

Noteworthy

NOT JUST ANOTHER RECORD

by Carolyn A. Burns

Americans know him as a tuxedoed prince of inspirational piano. But on the muggy Calcutta morning when Dino Kartsonakis rose before dawn to travel across the hot countryside to visit villages in India, he was not wearing tie and tails.

It's six years now since Dino took that long walk, but his memory of starving people has not faded; it's intensified. But instead of nightmares filled with helpless horrors, Dino's recollections have become a ministerial vision.

The vision is to help feed the world's hungry. But how does one solitary man—a professional pianist with concerts to perform and records

Just back from recording sessions in London, Dino plays in World Vision's chapel.



to cut—accomplish such a goal? Dino is doing it through a special arrangement with Light Records and World Vision.

Dino's new album, *Great is the Lord,* is dedicated to the sick, homeless and hungry of the world. Its proceeds go directly to World Vision for use in its worldwide efforts to reduce starvation among helpless victims.

"I'm not just putting out another record," says Dino. "This one's not for me; it's for the needy."

In addition to the album, Dino has planned a tour of his popular Pianorama concert to benefit the hungry through World Vision. In Pianorama, Dino and six other pianists play grand pianos together on one stage. The World Vision Pianorama tour begins in November and runs through June in six major cities.

Dino went to England to record the background music for his new album with the London National Orchestra. He chose familiar hymns for much of the album "because instrumental music needs to be easily recognized by listeners in order for them to relate to the messages. Well-known songs also allow listeners to sit back and meditate on the lyrics within their own inner-voices."

World Vision is equally excited about *Great is the Lord*. Says Ted Engstrom, "The sale of this popular album is not only bringing listeners real pleasure and inspiration, it's bringing desperately hungry people food, water and a witness for Jesus Christ."

Carolyn Burns is music editor for Contemporary Christian Music Magazine in Laguna Beach, California. Volume 28, number 8

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Sponsor's edition

World Vision





No silence in this churchyard 8

Gold, incense and myrrh

Outdoor classrooms surrond a church in Ethiopia

"Sisters" meet across the Mexico-U.S. boundary.

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An American is confronted with the reality of Ethiopians' suffering.



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Learning

Child sponsorship is an educational experience for everyone at both ends of the relationship, including any child in the sponsoring home. John Hamilton's report on his daughter's meeting with Abimael in Mexico (page 6) bears that out well, don't you think?

For most sponsored children, school is part of that experience, even if it's a school without walls, as it is for the Ethiopian children in Jacob Akol's article on page 8. Listen as you read; can't you almost hear those children's voices in the background as their teacher talks?

Even some unsponsored children get an educational benefit from World Vision aid in places such as the one in the Gambia that Terri Owens

tells about in her page 4 article. Aren't you glad that's true for Horageh?

Some, like Kaesarin in Thailand (page 17) even go on to train for special Christian service. Hallelujah!

Please pray today for each of these and for the hungry ones Steve Reynolds saw in Africa (page 12): the children, teenagers and adults who can't even think of school until their more pressing problemsurvival-is solved. They all need our prayers. David Olson

PHOTOS: Cover, pp. 4, 5: Terri Owens, P. 2: Larry Nichols, Pp. 6, 7: John Hamilton, Pp. 8-11, 14 (middle), 16 (top); Jacob Akol, Pp. 12, 13, 14 (bottom), 15, 16 (bottom); Steve Reynolds, P. 14 (top); Doug Kelly, Pp. 18, 19: Rory Starks, P. 20: Marilyn B. Allien, P. 21: Jeco Marid Branch Jose María Blanch

Gambian girl Horageh Conteh ...

UNSPONSORED, BUT . . .

by Terri Owens

simple thing can make a big difference in the life of a child. The opportunity to attend nursery school is such a thing for little Horageh Conteh.

Horageh is a seven-year-old Muslim girl growing up in a poor section of Banjul, capital of the west African nation of the Gambia. Her neighborhood's tightly-packed houses of concrete and corrugated iron are mostly overcrowded. And its dirt streets are lined with 18-inchwide canals, thick with murky water that insures a steady supply of malaria-carrying mosquitoes. The children who grow up here have few places to play besides these streets or the narrow corridors of ground



Horageh Conteh holds M'deye, a neighbor's five-month-old daughter.

around the hodgepodge of housing.

But each weekday morning Horageh puts on a smart brown and yellow uniform, takes the little lunch her mother has made, and heads down the dirt road to the Parsonage Nursery School a half mile away. From 8:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. she will be in a world of ABC's, numbers, songs and games.

Gifts from World Vision childcare sponsors help make that world possible for Horageh and some 200 other preschoolers, even though many of them are not sponsored.





Children at the Parsonage Nursery School



A smiling Horageh draws water from a tap at school.

Only the very neediest children have sponsors. The sponsored ones receive special help such as free uniforms and paid tuition. A portion of the sponsorship funds goes toward helping the local Anglican church maintain the school; this benefits the sponsored children and also helps to keep tuition costs low for the others.

Even though Horageh's parents aren't quite as poor as the sponsored students' parents, they need every break they can get.

Her father Omar is a barber. He carries his brushes and blades to the marketplace each day, hoping to find customers. But he is lucky if he earns 125 dalasi (\$35) a month. The Gambia has been hit hard by inflation and currency devaluations; when money is tight, people cut out the nonessentials such as haircuts.

Horageh's mother Mariama has an office cleaning job. She also earns 125 dalasi a month. That's all the family has—about \$70 a month to survive, less than \$60 after they pay the rent on their one-room home. It doesn't go far, especially with 11 in the family.

(left) Horageh and her father Omar Conteh in front of their home with Omar's briefcase of barber tools





(above) Horageh plays with brothers, sisters and friends in her front yard. (left) One of the slates she uses for writing at the Parsonage Nursery School

So sending Horageh to school is not easy for them. She needs two uniforms for the year; these cost her parents 30 dalasi (18 for the materials and 12 for the local tailor). She also needs a pair of shoes, 25 dalasi; her parents buy them much too large so she will not outgrow them until the end of the year.

Tuition at Parsonage Nursery School is very low – 30 dalasi each three-month term—but this is a significant amount to a family as poor as the Contehs. World Vision sponsors are helping to keep the nursery school's tuition as low as possible. You might say that helping people like Horageh and her parents is a great fringe benefit of sponsorship. □

Terri Owens is a writer for World Vision International Communications.

