

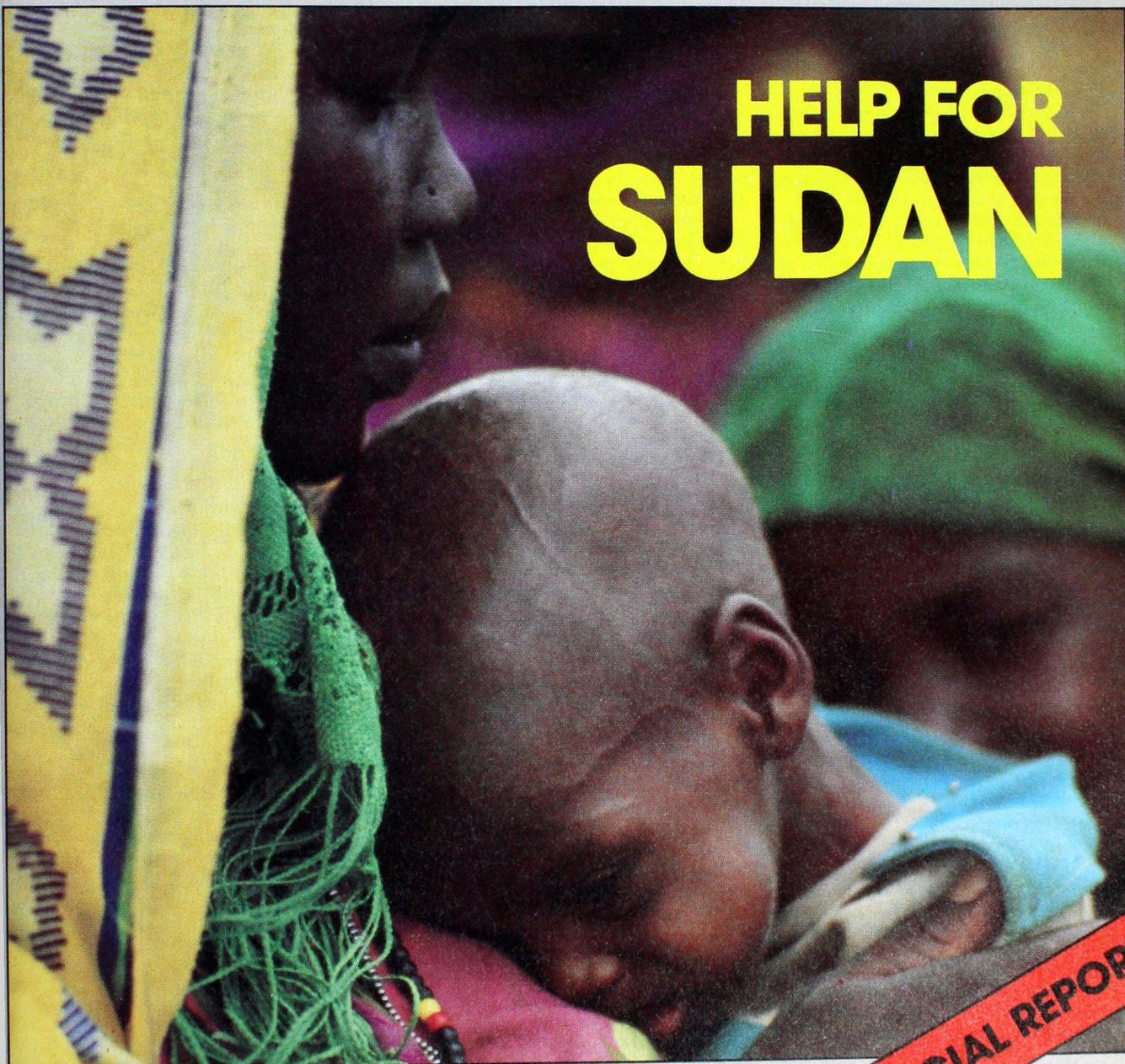
Facing Sudan's  
food crisis

Latin America's  
maxi-cities

You can sew  
for Ethiopians

October-November 1985

# World Vision®



**HELP FOR  
SUDAN**

**SPECIAL REPORT**

# Readers write

## He knew hunger himself

As a Cambodian refugee now resettled in USA, I bear witness to the work of God carried out through World Vision. Now that my body doesn't look like a skeleton and my stomach does not growl anymore, I know what I give now will be in the stomachs of the needy.

