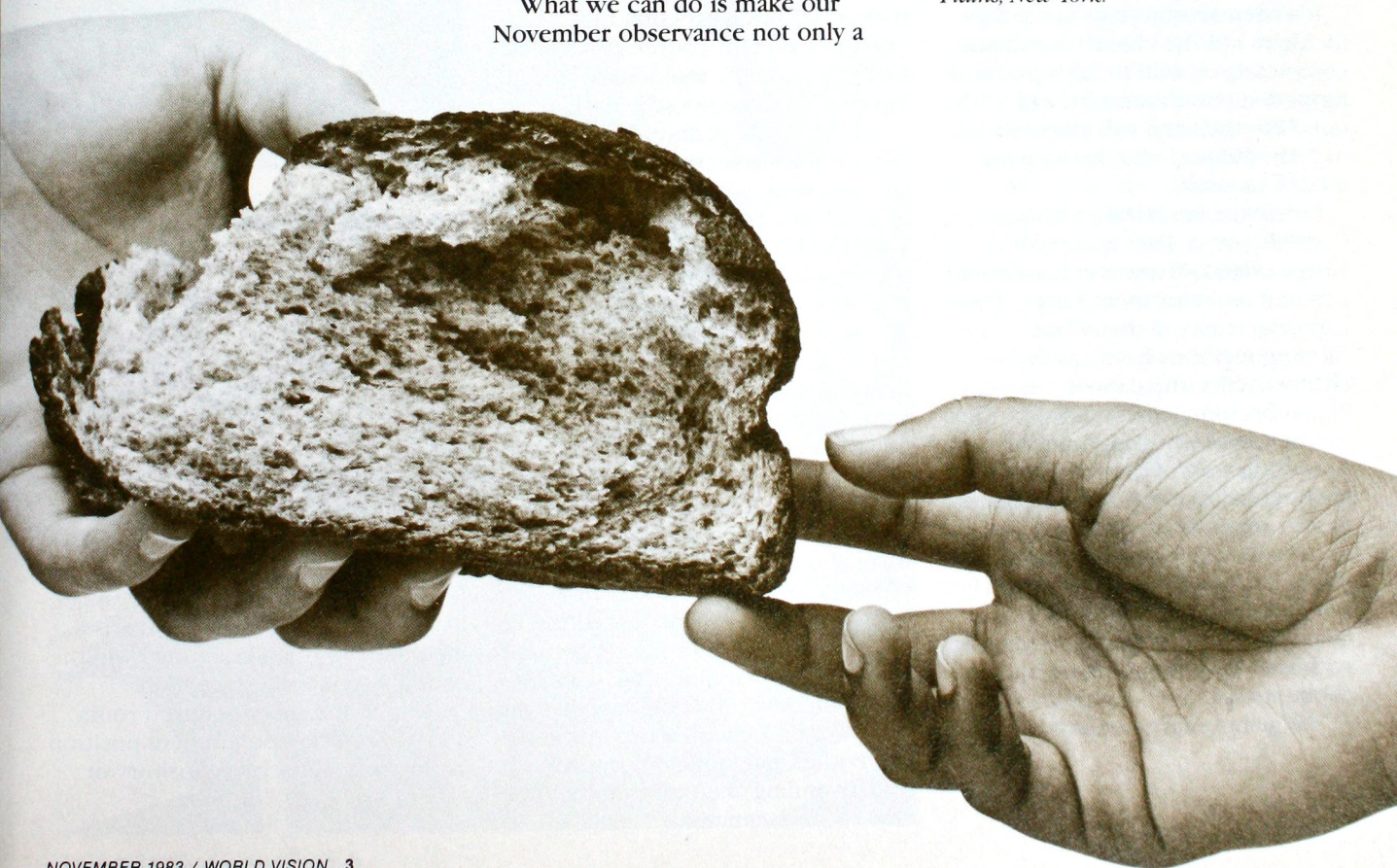
What we can do is make our November observance not only a

thanksgiving but a thanks *giving*.

You do that simply by putting a blessing or two in someone else's barrel, so that they don't have to scrape so hard. It means giving someone even a small reason to be thankful. That someone could be across the street or across the world. Your sharing gift may be something you do or it may be something you are. Chances are it will be both.

If you are afraid that the person on the other end may wind up giving thanks to you and not to the Lord who put it in your heart to care, don't worry. Faithful Christians in a little town named Philippi once practiced that special kind of thanks giving and it worked out well. The letter they received in acknowledgment said, "I thank my God whenever I think of you," and it was signed, "Paul and Timothy." □

Kenneth L. Wilson, a widely traveled author and former editor, lives in White Plains, New York.



Encouragement and renewal in an ancient land

by **Kenny Waters**

World Vision International's
communications services manager

The Rev. Samaan Angli Mikhael is a Free Methodist pastor from Pani Mazaar, about 100 miles north of Cairo. He's an outgoing fellow, easy to talk to, articulate and obviously well traveled. His demeanor stands in contrast to the chilling story he tells. One night his church was torched by unfriendly neighbors.

"There was fire everywhere," he said. "I yelled to my wife and children to get out of our living quarters. I didn't think we would all make it." As the flames leaped 25 feet into the air, he and his family barely scurried to safety.

It's been several years since the incident, but the church is still not completely rebuilt. Being a pastor in Egypt sometimes means doing without. "But the Lord will take care of us," Mr. Mikhael said, flashing his infectious smile.

Father Bacom Habib, a Roman Catholic priest, lives in a small village of 4000 farmers at the base of a mountain in northern Egypt. There is no electricity in the village. Farming methods have hardly changed since the days of the Pharaohs, some 5000 years ago. The summer heat is searing, and the refreshing cool of the Nile River is about 20 miles away. Father Bacom spends much of his day planning social and religious programs for the young and the aged of the village. But occasionally he escapes to the fields, where he may sit under a tree with resting farmers and tell a story about Jesus.

"My people are uneducated and it

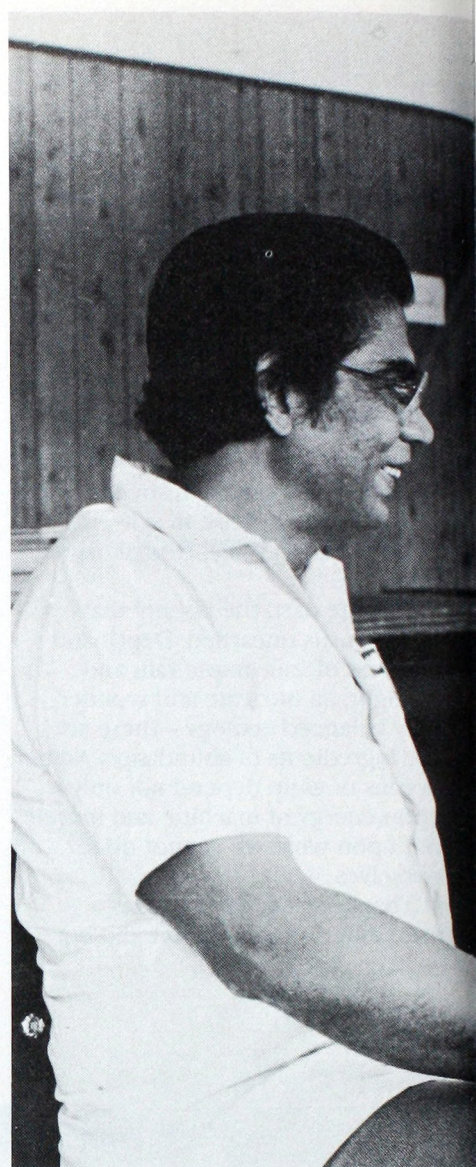
is hard for them to accept new ideas," he said. "But they are open to Christianity." Father Bacom has a sparkle in his eyes and an enthusiasm for meeting his village's needs. "Ask other Christians to pray that God will send us an agriculturalist—and electricity."