What they found at journey's end was more precious than ...

GOLD, INCENSE AND MYRRH

by John R. Hamilton

A s soon as our first child grew old enough to understand prayer for someone else's needs, my wife and I wanted to teach her the special rewards of caring for a person she had never met. We decided to sponsor a child through World Vision.

We made only two stipulations: We wanted to sponsor a girl and we wanted her to be about the same age as our going-on-three Heather. Other than that, we allowed World Vision to select the country, the type of project and other aspects of the sponsorship.

Our reasoning was simply to give our own young one an early awareness of the world she was born into. She would know about children who had no dinner and no blankets. She could pray for another life her own age.

When the picture folder arrived describing our "sponsor girl" (as Heather called her), we were surprised to see that four-year-old Abimael Ramirez lived in nearby Mexico. We posted her photo on a cork bulletin board above Heather's dresser.

With Abimael's picture on her wall, Heather knew there were children in the world less fortunate than she. Looking at the picture, she assumed Abimael was "sad" as well as poor and hungry. Heather's first prayers were simple and from the heart. "Help Abimael to have enough food and clothes."

Because her daddy was a film and television producer working for World Vision, Heather received an extra dose of Two-Thirds World awareness in her early years. Often after a day's work with pictures and stories of hurting people, some of the work would come home with me. In addition, I was writing my doctoral dissertation on the way Bob Pierce and World Vision developed the use of film in evangelical social action.

Right there at home, I screened hours of films produced between 1948 and 1980, often with Heather watching the bittersweet stories and hearing World Vision founder Bob Pierce's touching narration. Heather's all-time favorite became *One to One*, a TV musical with Julie Andrews, the Muppets and the World Vision Korean Children's Choir, punctuated by documentary footage of needy children abroad.

Before long, our young daughter had made a career choice which has stuck to this day. She wants to care for needy children.

Early experiences do shape one's life. Whereas when I was a grade schooler, I had been ignorant of the larger world, Heather by her fourth year had her own world globe and could point out World Vision projects from Mexico City to Bangladesh. But

better than games or a map would be an actual visit to our sponsored child. That we did when Heather was seven.

We never really expected to get to visit Abimael. A look at Heather's globe revealed that Mexico City is hardly just over the border. Los Angeles is no closer to Mexico's capital than is Chicago or Miami. But the Lord opened a way for us to go without the trip's costing two year's sponsorship. My company was awarded a contract to make two motion pictures in Mexico, including a several-day stay in Mexico City. Heather could fly for half fare, joining us the last few days before returning from the filming business. So we contacted World Vision's Mexico office to let them know we would be in the area and to learn whether we could conveniently visit the project that serves Abimael.

Since all the mail for the past five years had come from Mexico City, somehow we had the idea that Abimael lived on the outskirts of the metropolis. The return letter gave us helpful information plus some unexpected news as to the project's location. The field office director wrote:

It would be our privilege to make the arrangements for a visit to Abimael Ramirez. Abimael is a participant in the "Oro, Incienso y Mirra" Project ("Gold, Incense and Myrrh"), located in the small rural community of Calihuala, Oaxaca. This project is located quite a distance from Mexico City. It is an 11 to 12-hour drive over very poor roads. The trip may be made more difficult due to the fact that it is the rainy season and these

(right) Heather and Abimael meet at long last. (below) John Hamilton and daughter Heather meet Abimael and her aunt Adela in Mexico city.



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roads are sometimes impassable. We need to know the exact dates of your plan to visit in order to arrange for a four-wheel drive vehicle.

We were amazed at World Vision's willingness to arrange an excursion to Oaxaca, but we felt we could not take an extra two to three day side trip from Mexico City. We'll have to forget it, we explained. Personnel in the Mexican office suggested, however, that they could bring Abimael down from the hills of Calihuala by bus and she could visit us in Mexico City. And Abimael's aunt Adela would ride up from her humble residence in the *ciudades perdides* ("lost cities") near the Federal District.

Considering the cost of transporting Abimael from another state, making long distance phone calls and other time-and-money expenditures, we felt we should make an extra

he two communicated in the international language of children's play. contribution, which we did.

In all the preparations we learned for the first time that the girl's father had left the family, initially to find work in a larger town, then finding another woman. Abimael's mother was now, by custom, subject to another male of the family - a brother. We learned also that Abimael's grandfather had been converted by a missionary while working temporarily as an immigrant in Texas, and had brought the first Bible back to the village of Calihaula. Abimael's family was solidly Christian on the mother's side. The girl had learned and believed from early on. Abimael and Heather were sisters in Christ!

I'll always remember when the two little girls met. Shy Abimael and boisterous Heather holding hands, playing follow the leader, coloring shapes and patterns together, ordering a hamburger at a restaurant. (Abimael doesn't like green vegetables either!) The two communicated in the international language of children's play.

It was not only Heather's first trip to Mexico City; it was Abimael's as well. The trip was an adventure for both girls. Abimael had never before been to a zoo or gone to a department store to buy a dress. Using a little jar of green soapy water that we bought from a vendor at the zoo, Abimael blew her first soap bubbles.

Back home, we reflect often on the face-to-face visit we never imagined possible. Now we have a happy picture of Abimael to replace the sad-eyed one of five years ago.

Heather dreams of starting an orphanage. Actually, as she explains it, she wants about 1000 people of all ages living and working together. There will be homes for orphans, farming and other work for grownups, a school, hospital and church. Whole families will be there, learning and growing and improving their condition. Without knowing the word, Heather has just described wellrounded Christian development.

Our translator told Abimael and her aunt of Heather's wish that someday she and Abimael will grow up and work together to help others. Moisture clouded Aunt Adela's eyes as she responded, "May God grant this dream."

John R. Hamilton is executive producer of Del Rey Communications, a Chicago-based advertising and media production firm.



For the love of children

NO SILENCE IN THIS CHURCHYARD

by Jacob Akol

Memere (teacher) Haile Mariam finds no difficulty in understanding Ralph Emerson's contention that "there never was a child so lovely but his mother was glad to get him to sleep." For a good reason: the venerable teacher has not the slightest chance of singing "his" hundreds of children to sleep.