Thanks, God! Thanks to everybody who gives.

*Hong Ly Khuy  
Honolulu, HI*

## Giving in hope

My husband and I have a daughter seven months old. When we saw your program on television a few months ago, it was the children and the parents of those children that especially touched our hearts.

We imagined how we would feel watching our own child die of starvation or some terrible disease. We saw children suffering in their so-short lives, who had never had the chance to enjoy life in even the most simple way—for how can they when they are constantly hungry?

What must it be like to hold in your arms a child that is screaming in pain and hunger—or whimpering softly, too weak to cry out?

I know our contribution is not much, but it's what we can give and is given with much love in our hearts. And hope! We pray that we can stop just one child from dying, that we can save one family from that pain, that we can bring joy to just one child's eyes and heart. If we can do that, then perhaps at least one child will live and grow with God's love and peace and joy.

*Mrs. David Schafer  
Rockford, IL*

## True peace and freedom

Thank you for the Mini-message, "Do You Know the Peace Giver?" This morning when I read it I was so encouraged and set free. Our family prays together every night for those starving in Ethiopia and other parts of Africa. We need to pray not only for these people's physical needs but also for God's peace in their hearts, a peace that truly passes all understanding.

*Hope Gilmore  
Blue Springs, MO*

## Self-help commended

I appreciated the last issue because of your telling us in detail of your efforts to

aid needy people to help themselves as well as just being helped, and of trying to get folks back to their home places. I also trust you do give out the saving gospel wherever you can.

*Pastor C.A. White  
New Richmond, OH*

## Development most important

The article, "Ethiopia's Long Walk . . ." stated: "It is not so much a lack of water that is devastating Ethiopia, as a lack of access to water." Development activities should be the most important type of effort to engage in and publicize.

*Barbara Susan Ash  
St. Petersburg, FL*

## "And I complain?"

Thank you for your informative and touching June-July magazine. My heart aches for these people. The articles by Thea Chitambar, "What I Learned from an Ethiopian Boy," and "An Ethiopian Widow's Mite," were especially moving. And I complain about not having enough at times? Outrageous!

*Ann Wolf  
Fair Oaks, CA*

## Lest we forget

I hope and pray that people everywhere who are aware (And who is not?) of the suffering and tragedy of countless others in this world, and who have responded with their hearts, will not let time or the lack of future media reminders diminish their commitment to help.

*Margie Sanford  
Boston, MA*

## Help at home first?

In a discussion with two relatives, the subject of helping those overseas came up. Both said they thought we should help the poor of our country first and then others. I would like them to read the wonderful articles on Ethiopia in your June-July issue. Could you send them each a copy?

We contribute regularly to World Vision as well as sponsoring a child. If only all of us in our country could realize what is going on in the world through *your* eyes, so much more could be done.

*Mrs. Haydon Spidell  
Sutter Creek, CA*

*World Vision is also mindful of the needs of people here at home. Through our U.S. Ministries division, working in partnership with churches and other agencies, we meet a broad range of needs in holistic minis-*

*tries to ethnic minorities, refugees and other needy people.*

## Sorrow becomes joy

I became aware of the Ethiopian crisis by accident one night. Drowning in my personal sorrow, I flipped through the channels in search of diversion. I couldn't find a comedy program that could make me laugh; rather, I found myself watching World Vision's plea for help for desperately needy people.

Now my tears were for others. When I picked up the phone to become a contributor, I felt a burst of inner happiness and knew that what I sent would reach and help people in Ethiopia.

*C. Perez  
Haverhill, MA*

## Excuses

There are many excuses for not helping the needy. One is: "How do I know if the money I send is going to help the needy?"

There *are* people in the world who swindle others by various means. However, with faith in God through Jesus Christ, we can be directed to organizations such as yours and know that the money we send is helping.

*Marvin B. Jones  
Huntsville, AL*

## Not just to Ethiopians

I understand Ted Engstrom's concern in his article "When the TV Image Flickers Away." I want World Vision to know that my commitment is not just to those Ethiopians in need but to the world in need. My commitment to help feed and clothe the hungry only ends when there are no more hungry to be fed and no more naked to be clothed.

*Clarinda White  
Beaverton, OR*

## Sewing to share

I've just finished the June-July magazine and read it from cover to cover. How well off we all are in comparison to those destitute people in Ethiopia.