These are just two of some 200 pastors who met recently in the historic Egyptian city of Alexandria for the 150th Pastors' Conference sponsored by World Vision. They came from all parts of Egypt, and represented nearly every denomination in this predominantly Muslim nation. Tradition says that the country's ancient church dates back to 45 A.D. and the missionary endeavors of the Apostle Mark.

Dr. Abdul Istaphanos, head of the Egyptian Bible Society, chaired the six-day event, which was held at the Evangelical (Presbyterian) Conference Center in Alexandria. The theme was "Towards a More Effective Ministry." Key speakers included World Vision President Ted Engstrom and Pastors' Conference Vice-President Sam Kamaleson. Also speaking daily was pioneer missionary, the Rev. Neville Anderson.

"A spirit of unity was present from the very first session," noted Dr. Engstrom. "That spirit increased throughout the week. It was very edifying."

Indeed, many pastors noted that in Egypt there is a unity among denominations that is unique. "We planned this conference to encourage pastors to return home with more love for each other and, hopefully, more understanding and unity among their various denominations," said Dr.



Historic Alexandria was the location for World Vision's 150th Pastors' Conference.

Istaphanos. Added Fr. Bacom, "I certainly felt Christ's love in this group."

This is a historic time for Egypt, as the church faces the dual challenge of a more militant and evangelistic Muslim population, and a membership drain resulting from the nation's economic stagnation.

Despite its ancient church roots and Alexandria's preeminent position as the early church's repository of

(top) Dr. Sam Kamalson, World Vision International Vice-President (left), and Dr. Ted Engstrom (right) share a few moments with Anglican Bishop Ishag Musaad. (bottom) Among the participants were priests from the Coptic Orthodox Church of Egypt.



scholarly writings, Egypt today is a predominantly Muslim nation. Cairo is home for the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs, with an avowed purpose of extending Islamic culture in Egypt and overseas. The center funds the building of mosques and other Islamic projects. Egypt is also home of the Council of Islamic Studies, which aims to reactivate Islamic culture, to purify it of all sectarianism or political fanaticism, and to offer advice and counsel regarding religious and social problems in conformity with Islamic doctrine.

In keeping with a desire to propagate Islam, the government, according to some pastors, tries to underestimate the strength of Christianity in Egypt. The pastors point to a 1975 government census that showed the Egyptian Coptic Orthodox church with 2.3 million members. Church officials, after analyzing membership lists, said there were 6.6 million Coptic Orthodox believers. Indeed, figures on the number of Christians in the country vary widely. David Barrett, an authority on the status of Christianity worldwide, estimates in *World Christian Encyclopedia* that Christians compose 18.2 percent of Egypt's population (approximately 6.8 million people). Several pastors claim the correct figure is somewhere between eight and ten million believers. The discrepancy between such figures points to an underlying tension between Christians and Muslims in a land where the Muslims are becoming more outspoken about their beliefs.

The Rt. Rev. Ishag (Isaac) Musaad, Anglican Bishop for North Africa, said a more tangible issue is the loss of young adult Christians from the various churches. "Young men in particular are moving to other oil-



producing nations to work, creating a gap in membership in many churches," he said. "Some of our finest Christian workers have found it necessary to leave the country for a while to find meaningful work. The implications for the future of leadership in the church are immense."

Against this backdrop, the Pastors' Conference provided a time of refreshment. "At this Alexandria conference, pastors have had a chance to listen to wise leaders and get an international perspective on the gospel," said Bishop Musaad. "Also, they have had an opportunity to rest from the pressures of their ministries, to relax and share with each other, and to be filled anew by God's Spirit."

Like most Pastors' Conferences that have been held during the past

A spirit of unity permeated the event.

30 years, the Egyptian gathering was a blend of formal sessions taught by experienced international speakers, and informal sessions in which pastors shared and prayed with each other. There were some notable highlights to this historic conference. The occasion marked the first Arabic-language distribution of Ted Engstrom's acclaimed materials on planning, setting goals and establishing priorities. Dr. Engstrom led the pastors through a practical examination of how they could better organize and plan their ministries and personal lives. He also challenged them to strive toward attaining God's best.

"God demands the best from us," he said. "Excellence is not an act; it is a habit." In further exhorting the pastors, he added, "The establishment of goals is the key to successful living. We have unique skills given to us by God. The excellence of God, working through us to use these skills, is the basis of our excellence."

The theme of effective ministry was further enhanced by the lucid and precise teaching of the Rev. Anderson. Using 2 Timothy as his

major text, he reviewed for the pastors their calling and mission. His messages were punctuated by moving stories from his own ministry, which began in 1939 in Bangladesh. In his final session, Anderson shared his study and preaching techniques with the pastors to further help them in spreading God's Word in Egypt.

Dr. Kamaleson challenged the pastors to model the characteristics of the early apostles.

"There is power in discipleship, an irreducible power," he said. "No one can take away our identity in Jesus Christ, the source of our power, if we are discipled in His name." He also cautioned against spiritual smugness. "Continue learning, continue yielding your lives to the power of God. Continuous learners will weather all circumstances and gain victory over them if they are submitted to God." At the conclusion of the conference, he led the pastors in a public proclamation of recommitment to the important task of reaching Egypt for Christ.

Spurred by the formal messages, the pastors shared their struggles and triumphs in small group prayer sessions with peers, or members of the international speaking team. The Rev. Ezzat Abraham chose to share his testimony with Dr. Kamaleson

and Wafik Waheed, a member of the conference staff. The Rev. Abraham had attended a Pastors' Conference in Alexandria in 1981 as a Baptist minister.

"I was recovering from a long illness and was seeking God for some new direction in my ministry," he said. "The theme of the 1981 conference was 'Here Am I, Lord, Send Me' from Isaiah 6:8. Dr. Kamaleson spoke that night and challenged us to undertake evangelism in a new and dynamic way. That night, God gave me great peace about leaving the pastorate and

(below) The Rev. Neville Anderson chats with Father Bacom Habib.



Ministering in Egypt presents special challenges, satisfaction.



(above) The Rev. Adib Habib (seated) practices an Egyptian hymn while several pastors listen. (left) Dr. Abdul Istaphanos translates for Dr. Engstrom.

becoming a full-time traveling evangelist." So he left the security of his pastorate and began circulating among the people of Beni Swief, a city about 90 miles south of Cairo.

"I accepted preaching invitations from small, needy churches," he said. "My wife and I called people on the phone and talked to them about God and asked if we could give them small tracts to further explain the gospel."

Today, nearly two years after his momentous decision, Mr. Abraham is assisted by a small group of Christian youth who also preach and evangelize, and is finalizing a 24-page hymn book for the small village churches.

Having left his denominational payroll, Pastor Abraham has no steady income. "But I have faith, and I pray that God will support my family's needs. And He has been faithful in supporting us."