Every day, over 300 children, from toddlers to 13-year-olds (nearly all of them sponsored through World Vision), converge in and around the compounds of his "Medhanealen" (Holy World Savior) Church in Akaki, Ethiopia. Monday through Friday the churchyard serves as classrooms; on the weekend as the playground. And whatever the function, it's always noisy.

It was on a Saturday morning that Projects Coordinator Zulamem Tefera and I found Memere Haile Mariam threading his way down a stony path, his well-worn walking stick coming in handy each time an unruly stone obstructed his steps.

On the move, he seems 75 or so. Standing erect, especially when he rests his right hand on the stick and looks you straight in the face with Clergyman Memere Haile Mariam

The Medhanealen Church in Akaki looms large behind the half-finished school at right.



"m 65, I think. You see, I decrease my age annually, in hope of being drafted."

knowing eyes and a smile, he seems much younger. And charming.

"World Vision, ah, yes, World Vision!" he quipped and pointed to a skeleton of a building. Then he wheeled around and pointed to a couple of solid buildings and beamed with a glint in his eyes: "Yes, World Vision!"

With a white shawl wrapped over his trunk and shoulders, and a matching cloth wrapped around his head in the form of a turban, he looked more like an *imam* (Muslim religious leader) than the Ethiopian Orthodox clergyman he turned out to be. Where was he going? "To the market!" He levelled his

stick toward a milling crowd about two miles out in the visible distance. "To the market!" he repeated and added with a rueful smile, "I want to get away from these kids. Kids! Who says kids are great is a fool!"

They were all around us, children

Nine-year-old Henok Getachew relieves the teacher and leads the younger children in learning the alphabet.



of all ages, their smiling faces and shining eyes expectantly glued to the old man's face. Like someone chasing birds from a field, he raised his arms with unexpected agility and attempted to poke the blunt end of his stick into the nearest boy. He failed and they scuttled with wild laughter in different directions. They had gotten what they wanted.

The old man turned to us with the confident smile of a man fully understood. We beamed back at him.

I was brought up in a village like this and I know the scene. The true darling and educator of village children is often the old wise man, the likes of Memere Haile Mariam. I could picture him sitting crosslegged, surrounded by children anxious to catch each word of his unwritten history. I couldn't help admiring him.

"How old are you, sir?" Zulamem translated.

"Well, let me think," said the old man in Amharic. "I'm 65, I think. You see," he added, "I decrease my age annually in the hope of being drafted into the national army. I hope they take me this year. Don't you think it's every man's duty to serve his country?"

I said I'd rather confine myself to questions and he to answers. Would he mind if I took his photograph?

"With pleasure, please yourself!" he said. "But on one condition. You allow me to put on my clerical attire."

I obliged, but not before I got a few photographs of him in his *imam*-like habits.

"Send me some photographs," he shouted as he resumed his interrupted trip to the market. We watched him disappear down the steep hillside, leaving behind a lingering cloud of dust over the meandering footpath.

We had come from a different direction on different roads: first the tarmac from the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa to Akaki village, then the dust road to the church. It was surprisingly difficult to get to the church. Akaki is only 12 miles southwest of Addis Ababa. It is a village (almost a small town) of corrugated iron-roofed, mud-and-brick-walled buildings, clustered around a hill.

On this hill, the dome of Akaki Medhanealen glitters in the morning sun. But as soon as you reach the outskirts of Akaki, both the tarmac and the church disappear. The tarmacked road passes by the village to some distant destinations, while the hill and the buildings on its side obstruct the view of the church. It takes a while to negotiate one's way to the top of the hill where, once more, the church is suddenly and prominently visible.

Just outside the churchyard were a number of buildings to which



Ten-year-old Hailu Gedamu helps instructor Ato Mekesh Beleha prepare yarn for a loom.

the old man had earlier drawn my attention at the mention of World Vision. As I turned to them, I could hear a faint hissing sound as from a distant steam train. It turned out to be a group of women baking *injira* (Ethiopian bread).

"And this," I said, "is a World Vision-supported project! But you can't be teaching Ethiopian women how to bake *injira*!"

"Oh, no," laughed the project manager, Deacon Geremew, "of course not. But we can teach them marketing. We can show them how to benefit by pulling their resources together."

Unmistakable skill-acquiring activity was taking place in the yard just outside the *injira* house. Tenyear-old Hailu Gedamu was one of the children preparing yarn for a loom under the guiding hands of their tutor Ato (Mr.) Mekesh Beleha.

Hailu's brother, eight-year-old Abebe Gedamu, is sponsored by an Australian, Mrs. Julie Heard. But Abebe is just one of the 300 children in Akaki sponsored through World Vision—just as Mrs. Heard is one of many sponsors. When the sponsors' money is pulled together, it is possible to assist productive projects which benefit not only the sponsored children but all the children in the community.

Some children have already gained a skill. Alemu Gemecha, 12, is blind but he has nothing much to worry about as he is already producing marketable mats. He is sponsored by Mr. T. F. Williams.

The importance of skills such as weaving cannot be overstated. In some cases, such skills are the only means by which a family derives

Spinning is often the only source of income for women like these, many with large families to support.



an income. Thirty-two-year-old Zevrenesh Bersha, who is skilled in weaving, is the breadwinner for her family of four children—including seven-year-old Yonas, who is sponsored. Her husband Sebsebe is blind.

Some of the families who depend



Teacher Ato Geteneh Wolde Michael with his students

on the project center have large families to support. Bogalech Ishetea, for example, has ten children. Her eight-year-old son Zelealem is sponsored. She is skilled in spinning.

Dejtunu Feleke has six children. Her nine-year-old son, Henok Getachew, is sponsored. Henok attends a primary school off the church's compound, but when I visited Akaki the next Monday, he was in a class of five-year-olds. I soon discovered why: his class, which is just outside the churchvard, had been divided into two, and he had come to help 56-year-old Ato Geteneh and Ato Wolde Michael manage the two classes. Soon, he was up on his feet. With a stick in his right hand he told the class to recite the letters of the alphabet as he pointed to them on a flip chart.