I pray every day for them and contribute each month to your work. I'm 78 years old and still pretty active. I do custom sewing, so I can still help those in need.

*Jane Youngblood  
Ennis, TX*

# World Vision®



## 4 Fighting flood and famine in Sudan

Rains bring harvest hopes for fall—but frustration now.

## 12 Population—problems and opportunities

A look at evangelism in three crowded Latin American cities

## 18 Project Mercy

Ethiopia's first woman senator shares her project of hope.



### Also

- 2 Readers write
- 9 These are your hands
- 10 Fighting measles in Uxpanapa
- 17 Eat the bread of life
- 17 Please pray
- 21 Samaritan sampler
- 22 The plastic security blanket
- 23 Two-thirds of the world

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## ON THIS DISASTER-PRONE PLANET

On one side of the globe a pair of earthquakes shatter the lives of thousands in the world's largest city. On the opposite side a prolonged famine saps the lives of thousands in widespread countryside. Meanwhile, warfare traumatizes thousands in other nations east and west, north and south.

How can a few million Christians bring the healing touch of Jesus Christ to so many suffering people in such diverse places? The answer is that God, who keeps His eyes on everyone everywhere, calls certain of His people to be His hands in certain places, and He calls many others of us to equip and support them in their mercy work.

At His behest a contingent is at

work for Him in Mexico City; another in Ethiopia; another in Sudan; yet others in Lebanon, El Salvador and other disaster areas. And the more faithfully we—His fingers—make ourselves and our means wholly available to Him, the sooner all the peoples on this whole disaster-prone planet will be able to feel His touch and hear His voice calling them to take eternal refuge at His side. *David Olson*

PHOTOS: Cover, pp. 4, 5, 6 (left), 7, 8: Jacob Akol; p. 6 (right): Pat Fisher; p. 9: Bill Gary; pp. 10, 11: Armando Vazquez; pp. 12, 13 (above), 14, 15, 16: Latin America Mission; p. 13 (below): Richard Chigne; pp. 18, 20 (right): Deborah Greenburg; p. 19: Doug Kelly; p. 20 (left): Project Mercy; p. 21: Alternatives; p. 22: David Ward.

In Africa's largest nation

# FIGHTING FLOOD AND FAMINE IN SUDAN

**R**ains are falling in Sudan and a harvest is being reaped—but the scythe is being swung by the angel of death, and the harvest is grim. Malnutrition has been rampant for many months and an estimated 150,000 people, mostly children, have perished of starvation since January. Most relief workers agree that the toll will climb significantly higher by the end of the year.

National surveys show unprecedented malnutrition, and aid experts estimate that the death toll among children has increased by at least 20,000 a month. Bradford Morse, director of the United Nations Office of Emergency Operations for Africa, says, "Hundreds of thousands of lives are at stake in Sudan." In a plea for assistance to government and relief organizations throughout the world, Morse said, "Health conditions in all regions of Sudan are extremely serious and deteriorating rapidly."

Severe flooding occurring in the southern half of Sudan is a consequence of heavy rainfall that began early in July. Now, with more than two months of rainfall, many mud-brick villages in the country's agricultural central region—between the White and Blue Nile Rivers—lie under several feet of water. Encampments of thousands of famine-stricken migrants from western Sudan and refugees from the neighboring western country of Chad, who have come to the irrigated central

**M**any of the central region's 7500 villages lie under a foot or two of water.

region hoping to find food, also have been hard hit by the summer rains.

Makeshift shelters of reed matting, cloth and plastic sheeting thrown up by camp dwellers prove insufficient to protect them from the downpours. The camp areas have turned several times into seas of mud. One camp near the town of Wad Medani, 120 miles south of Sudan's capital of Khartoum, was isolated from motor vehicles for a week. During that period, while the camp continued to grow toward its present population of 7000, trucks delivered relief shipments of grain to the edge of the impassable area and men from the camp carried the sacks on their backs over the remaining hour's distance.