After talking with Pastor Abraham, Dr. Kamaleson noted: "This is the type of story I love to hear. It is confirmation that God uses Pastors' Conferences to change the hearts—and sometimes the careers—of the pastors who attend. That was the goal of the first conference held 30 years ago in Korea by World Vision's founder, Dr. Bob Pierce. We want to stimulate, provide refreshment and see pastors walk in a new and bolder relationship with their Savior. Only then can they go forward and, with God's blessing, spread the gospel anew in their nations."

The Rev. Yuhanna Yunan, an Evangelical (Presbyterian) pastor from Luxor, best summed up the ministers' feelings as the conference concluded: "I see Egypt in need of many conferences such as this." Indeed, after the closing communion service, it was announced that a follow-up conference is being planned for August 1985—another time of refreshing for Egypt's faithful pastors. □

Poor in America

by **Paul Landrey** *World Vision's director of U.S. ministries*

Some of us remember the dark days of America's Depression. Others were raised with the tales of those hard times ringing in our ears. For still others, those years (beginning in 1929) have become a collection of black and white pictures of bread lines and sorrow filling the pages of history books.

But today, for two million homeless Americans, for 10.6 million jobless Americans, for 34.4 million poverty-stricken Americans, hard times are here and now. Massive layoffs in the industrialized Midwest and Northeast have pushed thousands of families across the poverty line. From coast to coast, two million Americans are on the move in a 1980s version of *The Grapes of Wrath*. Men, women and children are forced to sleep in their cars, in campgrounds, in parking lots, in makeshift tents pitched along roadsides or under freeway overpasses. They aren't on the road by choice. They're on the move in desperation.

"Many feel that homelessness is a local problem—that it only affects a few, what they call 'local bums,'" said U.S. Representative Henry B. Gonzalez of Texas. "However, the evidence is that a great many of the homeless were stable, responsible people just a few months ago. They had homes and jobs, but their world collapsed around them."

Eight-month-old Holly Reed died in Denver in the car that had been her home for six months. A 30-degree evening claimed her life as her unemployed father ate dinner in the restaurant where her mother was employed.

"He didn't want to put a burden on parents or brothers or sisters," a police detective said of the father.

"He's got some pride. He didn't want to go on welfare." So last summer, when the last in a series of fast food jobs expired for him, Michael Anthony Reed, 21, started living in his Toyota with his 21-year-old wife and infant daughter. Holly died of hypothermia while bundled in blankets in the family car.

Robert M. Hayes testified before the U.S. House of Representatives recently: "If but one percent of the number of people now homeless in America were displaced by an

American churches face great opportunities for compassionate ministry to needy neighbors.

earthquake, hurricane or some other natural calamity, a disaster would be declared. The National Guard would be mobilized and massive relief efforts would be under way."

Where can these people turn for help? During the Depression, the church nationwide was able to meet 50 percent of the needs of the poor. When people were desperate they turned to the church for help. Over the years, government stepped in. Large social programs went into action to help the poor. As a result, today, about one percent of the needs of America's poor are being met by the church. But with all the government cutbacks in social programs, a new opportunity is opening up for the church. Churches that see themselves as part of a large body that struggles to be faithful are needed in the hurting neighborhoods of America.

Addressing several hundred pastors

and church leaders in San Diego, Pastor Gordon MacDonald of Grace Chapel, Lexington, Massachusetts, challenged the Christian community to pick up the slack left by the government in meeting the needs of suffering people worldwide and in this nation. Said MacDonald, "There will be many enormous vacuums created as government cuts back its foreign and domestic aid programs; and if Christians don't seize the next few years to invest their resources in the whole person, then we'll have passed up one of the greatest opportunities that history has ever presented. I think the '80s offer an unparalleled opportunity for Christians to stand up and be counted in terms of whether or not they truly believe in compassion."

It is heartening to discover the growing depth of involvement on the part of the church across America. An increasing number of local churches are discovering new vitality through programs that minister to spiritual, physical, social and emotional needs. Pastors, missionaries, urban leaders and volunteer workers are serving in a variety of creative ministries.

There is much to learn from the experiences of Christians who have been at the task of helping the hurting and hungry in America. Some of them have been at it for many years. Characteristics shared by these Christian individuals and organizations are that they care for the total person; are unapologetically Christian; minister *with* a community, not to it; help people help themselves; undertake what can be done well; focus on people more than on programs; prepare for difficulties; are flexible and innovative, and are addressing issues of injustice.

One such example is the Allen Temple Memorial Baptist Church of Oakland, California, pastored by Dr. J. Alfred Smith. The church creatively and aggressively ministers to a 12-block area called East 14th, from 83rd Avenue through 75th Avenue.

Several years ago, this area was permeated with drug abusers, pushers and prostitutes, and was full of dilapidated housing. Within a ten-year period, all of that has been remarkably changed. Now there is a housing unit for the elderly called Allen Temple Arms. There is a boy's club. The streets are clean. The drug problem is under control. Garbage is picked up weekly. A credit union is available to the community. The area represents God's visible grace because a creative church implemented effective, holistic evangelism.

Another exciting model is the Voice of Calvary in Mendenhall, Mississippi. Founded by Dr. John Perkins (member of World Vision's board of directors), the program had its beginnings in Perkins' childhood experiences in Mississippi. When Perkins was 16, his older brother was killed by a white marshall. He left Mississippi, vowing never to return.

In 1957, he became a Christian, and later returned to his home state. He and his wife organized rural home Bible studies and held tent meetings that included literacy programs. In the '60s he founded Voice of Calvary Bible Institute in Jackson, Mississippi. This became the center not only for Bible study but for a tutoring and lunch program for elementary children and a leadership training program for teenagers.

By 1970, Perkins had helped organize some 30 agricultural and economic cooperatives in the state. These early beginnings have resulted in a college scholarship fund, a Chris-



A poverty-plagued Chicago woman carries heavy burdens.

tian youth and vocational center, a health center, campus evangelism, tutoring programs, vocational and building-trades training, family counseling, Bible study and more.

The Fourth Ward Clinic of Houston, Texas, is another example. In a black ghetto of that city, 7000 poor people are packed into huge blocks of flats. There Dr. Bob Eckert started a medical clinic in 1968. Dr. Eckert knew that door-to-door evangelism in that ghetto would probably get a poor response. He set up a medical clinic that offered free treatment. It began with a table, a chair, three workers and four patients on the first day. Now 100-200 are served every day.

Dr. Eckert's goal has not changed. "We're not here only to doctor. We are here to share the Lord Jesus. The medical practice is something that comes out of the love God has for people."

The list of such illustrations is almost endless. It could include St.

Stephen's Church of God, San Diego; Park Avenue United Methodist Church, Minneapolis; The Grace and Peace Fellowship, St. Louis; First Baptist Church, Sioux Falls, South Dakota; College Church, North Hampton, Massachusetts; La Salle Street Church, Chicago; Community of Hope and Church of the Savior, Washington, DC.

The 340,000 Christian churches in America can make a significant difference, given the proper vision, support and training. The church needs to be a place where one can live out the teachings of Jesus Christ.

It needs to welcome the curious, the cautious and the critical. It needs to be the soil in which all kinds of sharing, learning and growth can sprout. It needs to provide a platform from which to tutor, create jobs, evangelize and pray with biblical integrity. The church must see itself as one small piece of a large body that struggles to be faithful in the hurting neighborhoods of America. □

A VISIT TO A DEVASTATED LEBANESE VILLAGE

'The world needs to know what happened here'

By Graeme Irvine

vice-president for field ministries, World Vision International

Rachaya Foukbar's once-bustling village streets stand quiet amid the destruction.