Under two trees on the other side of the church was an even larger group of children who seemed to be reciting different things all at once. For example, four-year-old Mekdesh Teferra was sitting beside five-yearold Heregewoin Azalech, who sat

Students busy with their lessons in the churchyard



Alemu Gemecha, 12, is blind, but he is able to make marketable carpets.

beside another five-year-old, Bezuayehu Yerko.

Although these three were reading the Amharic alphabet, most of the children around them were older and were studying something different. I soon discovered why. When the afternoon sun gets hot, the children group together in the shade of the few trees in the churchyard.

I looked at the skeleton building outside the churchyard. The roof, supported by wooden poles, was in place. A wall about one foot high ran

dare say Memere Haile Mariam will cherish a few moments of silence in his churchyard.

along one length of the building. The four walls are expected to reach the roof in two months' time and the building to be ready for use later this year. The completed building will have rooms for five classes. It will be the school for the children now sitting in the churchyard.

Understandably, it is only when it rains or gets cold that the children have any desire to be inside a room. Generally, they seem quite happy to recite their prayers, alphabets, the gospel and Psalms under the trees in the churchyard.

But for Ato Wolde Michael, there is no hiding his pleasure. "When it rains," he said, "we squat in the church's veranda. I can't wait to be in a classroom with a roof on it."

And I dare say that even the "65years-young" clergyman Haile Mariam will cherish a few moments of silence in his churchyard. I very well remember the twinkle in his eye when he first drew my attention to the half-finished school building.

Jacob Akol, World Vision International Communications manager for Africa.



Confronted with the reality of suffering

ON MY FIRST VISIT TO ETHIOPIA . . .

by Steve Reynolds

can't forget their faces. And I don't *want* to forget them. Their oversized eyes. The old-man look in the face of a four-year-old child. The despair in the face of a mother who has already lost her three children to starvation. These images I carry with me. Perhaps for the rest of my life, I'll remember my

first trip to a World Vision project area—my first trip to Ethiopia.

It seemed as though Tanshane's eyes reflected all the suffering and human injustice in the world. Tanshane, one year old, has probably never had enough to eat. He lives in the southern Shewa region of Ethiopia. When I arrived he was sitting patiently on his father's lap waiting for a cup of dried skim milk or a handful of wheat from which his father would try to make a meal. It was as if he had given up all hope of ever being happy again.

I wanted to tell little Tanshane about other parts of the world where children laugh and play and eat candy until they get sick. But all I could do was watch him, take his picture, and hope that the supplementary food World Vision provided would be enough until his family could raise crops again.

My assignment seemed straightforward enough. Accompany a World Vision relief survey team into the drought-affected areas of Ethiopia and photograph the situation. But I wasn't prepared for what I was to see. How can anyone prepare for suffering

> An old man too weak to work waits for food in Parsuma.

Please don't forget about us," pled a field worker.

on such a large scale?

Our team arrived in the area on a Monday evening. Russ Kerr represented World Vision's Relief and Rehabilitation Division. There to document the situation along with me was Jacob Akol, World Vision's Africa regional communications director. Ian Curtis, from World Vision Australia, completed the team.

Our first task was to meet with Haile Michael, the local administrator for the Ethiopian Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC). His area of responsibility was the district called Kembata-Hadiya in the southern part of the Shewa region.

Mr. Michael (*Ato* Michael is the Ethiopian way to speak of him) began by welcoming us and thanking World Vision for the food grain which had already been delivered. He also thanked us for the soil and water conservation projects which were being carried out in that region with the help of World Vision funds. But as he began to brief us on the current conditions in his district, his smile faded into a look of grave concern.

"The problem," he said, "is the

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lack of consistent rains." Then he began to quote statistics on the victims of the drought.

The statistics were hard to believe. "Three hundred thousand people affected in this district alone . . . hundreds have already starved to death . . . no decent crop in the last two years."

The staple foods of this area, he said, are maize and "inset." Inset is a type of fruit which is high in calories and low in protein. Local villagers call it "false banana" because of the plant's resemblance to a banana tree.

He went on to explain that there are two rainy seasons in Ethiopia. One, beginning in February, lasts for about two months. The second starts in May or June and lasts until September. "In normal years the people are barely able to gather enough food to get them through to



Waiting for food and medical care at the Bombe clinic and feeding center







(top) Mothers wait patiently for grain. (above) Little Tanshane, whose "eyes reflected all the suffering in the world." (left) Russ Kerr holds a child whose front bears scars left by her parents touching her skin with a hot needle. They believe this practice will thwart the evil of disease caused by malnutrition.

the next harvest," said Michael. "But when the rains fail, even for a short time, they go hungry; it's as simple as that."

The next day, as we drove to the first of five feeding centers we were to visit, I was amazed by how green and lush the Ethiopian countryside looked. There can't possibly be famine in a place like this, I thought.

Well, looks can be deceiving. I soon found out for myself *how* deceiving. An hour and a half of driving brought us to the village of

(right) Author Reynolds (left, in photo) and Russ Kerr review the site of their Ethiopia tour (circled area). (below) Sister Collete of the Catholic Mission, now supervising the feeding of more than 600 severely malnourished children, swears she has never seen anything like this drought and resulting famine in her 25 years in and around the village of Bombe.





Parsuma in the area called Omo Sheleke. Here I caught my first glimpse of real hunger.

Two RRC feeding centers stood within five miles of each other. At each feeding center were about 300 people, mostly women and children. As I walked among them I saw family after family sitting in the glaring sun. Some mothers had walked for hours carrying children too weak to walk themselves. Most of the children were extremely emaciated, not much more than skeletons covered with skin. Their stomachs protruded grotesquely, signaling severe protein deficiency and worm infestation. Some of the children had skin infections that made them look like burn victims.

The sight, of course, was powerful. Drought saps endurance from hundreds like this man in Parsuma.



"I was very impressed with this man's great sense of dignity and self-respect," author Reynolds remarked of this Ethiopian farmer in the southern Shewa



But the sound and the smell made it almost overwhelming.

My mind drifted back. I couldn't help thinking that all this looked very familiar to me. I remembered myself as a college student staying up late one night in my dorm watching a World Vision television special. There on the screen were these same emaciated bodies, these same skeleton-like limbs, these same distorted bellies, the same fly-infested faces.