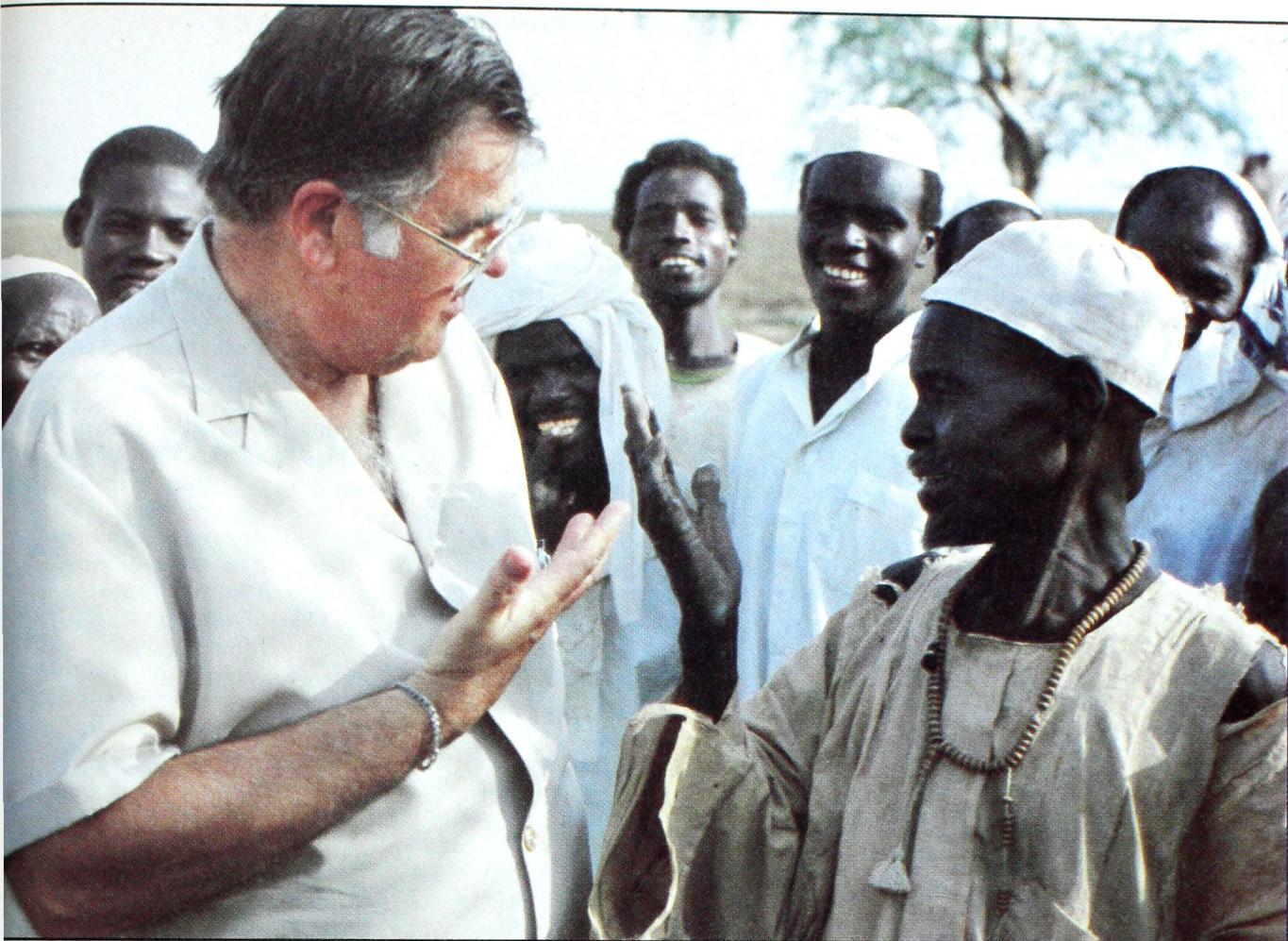
**Thanks to massive aid** from world governments and 49 voluntary relief agencies, catastrophic nationwide starvation has been averted. Yet some 8.4 million people out of a total population of 22 million in the continent's largest country will continue to depend almost wholly upon international food assistance at least until mid-November.

Seared by widespread African drought that has lasted from three to ten years



in various parts of Sudan, farmers and nomadic pastoralists in the largely agricultural country have been stricken by total crop failure and annihilation of livestock herds. The response of many destitute families over the past year and more was to abandon traditional homelands and villages and go wandering through the barren countryside in search of work and food.

Neither was available anywhere, and camps ranging in size from dozens to many thousands of displaced people spontaneously sprang up along the Nile River and on the outskirts of mud-brick towns and the city of Khartoum.