*Waste of muscle, waste of brain,
Waste of patience, waste of pain,
Waste of manhood, waste of health,
Waste of beauty, waste of wealth,
Waste of blood and waste of tears,
Waste of youth's most precious years,
Waste of ways the saints have trod,
Waste of glory, waste of God . . .
WAR!*

G. A. Studdert Kennedy

This is a story about waste. It's a story about young people—their love for their country and families, and their shattered dreams and hopes. It's a story about what yet might be.

The Beirut I remember from a visit in 1964 is elegant, lively, prosperous. But today the once-fashionable shops and offices of the main business section are deserted and derelict—great shattered hulks standing silently above streets strewn with debris.

Awful as this massive destruction is, other parts of the city not only are destroyed, but seem to have been torn apart with unspeakable violence. Here on scarred, scorched walls is written the testimony of eight years of war.

The testimony also is written in blood. No one knows exactly how many men, women and children have died in the carnage. Dennis Hilgendorf, World Vision project partner and head of the Lebanon-based Contact and Resource Center, has seen official estimates, which he considers conservative, that put the death tolls at 60,000 in the eight years of civil war and another 40,000 during 1982. An estimated 20,000 more are permanently handicapped.

It is in the lives of individual people that the tragedy of Lebanon speaks most loudly. I see it especially in the lives of youth. My 18 years of professional work in the YMCA gave me a sense of the idealism and potential of young people. Few experiences are so exhilarating to me as seeing the latent gifts of young people discovered and released, especially as they encounter the living Christ and by this encounter enter into the kingdom of God with its totally new values.

Ruweida Salameh, for example. Ruweida is a beautiful 22-year-old Lebanese Christian woman. Until February this year she was a student in fine arts at the Beirut University College with one year remaining until graduation. On a Saturday in February she was on her way to visit her grandmother. As she walked across an intersection, a bomb exploded in the building on the corner, injuring and killing many. That day Ruweida lost both eyes, her face cut to ribbons by splinters of flying glass.

Dennis Hilgendorf has helped arrange treatment for Ruweida, who has already gone through many painful operations to rebuild her facial features. She is now in the United States undergoing training in an institution for the blind.

Ruweida's story reminds us of the cruelest part of war—the maiming of the innocent. It is the living, not the dead, who deserve our sympathy.

Nowhere is the plight of those caught in the crossfire more evident than in Lebanon's rural villages. My wife, Fran, and I traveled south to the village of Rachaya Foukhar, three miles from the border. Bathed in late afternoon sunshine, it nestled among hills carpeted with olive groves. "The old grey-haired gentleman"—the locals' name for perennially snowcapped Mount Hermon—formed the backdrop for this tranquil site. It looked like the most peaceful place on earth.

Yet one glance at the simple stone houses of the village told a different story. Rachaya Foukhar once was a community of 4000. Although the local people were never involved in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, for years Rachaya Foukhar became a target of severe air raids. All but nine of the homes in the village were either destroyed or badly damaged.

It is in the lives of individual people that the tragedy of Lebanon speaks most loudly.

Only 200 people now live in Rachaya Foukhar, but others are slowly returning. World Vision is making self-help startup grants available to assist them in the heart-breaking job of clearing away the remains of their homes and possessions and starting over. Leonard Rodgers, World Vision's Middle East director; Tony Afif, engineer and counselor for the rebuilding project; Dennis Hilgendorf, Fran and I were guests of the village folk for an evening meal and overnight accommodation. We were blessed by their loving hospitality as they made do in damaged, partially-repaired houses. It gave us an unhurried opportunity to listen to their experiences and hopes.

The older people were rugged and resigned. They had seen hard times before, and they set about cleaning up the mess and rebuilding with



Villagers in Rachaya Foukhar are clearing away the rubble and are trying to rebuild their homes and lives.

quiet determination and incredibly hard work. The young people had a story they felt needed to be told.

Eighteen-year-old Ghada Daabous was a child of three years when the bombing of Rachaya began. All her living memories are of war. When she was seven, a bomb exploded near her as she ran to a church for protection. The blast hurled her against a wall, gashing her right cheek severely. For nearly a year

afterwards, she could not speak—her tongue would not move. Gradually the condition improved.

When she was five, Ghada began keeping a record of her thoughts and feelings in the form of drawings. This book was destroyed in one of the bombings, but she started another when she was eleven. I looked at her book and was moved by the drawings.

Ghada's book chronicles the battering of her beloved village and the suffering of its people. It tells how she became accustomed to

death and injury. For days on end she would huddle with others in the church, sometimes going without food for long periods. She saw a man decapitated. She saw a woman burned to death. She remembers being lined up against a wall with other children by soldiers who threatened to kill them and then fired machine guns into the wall above their heads. She remembers the harvest fields ablaze from phosphorous bombs.

"We learned how to save ourselves," she told me. "The war made me strong and hard. In the end I didn't cry or shout. I kept my feelings inside of me. But I would get headaches. The war made me older than my age."

In 1978 the village was totally destroyed in an air attack. Twenty people were killed and nearly all the houses destroyed. During these raids, many were sheltered behind the four-foot-thick walls of Rachaya Foukhar's Orthodox Church, built some 300 years ago of hand-cut stone. Sometimes up to 300 people would crowd into the building, sleeping there overnight. Although the church took 17 direct bomb hits, it was only slightly damaged; except for discomfort from the bombs' choking, burning smoke, the people were unharmed.

Ghada learned to predict when an



When the planes drew near she would run to the church or, if the bombs came too soon, hurl herself into a ditch.

oncoming plane was preparing to strike. "The voice of the engine would change," she said. "It was a 'feeling' more than a sound." She would run to the church or, if the bombs came too soon, hurl herself into a ditch.

During these years, Ghada changed schools seven times as the institutions were destroyed in the bombings one by one. She fell three years behind in her studies. "The war destroyed not only our houses, but our lives."

Ghada somehow keeps a cheerful spirit despite her suffering. "We must laugh. Let us be happy. If you must die, it is better to be cheerful than angry. We must love. Love is the normal life."

(above) Graeme and Fran Irvine chat with Rachaya Foukhar resident Samih Falbad, who, with the help of a World Vision grant, is struggling to rebuild his home. (right) Fran Irvine speaks with Lode Falbad and her daughter Niamit.



As I wandered through the ruins of Rachaya Foukhar at sunrise the next morning, I came upon a small family already at work in their heap of rubble. Samih and Lode Falhad had once proudly cared for their four-room home. It took two direct bomb hits. Craters still gaped where the floor had once been. Except for one wall, the house was totally destroyed. The Falhad family is starting over again, assisted by a small grant from World Vision.

Their 17-year-old daughter, Niamit, is helping. She will study journalism at a Beirut university next year. "I want to tell the story of my village," she told me with intensity. "I will tell of my grandfather and what everyone did in Rachaya. The world needs to know what happened here."

Ruweida Salameh, Ghada Daabous and Niamit Falhad are just three of the thousands of young people whose lives have been indelibly marked by this cruel war. They have not lost hope. And although they don't see the future clearly, they understand the past with a depth often missed by those who live only in the present.

I see tremendous possibilities in them, especially for the challenge of rebuilding their nation. Many of the elders are bitter, entrenched in historic enmities. But the young have the opportunity of moving from the old to create the new. Thanks to caring donors all over the world, World Vision has been able to help young and old alike begin the arduous task of recovery. □

To share in the rebuilding of Lebanese homes and lives, please use the attached return envelope. Thank you!