"Great," I said to myself then, "Another famine in Africa. Just what we need on television." I turned off the TV in disgust and went to bed. Suddenly I was aware again of the

Couldn't help thinking that all this looked familiar to me.

scene around me. I couldn't turn this off and go to bed. I couldn't turn around and pretend it wasn't there. These children were now as real as my own niece or nephew.

The trip did not end there, though I wished later that it had. We continued over the pothole-covered road from town to town, from OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 1984 / WORLD VISION **15** feeding center to feeding center, all of them critically under-staffed. Each center contained the same chronic problems: diarrhea, pneumonia, eye infections, worms, anemia, skin infection. In village after village the effects of malnutrition showed themselves in the lives least capable of fighting them.

Like a lion hunting its prey, malnutrition seeks out the weakest and most vulnerable of the group. In this case it was the children who were the most vulnerable. The younger the child, the more serious were the effects of malnutrition. Again and again I saw the frightened look in a parent's eyes. Mothers, fathers, grandparents were frightened not for their own lives but for the life of a child.

We continued on, leaving behind what we could: a smile, a word of encouragement, and a promise to help... somehow. As we left, one of the RRC field workers, probably a volunteer, stopped Russ and said in his best English, "Please don't forget about us." Russ responded with a deep sincerity that we all shared, "We won't, my friend, we won't."

We spent the night in the town of Soddo in the area of Wolayita. There we met with the deputy director of the RRC in the Gamo Gofa region. He introduced himself simply as Ato Bishop. He had the tired look of an overburdened worker who had seen too much suffering. It was the same look that we had seen before in most of those who were close to the situation.

Ato Bishop was well prepared for our arrival. He had stayed up late the night before preparing for our brief-

A metal drum serves as a kettle for these workers preparing food for the seriously malnourished at Chakishone.



ing. "Wolayita," he said, "comprises only three percent of the area of the Sidamo region, yet it contains 30 percent of the population." He explained that with more than one million people occupying 2343 square miles, Wolayita is the most densely populated area in Ethiopia.

Another outpouring of statistics followed. In all, about 400,000 people, mostly farmers, were severely affected by the drought. He showed us a map and broke the numbers down into groups and subgroups. "Two hundred fifty thousand up here, 150,000 down there, 100,000 over here." The numbers were staggering and almost totally void of meaning. But I knew that before the day was over, the numbers would have their meaning indelibly printed in my mind.

Again that day we saw hunger's victims—the young, the old, men, women, but mostly children. We visited three centers of which the worst was Chakashone in Northern Sidamo region,

Most of the crowds had left Chakashone when we arrived. Sister

> Lines of concern crease the face of this man as he awaits food at a distribution center in Girara.



Good food and returning health have helped brighten the faces of these boys in Woyalita.

Margaret, a Catholic nun working there with a German relief organization, greeted us with a big Ethiopian smile. "This afternoon, nearly 500 people were here waiting for food," she told us. Then she showed us the shelter where nearly 150 families were living. "These are the worst cases," she explained, "the ones who are too weak to go back home."

I walked through the mass of people, mostly women and babies, trying my best to smile, bowing respectfully to those whose eyes met mine. They bowed in return, respectfully, also trying their best to smile.

As I was about to leave, I noticed a mother sitting near the door with her infant girl. The baby was healthy, or relatively so compared with those around us. I put my finger in her hand and she squeezed it. "A strong grip for such a little one," I said in English, knowing she didn't understand. Then the little girl smiled. It was the biggest smile I'd seen in two days. It seemed to be the biggest smile in Ethiopia. I smiled back at her, and for the first time since I had come to her country I felt a

sense of

hope. Even here in this relief shelter, I thought, there is hope.

As we drove away, I prayed silently for the little girl with the big smile. I prayed for myself, too. I prayed that I would never lose that feeling of unity I shared with those people the sense of compassion which compels one to act. And finally I prayed that the little girl with the big smile would never lose the look of hope in her eyes.

Hope for a future with enough food. \Box

To help supply food to hungry Africans before it is too late, please use the return envelope supplied with this magazine. Thank you!

Steve Reynolds is media producer for World Vision International Communications.



Finding water after a four-hour walk brings a smile to this girl's face.

A DREAM COMES TRUE FOR KAESARIN NGARMKAM

by Chulin Toktaeng

A lifelong dream for 24-yearold Kaesarin Ngarmkam came true last June when she graduated from the Bangkok Institute of Theology. Kaesarin was one of ten students to graduate that night at the packed Sathorn Church. She knew that her former sponsor would have been pleased to watch her graduate and become an assistant pastor.

As she grew up in Mae-Sai, Chiang Rai, northern Thailand, Kaesarin was nurtured in her faith by her Christian mother. Her father, Pratom, was not a Christian, but he never objected to

thank God, for I am absolutely sure of His calling."

his children learning about the Lord. Kaesarin attended Sunday school each week with her brothers and sisters. She memorized Scripture verses at a young age and enjoyed singing and other activities with her Sunday school friends. She hoped to become a Sunday school teacher someday.

In 1974, Pastor Boonta Chareonpanya of the Nateetham Church enrolled Kaesarin and her brother Chongrak in the sponsorship program. Because of the generosity of her sponsor (Mrs. Edith Cowless of the U.S.), Kaesarin was able to remain in the sponsorship program after secondary school and continue on to college.

At the age of 18, Kaesarin realized that her life was not completely focused on God, even though she was reared by a Christian mother, went to church regularly, taught Sunday school and knew all the Bible stories. So she asked the Lord to change her life and was baptized. The next year she felt called to enter Christian service. While she trained at the Bangkok Institute of Theology, she served in several churches, including the Yellow Bridge Church and the Lutheran Church.

"Nothing could please Mrs. Cowless more than to see Kaesarin grown up and doing well in carrying out her dream of being a teacher and an evangelist," said a project worker. Kaesarin and her sponsor wrote regularly until Mrs. Cowless' health began to fail. Kaesarin continued to write, and saved all of the postcards her sponsor sent her. Kaesarin said she is especially grateful for the support of her sponsor because Mrs. Cowless has five children and 22 grandchildren of her own. Kaesarin hopes to become a pastor one day. For the present, she is busy as the assistant pastor of Rat Buri Church, where she preaches twice a month, oversees the Sunday school classes, leads the women's groups and teaches Christian education classes three times a week. She also helps teach a class at the World Vision-assisted Good Neighbor Project in Rat Buri province. Like Kaesarin herself a few years ago, 300 of the children in this project have World Vision sponsors.