(far left) Recently arrived Chadian refugees at the Movy nutrition center (above) A Chadian elder at Movy thanks Ted Engstrom for World Vision's assistance to his people. (left) Workers load barrels of rapeseed oil from WV Canada.



has the potential to be the breadbasket of northeast Africa, but that has not prevented 1.3 million of the region's 4.2 million population from being affected by the drought.

Meanwhile, some 1.2 million refugees were pouring into Sudan seeking to escape drought, famine and political strife in the neighboring countries of Ethiopia to the east, Chad to the west, and Uganda and Zaire to the south. The refugees set up squalid camps of their own. Though desperately burdened by the plight of its own people, Sudan, a notably hospitable country, permitted the masses of refugees to remain within its borders. World Vision President Ted Engstrom, upon returning from a recent tour of

## **Sudan has only one major road—from Port Sudan to Khartoum—which was opened in 1980.**

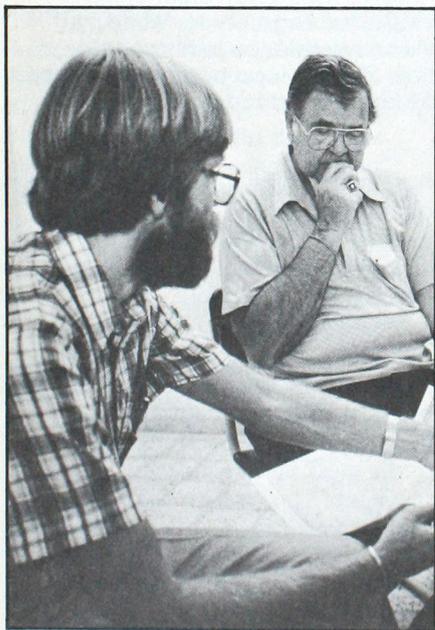
Under crowded conditions, with sanitation nonexistent, whole families huddled in tiny makeshift huts, suffering severe hunger and disease.

The country's central region is currently bearing the brunt of the crisis. Migrants from the west have traditionally moved there in search of seasonal labor picking cotton, which represents 65 percent of the country's exports. Agriculturalists say this area

famine-stricken areas in Sudan, said, "Sudan has to be one of our major emphases for World Vision concern. However, despite evidence of suffering at nearly every turn, we have made and are making a difference in needy areas such as the central region among Sudanese as well as famine refugees from Chad.

"More than 5000 of these Chadians are now sheltering outside the town of Sennar, some four hours' drive south of Khartoum. They lead a depressing life: a family of five, for example, has nothing more than a circular straw or sack hut about six feet in diameter and not much higher than that. They, like the other 3000 Chadians near the town of Wad Medani, depend on World Vision now and for the foreseeable future."

**Through spring** of 1985, many people in Sudan subsisted by foraging for "famine foods," often no more than withered leaves, grasses, bark and berries that provide little or no nutrition and cause severe digestive problems. Meanwhile, the world community, already alerted to Africa's continent-wide killer-drought, was pouring food into the country's single major entry point, Port Sudan on the Red Sea. By mid-July, 420,000 tons of grain jammed warehouses and dock-sides in the port, while more ships



Ted Engstrom confers with Sudan Survey Team Leader Arne Bergstrom.

## FACTS ABOUT SUDAN

**Population:** 21.8 million (mid-1985 estimate). Only 41 percent live in urban areas. Sudan contains the most heterogeneous society in Africa, with divisions along ethnic, tribal, geographic, linguistic and sectarian lines.

**Geography:** 967,500 square miles. Sudan is geographically the largest nation in Africa. The Sahara Desert spreads across the northern sector. Semi-arid plains make up the region near Khartoum. This gently rolling territory is succeeded in the south by tropical plains with more abundant rainfall. In the extreme south, the land is choked by dense jungle growth. The Nile River is the main route of north-south communication and travel.

**Languages:** More than 140 languages are spoken. Most of northern Sudan uses Arabic, the nation's official language. Other principal tongues: English, dialects of the southern Nilotic people, dialects of the Hamitic and Semitic people, and in the southern provinces Bantu dialects.

**Education:** 32 percent literacy. One teacher for every 155 school-age children.

**Health:** One doctor for every 8800 Sudanese. Life expectancy is 48 years. Infant mortality rate is about 12 percent.

**Religion:** Northern Sudan is predominantly Muslim (73 percent). Southern Sudan is ten percent Christian. Most southerners are animists who worship many gods, especially their ancestral spirits.