A Lebanese girl's poem



Ghada Daabous, age 18

GOODBYE MY VILLAGE

Goodbye my village on the hill
Like a king sitting on his throne.
Goodbye O destroyed houses,
And ashes of every home.
Goodbye O ground that had to drink
The blood of child and man.
Goodbye my flowers burnt black
By shells' awful game.
Goodbye O spirit that would not leave, the bodies
Dying young because you felt that must be a deed forever wrong.
Goodbye O nights when stars shined bright
Over the shelter pad.
Goodbye O days in which at noon
The sun no shadows had.
By thinking comes to mind the longings of my heart.
I walk through the houses, the sound of shells laid bare every
hidden part.
Goodbye strong rocks that by thundering voice
Start falling and in the valley ceasing.
Goodbye sand of the ruins that the wind took
With his breezing.
Goodbye O little brooks that laughed,
As your streams were always singing.
Goodbye O woods, proud when your leaves
Like little bells were ringing.
Goodbye my nightbird that
Sometimes in loneliness was crying.
Goodbye O butterfly that by day
From rose to rose was flying.
Goodbye O mothers who brought up
Your children in tender care.
Goodbye fathers who always of
Life's sorrow were aware.
Goodbye O house that was my home where I once
With my brothers and sisters was growing.
Goodbye O flowers, signs of love between friends;
They are gone when the wind of war is blowing.

Hemorrhagic fever

Late and sparse rains are blamed for the outbreak of Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever (DHF) which recently affected thousands of Kampuchean children in Phnom Penh. Transmitted by mosquitos, this viral disease spread in epidemic proportions when sporadic rainfall created the shallow pools that allowed the insects to thrive in and around the nation's capital.

Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever is a fast-paced disease that begins with a fever and the appearance of a rash, quickly followed by symptoms of internal bleeding. Virtually all cases occur in children 14 years old or younger. Victims usually die on the fourth or fifth day of the illness, often convulsing and bleeding from every opening in the body.

Dr. Milton Amayun, World Vision's representative in Kampuchea, estimates that of the 200,000 children living in Phnom Penh, 70,000 have suffered some form of the fever. While there is no vaccine or antibiotic treatment for the disease, it can be successfully treated with intravenous fluids and steroids, if caught in the early stages.

The staff at the World Vision-assisted National Pediatric Hospital in Phnom Penh worked day and night from the time of the outbreak in late May until the end of the summer to provide victims with these desperately needed fluids and medical care. Originally built to accommodate 70 patients, the hospital squeezed in over 100 beds in August. The number of patients admitted grew sharply from a monthly average of less than 200 to 625 in July. And in the first week of August alone, 246 patients already had been admitted. This was the highest census the



Two Kampuchean children await examination in the intensive care unit of the National Pediatric Hospital.

hospital has had since opening in 1980.

Dr. Amayun reported, "There were patients everywhere—in waiting rooms, corridors and classrooms." Combined with the fact that the patients' families stayed with them in the hospital, the facility was filled wall-to-wall with people.

While the treatment was limited and the cost high (over \$100 per child for medicine alone), it proved

effective. Dr. Amayun has issued a report stating that the incidence of DHF now has begun to level off, but that cases of bronchopneumonia and meningitis are on the increase. He concluded, "Our team—both expatriates and Khmers—is very tired. But God is with us and continues to give us the victory."

Rebuilding lives in Sri Lanka

Some 250 Tamil families, victims of last summer's rioting in Sri Lanka, are on the road to recovery, due in part to the faithfulness of World Vision donors. One hundred families are being equipped with the necessary facilities to resume their own businesses. Working in cooperation with Youth for Christ, World Vision also is providing financial assistance to 30 needy families, and is supplying tools and materials to 35 skilled workers so they may resume work. In addition, housing and educational expenses are being provided for students from 15 families. And 20 additional families are receiving help with their need for shelter.

Working with Hospital Christian Fellowship, World Vision also is helping meet the medical and nutritional needs of 250 families, with special emphasis being placed on pregnant women and young children.

Christian counseling and spiritual nurture are also being provided by both Youth for Christ and Hospital Christian Fellowship.



Relief food provided by World Vision is unloaded at the Nawalapitiya Assembly of God Church in Kandy. In addition, World Vision is helping to provide displaced Tamils with temporary accommodations, medicines, nutritional supplements and a means for continued education.

Africa drought



Food delivery and distribution in the Tsbolotsbo district, Zimbabwe

"With the helping hands of World Vision and other humanitarian organizations, the Ethiopian government is becoming better able to deal with deeply rooted relief problems," said Solomon Lulu, associate director for relief and rehabilitation of World Vision Ethiopia. His optimism, however, was tempered with a realistic awareness of the scope of the drought-related problems facing his country—and much of the African continent. He added, "Experience has revealed to us that in the aftermath of disasters such as drought there exist long-lasting side effects that take years to rectify."

Severe as Ethiopia's plight may be, the country is not alone in its struggle to escape the drought-related burdens of scarce potable water, decimated crops and dwindling food supplies. Zimbabwe, Sudan, Zambia and 18 other African countries face similar circumstances. World Vision is involved in bringing direct, drought-related assistance to 12 of them, including Zimbabwe.

Although conditions in Zimbabwe are not quite as bleak as in Ethiopia, thousands of people still must rely on food from the government and international relief agencies to survive. World Vision is among those providing corn, beans, salt and mealie meal (corn meal) to those

who flock to the government-run food distribution centers that have sprung up throughout the country.

In Ethiopia, access to remote mountain regions remains a critical concern to relief teams trying to bring food to the thousands who live beyond the roadways. Deliveries by World Vision's Twin Otter airplane has been virtually the only way many of these people have been able to receive food. During the summer, a new operations base for the plane was chosen in the village of Arbaya. Since the move, more relief goods are being transported in a shorter amount of time because the base is only 15 minutes away from the plane's distribution points. And soon, another plane will be in operation in Ethiopia, further expanding the capacity to meet the needs of those in obscure regions.

Looking ahead, Solomon Lulu commented, "Even if rains are adequate, it will not be an easy task to restore more than three million people to a normal life." To do so will require farming implements, assistance until the first harvests are gathered, and technical, financial and educational support. And the same holds true for the millions of other drought victims scattered throughout the continent. □



Seventy thousand people attended the week-long Luis Palau evangelistic campaign held last August in Modesto, California. Argentine-born Palau has ministered in 99 crusades throughout Latin America, Australia and Europe, but the Modesto crusade was only his third in the U.S. Local Christian leaders said Palau's message will touch lives in their valley for years to come.

"Hunger Still Haunts," a new resource packet on world hunger, contains a world issues quiz, biblical references on food and justice, a fact sheet on military and social expenditures, and a poster and brochure on world hunger. Order the packet for \$2.50 from Mennonite Central Committee's Development Education Office, 21 So. 12th St., Akron, PA 17501.

Creating Peace: A Positive Handbook presents an assortment of peace-creating principles, action ideas and resources for positive action. It includes chapters on peace policy, research and edu-

cation, plus one on inner peace. The book is available for \$3.95 postpaid from Larry Langdon Publications, Dept. B, 34735 Perkins Creek Rd., Cottage Grove, OR 97424.

Airlines Clergy Bureau offers ministers and missionaries discounts of up to 50 percent off the price of air travel. For an annual fee of \$35, clergy members can fly at discounted fares on a stand-by basis with several major airlines worldwide. For more details write Airlines Clergy Bureau, 3411 First Ave., Sacramento, CA 95817.