Kaesarin is full of the joy of the Lord and is proud of serving Him. "I thank God, for I am absolutely sure of His calling." she said. "I am happy for every moment when I look back and see God's plan for my life. And I am thankful for the grace He has prepared for me through World Vision and my sponsor."

Chulin Toktaeng is associate director of evangelism and Christian leadership for World Vision of Thailand.

Kaesarin's parents share in their daughter's proud moment.



A second chance for this drought-stricken family

CORN AND BEANS: INGREDIENTS OF HOPE

by Steve Woodworth



eresa knew it would be a long day, and she knew she might come back with nothing. But she had to go even if the hope of getting food was small.

Teresa lives in a small village in the Kitui district of southeastern Kenya. For the last two seasons, rain simply has not fallen in her area. Crops have failed—people and livestock must walk miles for water. Many animals have died; the surviving animals are weak and emaciated.

Since her husband had left months earlier to look for employment, Teresa had grown desperate. She felt there was no hope left for her children, who had already become weaker and weaker.

But this day Teresa heard that food was being distributed in the village

(left) Teresa watches gratefully as corn is poured into her bag. (below) With fivemonth-old Makau nestied contentedly in her lap, Teresa patiently waits for food with other residents of her small village.





On her way to receive beans in the distribution shed

of Zombe, about three miles from her home.

She set out in the early morning to walk the three hot, dusty miles. In spite of her weakness brought on by prolonged hunger, she carried her five-month-old child, Makau. The other four children stayed home hoping their mother would return with food.

By the time Teresa arrived at the village, hundreds of men and women

know it's because of God's love that you do this."

had gathered. She took her place with the others, finding shade under a tree. It was very hot, and everyone was obviously weak and tired.

Meanwhile, the World Vision workers and local church leaders were facing an agonizing choice. Twice as many people had come as expected. There was too little food to give each family the intended amount. Should they tell some of the people to wait until next week, when more food would be available? Or should they give everyone only half as much food?

Because food would be distributed the following week in other areas, they made the difficult decision to send home empty-handed any of the people who had come from areas which would be reached the next week.

Remarkably, no one grumbled. Teresa and the others sat patiently, seeming to hope that some food would be left over after all. Even so, there were so many people from the immediate area that the food rations for each family had to be cut substantially.

While Teresa sat watching others emerge from the shelter with bags of corn and beans, she thought of the long walk back in the heat of the day. She thought of the children and what she would tell them.

Just then, three project workers approached her. They wanted to talk to her about her situation. After they



Soon Makau's siblings will enjoy dinner, too.

learned of her children, they decided she would get food! Teresa's surprise and joy were immeasurable. There would be a good meal tonight for her and the five children! And for at least the next few days, they would eat.

As Teresa got in line to receive her beans and corn, she said that she thought World Vision and the church were doing a tremendous thing in giving food. "Without World Vision food, we would have no hope," she said. "I know it is because of God's love that you do this."

The Zombe Drought Relief Project began in January of this year to help 1500 starving families. In partnership with the African Inland Church and the Presbyterian Church of East Africa, World Vision of Kenya is attempting to assist those most in need. □

Steve Woodworth is World Vision's manager of television and pledge programs.

Hoisting her bag filled with beans, Teresa knows her children will soon be fed.



People you're belping

Learning to read at 59

When she registered at World Vision's Adult Literacy Class in Haiti last year, Mme. Hortensia Sertil began fulfilling one of her lifelong dreams. She is learning to read. Orphaned at age ten, she lived in poverty and did not learn to read and write. As she became an adult she vowed to do whatever work she could to make sure her children attended school. Now she radiates motherly pride as she tells people that all her children can read.

Today, thanks to support from World Vision donors, the innovative Adult Literacy Class is providing new educational opportunities for people like Mme. Sertil who use the program while their children are looked after in day care facilities. Mme. Sertil belongs to a women's co-op at her local church, where she helps other women sell their handcrafts and passes on her new reading skills.

Starting with a bridge

Change is finally coming to the village of Lapaera in western Honduras. This isolated community has one grammar school (450 students), one evangelical church and 70 bars. The village suffers from high unemployment, malnutrition, alcoholism and the problems of unwed mothers. Needs include new sources of income, proper sewage disposal methods, improved housing, adult literacy, small bridges, better health care and nutrition.

When villagers learned that help was available, they requested it immediately. In partnership with the local church, World Vision donors are reaching out to assist the 3000 residents. Building a bridge to gain access to other communities is one of the first projects. Also starting are sewing classes and home improvement work on houses belonging to 15 of the poorest families.

Mme. Sertil practices her writing at the Adult Literacy Class.



Relief in Ethiopia

Fifty people were dying *each day* in a settlement of 200,000 famine victims near the town of Korem in Ethiopia's Welo region. That was the situation until last June. Since then, the daily death count has dropped to ten, thanks to the presence of medical personnel from two European voluntary agencies and food provided by the Ethiopian Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC).

In several drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia, World Vision is teaming up with the RRC as part of the African Drought Project. In the community of Latsa, some 20,000 drought victims are receiving medical attention and clothing. Five hundred children there are benefiting from an intensive therapeutic feeding program.

Farmers make progress together

The people of Gehandu in Tanzania have made great progress with the help provided by World Vision donors. Even though the drought has dried up a river that ran through the village, agricultural production has increased. Quality seeds along with insect powder they have received enable them to grow maize and beans. The powder is not harmful to human beings or to the soil.

As part of the program, a cooperative of 70 acres is owned by 510 families. The men work there three days each week, spending the rest of their time on three acres of privately owned land. Agricultural aid includes the planting of 1800 trees per year for five years, helping the villagers start to grow bananas, onions and vegetables, and providing them with more pigs and chickens.

Co-laboring

"Co-labor" describes the way men and women built a water system in Palugsha, Ecuador. It also describes the partnership between World Vision (which supplied needed materials and contributed to a revolving fund), the Indian Evangelical Association (which



Community members in Palugsha install pipe to bring well-water to homes. The women dig, and the men carry and install the pipes.

created cooperatives), and the Quichuas (who provided the labor).

"Co-labor" also describes the combined efforts of trained agricultural technicians and the people who are adapting the technology to their needs. The water system—along with improved food production, nutrition, sanitation and housing—is one of the impressive successes resulting from co-laboring and from learning new technology. Many homes in Palugsha benefit from this new water system.

Healing medicines and messages

A rehabilitation program in Sri Lanka recently played a major role in revitalizing several communities. World Vision donors helped finance the training of groups of 15 to 20 young people in basic health care through the Hospital Christian Fellowship. The young people also learned how to communicate the gospel to Buddhists and Hindus.

Carrying medicines, the volunteers went into the community to treat people where they live. In Badulla, two men and 13 women in the Assemblies of God church began the program. In less than six months 39 converts were baptized, and the previously antagonistic Buddhist public began commending the work of the church. The number of volunteers increased from 15 to 29. Even the local newspapers praised the program.

Mini-message

DO YOU KNOW THE SAVIOR?

Not everyone who supports World Vision is certain about his or her relationship with God. Some hunger for such assurance but don't know how to approach God or the Savior He has sent.

For these, each issue of this magazine carries a brief instructive word from the Bible, along with an offer of further help for any who are seeking the Savior.

This month's word is a statement made by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself:

"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep" (John 10:14, 15 NIV). Coming to God, Jesus taught, involves recognizing one's sinnership and claiming forgiveness and rebirth through His dying for us and His rising again.

If you are among those who long for a deep knowledge of the Savior Jesus Christ, we urge you to read, with open heart and open mind, the entire Gospel of John, and also to talk with a pastor or some other understanding Christian about your spiritual need.

We invite you also to write to WORLD VISION magazine, 919 W. Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016, for a free copy of the helpful little booklet called *Becoming a Christian*.

Please pray .

□ **for crop-nourishing rains** in the still dry farmlands of Ethiopia, Senegal and 24 other African nations that have experienced prolonged drought.

□ **for the African children** suffering malnourishment (and in many instances starvation) because of the famine caused in part by the drought.

□ **for parents desperate** to feed their families but who are prevented from doing so both by the food shortage and their own weakness from hunger.

□ for the assistance efforts of World Vision and other agencies motivated by Christ to do all they can to enable the famine victims to eat and to become able to care for their own future food needs. Career opportunities

Is God calling you to work where your efforts will be directly related to saving lives and spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ? Consider joining the more than 500 employees in the Pasadena area who are helping to support World Vision's international ministries. Full-time salaried positions with good benefits are open in the following categories:

Administrative Data processing Finance Public relations Telemarketing Travel counsel

For information please send your resume and a brief statement of your faith to the World Vision U.S. Employment Office, 919 W. Huntington Drive, Monrovia CA 91016.

Samaritan sampler

SOME WAYS PEOPLE ARE HELPING OTHERS IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

"Let Ethnic America Hear

His Voice" is the theme set for a national convocation, April 15-18, 1985, to deal with evangelism among American Indians, Asians, Europeans, Hispanics, Middle Easterners, Caribbean Islanders and other ethnic groups living in the United States. The convocation will be called "Houston '85." For a free newsletter on the event and its purpose, phone Ken Moy at (818) 357-7979, or write him at P.O. Box 3137, Arcadia, CA 91006.

IIS, the Institute for International Studies, is helping students better understand world missions through an introductory course called "Perspectives on the World Christian Movement." Dedicated to motivating personal involvement, the course is offered for both graduate and undergraduate level credit. For more information contact IIS. U.S. Center for World Mission, 1605 Elizabeth St., Pasadena, CA 91104.

Go-Match, a service of the **Overseas** Counseling Service (OCS), helps Christians interested in becoming fulltime lay missionaries find secular jobs overseas. The service provides personalized printouts of opportunities, detailed job descriptions, information on the countries, terms of commitment, salary ranges and specific job requirements. For more information contact Tentmaker Ministries, 1600 Elizabeth St., Pasadena, CA 91104.

Best Christian film of the year, according to CFDA (Christian Film Distributors Assn.) award judges, is John Wycliffe: The Morning Star



Translator Wycliffe as played by Peter Howell in the Gateway film, Jobn Wycliffe: The Morning Star."

(by Gateway Films). The year's best missionary film, said the judges, is John Schmidt/Gospel Films' The Greatest Story Never Told. For information on renting these and other Christian films from distributors in your area, write CFDA, P.O. Box 10404, Phoenix, AZ 85064 or phone (602) 955-8910.

Medical care accessibility

in the Two-Thirds World was the special concern of some 400 people who attended the tenth triennial International Convention on Missionary Medicine, at MAP International this summer. Participants aim to increase health care substantially in numerous poverty areas of the world before the 1987 convention. For information write MAP International, P.O Box 50, Wheaton, IL 60189.

Christian colleges across America are identified in a free brochure describing the distinctives of a Christian liberal arts education on a campus which stresses Christ as the center of all life and learning. For a copy, write the Christian College Coalition, an association of approximately 70 member colleges, each regionally accredited and each committed to making the Christian faith relevant to academics and campus life. The Coalition's address is 1776 Massachusetts Avenue N.W., Washington, DC 20036. Ask for the brochure, "Have You Considered a Christian College?".

Bible school in Mozambique! A group of

Mozambique churches has invited the Africa Inland Mission to help them reach some of the four million people in the northern part of that country. A first step toward this goal will be the opening of an evening Bible school in the city of Beira. The recent granting of freedom to conduct such a school is an apparent recognition by the Marxist government that religious freedom contributes to the well-being of the country. Approximately 30 percent of the 12.6 million population are professing Christians; 10 percent are Muslim.

The International Bible

Society published six new Scripture translations in 1983. including five languages in Guatemala and one in the Philippines. In language groups that already had transthe Bible Society made 13 more Scripture portions available for the first time, and published the first New Testament for four additional language groups. For more information write the International Bible Society, 144 Tices Lane, East Brunswick, NJ 08816.

Health and Development

is a stimulating and informative newsletter on effective ministries with the poor in rural and other parts of the United States. You can receive it for the suggested voluntary contribution of \$5 or more to **Christian Community Health** Fellowship (affiliated with Voice of Calvary Ministries), Box 28, New Hebron, MS 39140.