William Carey Library (WCL), a Christian publishing company in Pasadena, California, specializes in producing technical and scholarly books on world missions. WCL also distributes missions books from other publishers on topics such as applied anthropology, area and case studies, mission strategy, and history of mission. For a booklist or more information write to William Carey Library, Box 40129, Pasadena, CA 91104.

Christian managers will gather in Anaheim, California, February 20-23 for the seventh Annual Christian Management Institute. Fifty-four workshops will help some 500 Christian management professionals grapple with issues facing Christian organizations in the coming year. (Theme: "The Ministry of Management.") For more information write Christian Ministries Management Association, P.O. Box 4651, Diamond Bar, CA 91765.

Urban congregations will be the focus of a congress to be sponsored by SCUPE (Seminary Consortium for Urban Pastoral Education) in downtown Chicago, April 25-28. For information write SCUPE, 30 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60610.

Hispanic as well as English-speaking urban leaders and students can gain valuable information by attending the bilingual conference "San Francisco '83," being prepared by Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship for the Christmas holiday week (December 26-30). For a brochure listing the national event's forums, briefings, workshops, etc., write Registrar, San Francisco '83, 233 Langdon St., Madison, WI 53703.

The American Bible Society (ABS) is sending "starter" suggestions to 439,000 churches, Christian educators, hospitals and chaplains to help them come up with new and exciting ways to share God's Word. Ideas include giving Scripture to newlyweds or

new neighbors, placing a New Testament in a food basket for the needy, and giving a Bible to business associates at Thanksgiving or Christmas. For more suggestions write to ABS, 1865 Broadway, New York, NY 10023.

An informative brochure, "Human Needs and World Security" (BFW background paper #68), is available free (but why not enclose a dollar or more?) from Bread for the World, 6411 Chillum Pl. NW, Washington, DC 20012.

Logoi Inc. offers pastors in Latin America theological training through specialized self-study programs. Seminary professors also instruct the pastors in Bible, theology, sermon preparation, counseling and church administration. For more information write Logoi Inc., 4100 W. Flagler St., Suite 3-B, Miami, FL 33134.

A new missionary training program is being offered for two new church-planting teams now being formed by Christ's Mission. Each team will consist of 12 persons who will be involved in starting new churches in Europe. The eight-month training program will stress intensive language study, cross-cultural principles, interpersonal relationships, Bible study, evangelism and discipleship. Applications for team participants are now being accepted. Write to Director of Admissions, Christ's Mission, Box 176, Hackensack, NJ 07602.

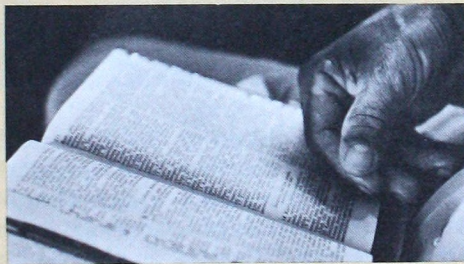
Would you appreciate assurance that you belong to Christ?

It's one thing to be grateful at Thanksgiving time for your temporal blessings; it's another to be able to thank God for the special relationship in which *you know for sure that you are His forever.*

If you want such assurance but don't have it, you can find what you need through the writings of the Apostle John. Near the end of his account of Jesus' life, death and resurrection, John says: "These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life through his name."

To gain assurance that you are His and He is yours, read and reread, reflectively and believably, the entire Gospel of John, and give yourself to the Savior-Lord of whom it tells. Seek spiritual counsel also in a Christ-centered church near you, and worship God in union with the believers there.

For a free copy of a helpful John R. Stott booklet called "Becoming a Christian," write the editor of WORLD VISION magazine at 919 W. Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016. He will be glad to send you one. □



Joni visits Poland



Joni Eareckson Tada, noted author, artist and speaker on the problems of disabled people, spent a week in Poland as part of a four-week summer tour in Europe. In the cities of Warsaw, Wroclaw and Katowice, Joni spoke to packed church crowds about God's design and purpose in suffering.

Almost totally paralyzed since a 1967 diving accident, Joni has brought new hope and encouragement to many of the 36 million disabled people in the United States through her books, *Joni* and *A Step Further*. Joni and Friends (her four-year-old organization) now focuses on meeting the needs of disabled persons through seminars, attendant care programs and a national information center.

In Poland, Joni and her husband, Ken Tada, were followed by a Polish National TV camera crew who taped her meetings for the purpose of creating a series on different religions for a children's program. In one city, Joni was filmed as she spoke to a large Catholic congregation.

Some people waited for hours to listen to her speak. "They were so hungry," said Joni, "to hear the Word of God and to learn what I have realized from living life in a wheelchair."

(above) In the Polish city of Katowice, Joni gets a painting from Rosik Marian, artist who, like her, broke his neck in an accident, about a year after she did. (right) Patients at a rehabilitation center in Katowice gather around Joni.



While in Poland, Joni also visited patients in two rehabilitation centers. She discussed with them topics such as God's sovereignty, the purpose of suffering, and divine healing. "They had many questions about God's control in their affliction," she observed later. Patients also queried her about the availability of equipment and medical treatment in the West.

"We swapped information and suggestions," Joni said. "I enjoyed spending time with them to answer not only their spiritual questions, but their practical needs as well. We also counseled with doctors, sharing our

"We swapped information and suggestions."

testimonies, discussing handicaps, and leaving as many materials as we could. They have a great desire to improve their services, but there is an obvious lack of staff, money and equipment."

Joni sees her visit to Poland as a challenge to investigate ways that her ministry, Joni and Friends, can establish a continuing relationship to help provide further resources and educational material. Noting that 96 percent of the world's disabled population lives outside the U.S., she hopes that Joni and Friends can reach out to help meet the needs of disabled people not only behind the Iron Curtain, but in less developed countries as well. □

On readers' minds— and hearts

One plus one equals three

A hearty amen to Dr. Engstrom's essay, "Christian Holism: $1 + 1 = 3$." These words sum up for me my reasons for supporting the ministry of World Vision. Thanks to all who share in the partnership, and above all to the Lord.

*Mark Twianini
Placentia, California*

Minor nuisance?

I was disappointed in the article on El Salvador. I had hoped to get a picture of what was really happening in that war-torn country. Instead, the war was depicted as a minor nuisance that had no effect on your conference held there.

*Bob Drummond
Mount Clemens, Michigan*

A gardener's great idea

This fall I will be selling flower bulbs and giving the proceeds to World Vision. I would like to give customers a copy of WORLD VISION magazine to acquaint them with the organization.

*Brenda Olcott-Reid
Chetopa, Kansas*

In the marketplace

I've been involved with World Vision as a countertop display volunteer since January. When making the monthly collections, I find some of the business people eager and others apathetic. I think if I had a copy of WORLD VISION magazine for them each month I go to their store, it might develop greater interest and concern on their part.

Special thanks, incidentally, to George Heartwell Jr., and the photographer for the poem "Child Eyes" and the picture with it, which is surely worth more than a thousand words.

*Gaylon E. Joullian
Jackson, Mississippi*

Inspiration

WORLD VISION magazine is probably the best reading material I get each month. It is truly an inspiration for me.

*Jane Snider
Midland, Michigan*

Hunger here

I appreciated the article on World Vision's role in North American communities where there is hunger. Right here in my own city, a large amount of perfectly good, unspoiled food is thrown out of a local hospital every day. Is there any way such food can be used locally to feed the hungry who need it?

*Mike Marshall
Erie, Pennsylvania*

Questions people ask

Your reply to the question, "How many missionaries are there in the world?" did not cover the 100,000 or more missionaries of independent, indigenous movements outside the United States and Canada. Furthermore, we should consider that many missionaries are employed in non-missionary vocations (like the Apostle Paul, a saddler or tent-maker by trade, when he supported himself). Your categories of Protestant, Roman Catholic and "other Christian or quasi-Christian traditions" do not convey this extensive missionary activity.

*Jay Marston
Twisp, Washington*

Nearsight, farsight

I really liked Eddy Hall's essay, "Nice People—But a Little Different." God has begun to broaden my vision. I was once only nearsighted, but now I have also become farsighted to God's work in faraway places. Keep your magazine coming my way; it will be a good corrective lens.

*Derek Creamer
Altha, Florida*

Seeing the fruit

Members of our home Bible study (which has brought several to the Lord) are now regular contributors to World Vision. We appreciate your magazine, and our contributions are in direct response to seeing in it the fruit of your (and our) labor. We always use the envelope enclosed in the magazine. We also pass the magazine on to others in hopes of recruiting new contributors when they see what work is being done.

*Mrs. B. Bindrim
Ocean, New Jersey*

From inquirers' letters

● I have drifted away from the basic, simple truth of believing in Jesus as my Savior. I've heard so many different things it is hard to explain. I need the truth to be put forth plainly and clearly again. Please pray for me and my wife and our three children. I would greatly appreciate it if you could send me the booklet "Becoming a Christian."

● I call myself a Christian but sometimes I feel it's only a word. After reading the comments of those who have read the booklet, I would like to feel that way. Please send me "Becoming a Christian." We receive WORLD VISION regularly, and thoroughly enjoy reading it.

● I have only just turned, or am turning, toward Jesus. A friend of mine let me read some of your magazines. I am at present in jail, but I would really like to have a copy of "Becoming a Christian." If you would be so kind as to send it to my wife, she will make sure I get it.

Reaping the benefits

Silvanus Ogutu was one of the first people in the village of Indiuo, Kenya, to plant paw-paw seedlings and reap the benefits at harvesttime. As a result of World Vision's agricultural assistance, Silvanus has planted over 400 paw-paw trees on his plantation. The resulting income increase has enabled him to provide education for his children. In addition to agricultural help, World

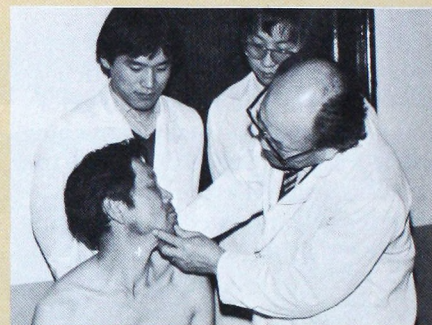
Vision is helping the villagers increase their self-reliance through literacy education, vocational training, poultry raising and Christian nurture. Three wells have also been dug to provide clean drinking water for the community.



Silvanus Ogutu inspects his paw-paw crop.

The most important thing

Lee Chang Wan is one of 21,763 Korean leprosy patients who received treatment last year at the World Vision Skin Clinic in Seoul. The clinic provides patients and their families with examinations for early detection, preventive treatment, surgery, counseling and Christian outreach. Lee's slow but steady



Dr. Lew and two colleagues examine Lee Chang Wan.

improvement and the assurance that he is in the Lord's hands have given him new hope. He says, "The most important thing is to know Christ, our Lord, for the treatment of spiritual disease."

Spreading the Good News in Kenya

Kenya's 2000 secondary schools educate some 500,000 students through a faculty of over 16,500 teachers. With such numbers to deal with, the Kenya Students Christian Fellowship faces a tremendous challenge as it ministers in the country's schools. To help in this endeavor, World Vision is providing Christian leaders with training in Bible study methods, school evangelism, counseling and personal witnessing. Quarterly seminars are also conducted for all those involved in school chaplaincy programs.

Working through word of mouth

When the people of Tagbae (the Philippines) heard about the community development work being done in the

nearby towns of Buyata and Odyong, they asked to have a similar program implemented in their own community. With the help of faithful donors, World Vision is now providing Tagbae's citizens with agricultural assistance, water development, health care, nutritional aid and education, crafts instruction, and leadership training. Evangelism is also integrated into the program through Bible studies, fellowship services, camps and seminars.

A changed community

Haitians in the town of Fond Parisien are improving their quality of life through a variety of World Vision-assisted community development projects. Medical care is being provided by a community health center, and a nutrition center offers daily meals to undernourished children while instructing their parents in nutrition education. Other community needs are being met through classes in economics, tailoring and literacy.

Help for the winter cold

Most Palestinian refugees displaced by the war in Lebanon live in tents or tin shacks with only blankets to keep them warm. To help these refugees face the cold winter, World Vision provided blankets for some 2000 Palestinians. They were distributed before the onset of winter by UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East).

War-torn Lebanon



Ambassador to the blind

Convinced that God's Word meets the heartfelt needs of the blind, Dr. Arthur Lown has produced portions of Scripture in braille in both English and the Philippine language (Tagalog). Working in partnership with World Vision and the Philippine Bible Society, Dr. Lown has supervised the completion of 75 percent of the Philippine New Testament in braille. For those who do not know braille or who are unable to read, the New Testament and other Scriptures have been produced on cassette tapes in English and several Philippine dialects.

Please pray for . . .

- **Handicapped children** being assisted by World Vision through partner agencies around the world.
- **Egypt's pastors** who have returned from an inspiring conference to their work of evangelism, spiritual nurture and leadership in caring ministries.
- **America's** specially needy citizens and immigrants, and all efforts to serve them in Christ's name.
- **Lebanon's Christians** and all who help them bring hope to victims of war.
- **"San Francisco '83,"** a major bilingual conference of students and leaders on urban issues and ministry opportunities (sponsored by Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship during the coming Christmas holiday week).
- **Emergency relief** efforts in Africa, Kampuchea, Sri Lanka and elsewhere.
- **Your church's** many-faceted ministry in its own community.

10,000 children die of hunger each day. You've given . . . you've prayed . . . what else can you do?

GIVE SOME OF YOUR TIME TO HELP A HUNGRY WORLD.

You can do something tangible . . . **right where you live!**

As a World Vision Counter-top Display Volunteer, you place our attractive counter-top displays in local places such as restaurants and retail stores. Then, once a month, you simply collect the money and send it to World Vision.

Just think! In your spare time you could raise enough funds each month to feed six or more hungry children!

"I'm amazed how quickly the boxes are filled. This reinforces my belief that people often just need a place to help others . . . just a simple box in a store."

Jennifer Hankins
Waco, Texas

**Put your concern into positive action:
BE A WORLD VISION
COUNTER-TOP
DISPLAY VOLUNTEER!**



Mail this coupon today.

YES . . .

I want to help feed hungry children by serving as a World Vision Counter-top Display Volunteer. I understand you will send me complete details.

Please send me 5 10 counter-top displays. (check one)

(Please print)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Zip _____

Phone _____

CSWB3B

Mail to:
Counter-top Display Coordinator
World Vision • Box 3138 • Arcadia, CA 91006

Globe at a glance

NEWS BRIEFS FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND INTERCESSION

Freshwater fish in Thailand, the main source of protein for rural Thais, are dying by the millions in the country's worst human-caused ecological disaster. According to the fisheries department, the likely cause of death is pesticide poisoning. Chemicals such as paraquat and farraden have lowered the fish's resistance to parasitical disease and fungi. The deaths began in areas where new methods of rice cultivation employ large quantities of herbicides.