"Waiting on the Outside,"

a Bridgework Theater drama that presents the burdens and struggles of prisoners' families. is now available on videotape. Based on the true story of a woman whose husband was imprisoned, it helps prisoners and their families work through their problems. The videotape may be rented in 1/2" or 3/4" VHS format for \$50 a week or purchased for \$200. To order, contact Bridgework Theater, 1131/2 E. Lincoln, Goshen, IN 46526, or call (219) 534-1085.

Campus Crusade for Christ

is proceeding with plans for its 1985 Worldwide Student Congress, which is designed to motivate and train students to reach the world for Christ. Some 100,000 students around the world will participate in evangelism and discipleship training using a massive satellite video hook-up. Further details are available lations of portions of the Bible, from Campus Crusade, Arrowhead Springs, San Bernardino, CA 92414.

Jesus Then and Now, a new 12-part film series produced

by Gateway Films, presents the person and gospel of Christ and His clear calling to discipleship. Through a variety of approaches (including drama, documentary, humor and interpretive dance), each 30-minute film also addresses modern issues in a direct and uncompromising way. A book edition and workbook are available for in-depth study. Rent either 16 mm or video cassette films for \$36 each from Gateway Films, Box 540, Worcester, PA 19490.

In partnership with you

PHILIPPIANS 1:5

YOU CAN BE AN INTERNATIONAL INTERCESSOR

he greatest thing anyone can do for God and for man is *to pray*." So wrote the beloved Bible expositor S.D. Gordon, who added: "You can do more than pray *after* you have prayed, but you cannot do more than pray *until* you have prayed."

In January 1972, World Vision staff member Frank Ineson started for us what he then called "Global Prayer Associates." The name was later changed to "International Intercessors." This is a group of dedicated Christians whose prayer is united around concerns presented in our monthly newsletter titled "International Intercessors."

This prayer letter carries a profile of three different countries each month, indicating the particular needs in each country. Our intercessor partners are given seven prayer requests for each country, along with a variety of other requests, totaling one prayer burden for each day of the month. Additionally, each letter contains an inspirational article to stimulate prayer. Armin Gesswein, who contributed greatly to the Norwegian spiritual revival of the 1930s and has been a revival prayer leader ever since, writes many of the articles. Sometimes copy is gleaned from one of the great prayer leaders of the past.

It occurred to me that many who read this magazine may not know they can be a part of this body of special intercessors. All you need to do is write International Intercessors at World Vision and ask to be enrolled. You will receive the prayer material free of charge each month. There are now nearly 17,000 prayer partners enrolled, but there is need for thousands more. International Intercessors Director Norval Hadley and his staff handle up to 1800 requests for back articles each year. Partly as a result of this ministry, thousands of prayer requests come to World Vision each year and are dealt with in one of our daily morning devotional groups.

In introducing International Intercessors in the March 1972 issue of this magazine, former World Vision

Seventeen thousand Christians are united in this powerful ministry.

International President Stan Mooneyham wrote, "Two factors indicate to me that it is especially timely to launch this ministry: (1) We are seeing an increase in the number of people affected by disasters. These days could be the times prophesied by our Lord in the Olivet Discourse. (2) I also sense that the prayer life of many Christians is at a low ebb and in need of encouragement and challenge." These two factors still pertain. I cannot think of another time, at least in my ministry, with more turmoil and suffering in the world-due to both natural and human-caused disasters.

A recent prayer survey indicates that the average layperson spends four minutes a day in prayer; the average pastor spends seven minutes. Only one percent of husbands and wives have any meaningful prayer together. Yet, as Leonard Ravenhill writes, "Prayer is as vast as God because He is behind it. Prayer is as mighty as God because He has committed Himself to answer it."

Let me give you just one illustration of the power of prayer in the

experience of International Intercessors. In the July 1979 prayer letter we issued a special praver alert for Southeast Asia's "boat people." Soon afterwards there was a conference on refugees in Geneva, Switzerland, and the eyes of the world began to focus more keenly on the plight of those desperate people. Then President Carter dispatched some U.S. Navy ships to help rescue the boat people. Neighboring nations quit towing them back out to sea. Airlifts began to bring larger numbers of them for processing into a new life in the United States. Land was made available where refugees could go while waiting to be received by friendly nations. And World Vision's ship Seasweep was able to provide life support for many while they waited. This, we believe, was in direct answer to the prayers of God's people, many of whom were encouraged to pray through our International Intercessors.

Since so much is accomplished for God by prayer, and so little without it, wouldn't you like to be an International Intercessor?

N. aystim

Ted W. Engstrom President



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This label is to be used on the enclosed envelope.

Say Merry Christmas to a Friend ...when you send your love to a hungry world.

Christmas isn't joyful for everyone.

Thousands and thousands will be starving this Christmas. Hungry children shivering in the cold. Whole families stricken with disease. Forgotten. Lonely. Helpless.

You see, there's a great gap between the love we share with our families and friends at home and the love we could share with a hungry world.

This Christmas, Dino, one of Christian music's outstanding artists, is helping World Vision bridge that gap. He has donated his time and talent to record an inspirational album with the London National Orchestra called *Great Is the Lord*.

For every \$20 donation you send to help care for hungry people through World Vision, you will receive a copy of *Great Is the Lord* to give to a friend as a special Christmas gift from you. You will also receive a card for your friend explaining how the album gift has helped share the spirit of Christmas with a hungry world.

Among the stirring favorites included in the album are "How Majestic Is Thy Name," "Holy, Holy, Holy," "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring/Fairest Lord Jesus," "How Great Thou Art" — all arranged by Ralph Carmichael.

This Christmas, let Dino and World Vision help you share Christ's love with a hungry world. To give *Great Is the Lord* to a friend, just fill in the attached coupon and mail it today with your contribution to World Vision.



YES...I want to help fight world hunger this Christmas...and give my friend(s) a copy of *Great Is the Lord*.

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____. (One album or cassette for each \$20.)

Please send me:	12113	Record(s) _	100-11-12-13	Cassette(s)
	Qty.	Z71E20/Q	Qty.	Z71E20/7

Allow 6-8 weeks for delivery. Must be received by December 1 to assure Christmas delivery.

Name_

Address_

City/State/Zip___

Mail today to: WORLD VISION, Box O, Pasadena, CA 91109