The absence of sanitation in developing countries is responsible for the death of some 15 million children below the age of five every year, according to the World Health Organization. Diarrhea alone kills up to six million children every year and contributes to the death of another 18 million. Parasitic worms plague nearly half the people in developing countries.

Massive flooding in Ecuador has caused some \$1838 million in damages. Between November 1982 and June this year, about 156 inches of rain fell, causing flooding that has affected 48 percent of the population. Agricultural production has been set back considerably. Thirty-two percent of rice, 28 percent of corn and 52 percent of sugar crops have been lost. Total agricultural loss is estimated at \$111 million. December is the earliest the next crops can be planted.

The International Bible Society has designated Sunday, November 6, as International Bible Sunday. The special day is being observed in conjunction with Year of the Bible activities. The purpose of Bible Sunday is twofold: 1) to emphasize the importance of God's Word, and 2) to call attention to the need for Bibles in missionary and evangelistic work around the world.

Chinese churches number some 600 throughout North America, according to a survey conducted by Peter Chow, pastor of a Chinese church in the U.S. The churches are largely concentrated in areas on the coasts, and in the prairies and plains of the central regions. New York City has the highest concentration of Chinese churches (136), followed by San Francisco (126) and Los Angeles (105).

Starving Brazilian peasants, some 2000 strong, defied armed guards to break into a government warehouse and loot 59 tons of food, according to the *L.A. Times*. The police chief of the agricultural town of Senador Pompeu, in Brazil's drought-plagued northeast, said he was unable to stop the looting because he had only six policemen. "I'm not so crazy as to open fire on hungry people," he said.

The effects of drought in South Africa continue to ripple across the country. Once a major food exporter, the country this year had to import 1.5 thousand tons of its main

crop, maize (corn), from the U.S. In the black, rural areas, the drought has meant not just lower living standards but malnutrition, starvation and death. In some areas, peasants in desperation are eating seed grain rather than planting it.

Bolivia's drought and floods, which have devastated the country in recent months, have affected more than 1.5 million people and caused \$300 million worth of damage. The floods



Children in Bolivia's highlands

have left dozens of people dead by drowning or starvation. And drought in the high-altitude regions has forced rural families to go begging to feed their children. The government has estimated that 35 percent of the country's geographic area is affected by some form of disaster.

Australia's Center for Defense Information (CDI) says that 45 of the world's 212 nations are involved in military conflicts. More than four million soldiers are directly engaged in combat. CDI reveals also that the United States has shipped military equipment to all but two of the nations now at war and is a major arms supplier to 20 of them. Thirteen of the nations receive military aid from the Soviet Union.

U.S. children needing artificial limbs and braces may have to do without them now that the Department of Health and Human Services has ended grants to three regional centers that have provided the devices to disabled children across the nation. "Such children may fall between the cracks," said Dr. William F. Friedman, pediatrics chairperson at UCLA in California, location of one of the three regional centers. "We may have to fold our own program completely."

The U.S. poverty rate reached 15 percent in 1982, according to a recent Census Bureau report. This is the highest level since 1965. More than 34 million Americans were below the poverty line last year, an increase of 8.1 percent from 1981. The poverty threshold income level is \$9862 for a family of four. The report also said that the number of poor children under 18 rose from 12.3 million in 1981 to 13.5 million in 1982.

In partnership with you

"BECAUSE OF YOUR PARTNERSHIP IN THE GOSPEL"
(Philippians 1:5)

A word for the church

The institution to which Christ gave primacy was not television, not radio, not books, not magazines, not a ministry of this or that, but the church. "Upon this rock," Jesus told Peter, "I will build my church." Not "my publishing house," not "my missionary society," not "my electronic ministry," not "my World Vision." Only the church has a piece of the rock.

The church is basic—so basic that we have to be reminded. Countless organizations, most of them valuable and worthy, have come and gone. The church alone endures.

I recall some of the supporting organizations I knew as a young man. Some that no longer exist were then so much a part of my thinking that it never occurred to me that the Christian witness in America and the world could survive without them. The Christian Student Movement, for example; *The Sunday School Times*; The Student Volunteer Movement; *Our Hope* magazine. And I think too of all the new organizations that have been formed to serve other developing needs and levels of spiritual and social consciousness. Most of the ministries that are presently giving leadership were founded during the last 20 or 30 years. Founded, I should add, out of the passion of some Christian's awareness—an awareness kindled and nurtured in the one organization that lives on, the one organization against which "the gates of Hell" have not prevailed and will not, the one organization to which Christ gave uniqueness: the church.

The tragedy in our time is that the church is frequently relegated to second or third place in our religious priorities. Too often, other good things that are being carried out are done at the expense of the church. Talent is drained away. The most capable young people, the most creative, are not as often encouraged to serve in the church as in parachurch organizations which are doing small and usually dramatic forms of work. There is unfortunate and, I believe, unnecessary competition for time and money that the church needs in order to continue to be the nurturing body that inspired these other organizations in the first place.

It is my conviction that the Christian's support of the church, far from diminishing his or her support of other worthwhile causes, increases it. The most faithful givers to parachurch organizations are, I firmly believe, the most faithful givers first of all to their local churches. The Christian most active in a local congregation is the one who is most interested in other things being done in the name of Christ. When the root prospers, the leaf also prospers. When the root withers, the leaf withers.

Obviously, none of us can do everything that needs doing. That is the advantage in the variety of parachurch ministries available to the church member—they provide members with opportunities to steer their special energies and talents toward selected activities in addition to the basics of the church ministry. The machinery of the church moves slowly. A specialized organization

may be formed quickly to do a particular job. But it should be noted that the *ad hoc* organization that forms easily often dies hard.

It is the body of Christ, assembling for worship, prayer and mutual encouragement, that makes a church. One is a member of a local church, not of a television channel. Whatever else I do as a Christian, I must support the only organization that is the wellspring from which all other Christian organizations draw their strength and meaning.

Ted W. Engstrom

Ted W. Engstrom
President



This label is to be used on the enclosed envelope.

This Christmas, send the gift that gives twice.

With World Vision's Christmas Card Gift Plan, your gift can help save a life and show a friend how much you care.

How many times have you faced the problem of finding the "right" Christmas gift for a special friend or relative? A gift that is both unique and meaningful?

World Vision's Christmas Card Gift Plan can help solve this problem.

With a donation of \$15 you can:

First, help save the lives of suffering children in places like Ethiopia, Cambodia (Kampuchea) and Bangladesh. Your contribution will help stop starvation and disease and provide new hope for a child where drought and famine are threatening the lives of thousands of children.

Second, send a special Christmas card to a friend or relative that shows how much you care for them in a unique way.

For each \$15 contribution, you will receive a 5 x 7 color Christmas card and envelope to sign and mail to a friend or relative. The inside of the card reads:

This Christmas, to celebrate the gift of God's Son, and to show how special you are, a gift in your honor has been made to World Vision to help needy children in places like Ethiopia, Cambodia and Bangladesh.

May the joy of giving be yours this Christmas and throughout the year to come.



To give the gift that gives twice this Christmas, fill out the coupon below today with your check or money order.

Christmas Cards

World Vision
Box O, Pasadena, CA 91109

Please send me _____ cards and
Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____
(card/envelope ordered). S05005/1000

Please print

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

W.V. Acct. No. (if known)