**Economy:** Average annual income is \$400 (1983 estimate). Main crops: cotton, gum arabic, peanuts, sesame. Main industries: cotton ginning, textiles and apparel, food processing, agricultural processing, light manufacturing. The influx of 1.2 million refugees from Ethiopia, Chad, Zaire and Uganda has heavily burdened the weak national infrastructure.



**History and government:** The ancient history of Sudan (the Cush of antiquity), one of the oldest civilizations in the world, revolved around the Pharaohs of Egypt and the Nubian people in central Sudan. After the reign of Egyptian Pharaohs, the Sudan split into a collection of small independent states. Christianity was introduced in the sixth century. Much of the country adopted Islam by the end of the 13th century. British colonial rule began in 1899 and was replaced in 1956 by a coalition government. After a period of military rule, Colonel Gaafer Nemeiry took control in 1969. In early 1985 General Abdul Rahman Suwar al Dahab, former defense minister, led a bloodless coup and formed the Transitional Military Council, promising a return to civilian rule.



laden with food waited offshore for berthing space.

But the rains also crippled relief efforts. Sudan's rail link from the Red Sea to the west amounts to a single length of track spanning an area nearly one-third the size of the contiguous United States. Downpours collapsed a major bridge along the route and washed out the line in nine other places. Roads threading over the country's vast stretches of desert, savanna and forest are few and difficult in the best of times. Sudan has only one major road, which is an 850-mile route from Port Sudan to Khartoum opened in 1980. Elsewhere, one drives following not a road but a compass, the sun or stars or previous wheel tracks running across the desert. But these tracks are wiped away with every sand storm and turned into impassable mud when seasonal rains fall between June and September.

World Vision tried to push food shipments through an area of starving people in the country's southeast by hooking tractors to trailers loaded with grain. Most of the tractors stalled

in mire. Undaunted, the project coordinator, American Episcopal Priest Peter Larom of White Plains, New York, rented camels and organized a caravan that successfully crossed a 50 mile barrier of mud in three days.

Nearer to Khartoum, displaced people uncertain about returning to their homelands wait for nothing in sodden huts and wallow through clinging mud to nutrition centers and medical facilities. Relief agencies struggle to alleviate malnutrition throughout the region. At the same time, they do what they can to help the hunger-weakened people who contract malaria, measles, dysentery, typhoid and acute gastroenteritis.

Outbreaks of acute gastroenteritis are threatening large numbers of migrants, refugees and urban squatters in Sudan. Sporadic outbreaks of the cholera-like disease are occurring around the three sister towns of Khartoum, Khartoum North and Omdurman, where 858 cases (with 69 deaths) have been reported.

A UNICEF specialist in diarrheal diseases, Dr. D. Patte, told aid agency leaders meeting in Khartoum in August that more than 60 people a day in the capital are being admitted to hospitals with the disease. He said that UNICEF personnel believe that admissions in the capital will rise to 100 a day in the near future.

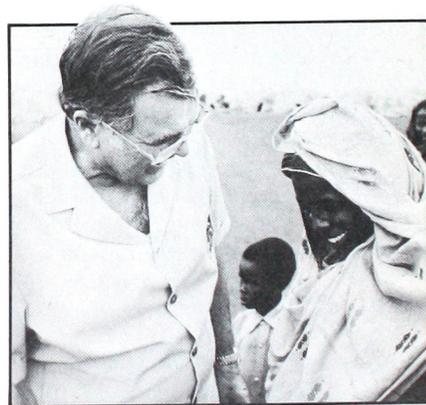
## The rains have increased food shortages.

## Agricultural experts are hoping that the mid-November harvest will yield at least average crops.

World Vision's relationship with the country's new government has been positive since World Vision began its work in the country last May. In August, World Vision International Vice President Cliff Benzel and Project Coordinator Peter Larom met with Major General Fadalla Burma, a senior member of Sudan's ruling transitional military council.

During their 30-minute meeting, Mr. Benzel outlined the scope of World Vision's programs in Sudan and expressed World Vision's desire to increase its commitment over the next 12 months. He also voiced World Vision's interest in establishing major long-term development projects when the present famine crisis is alleviated.

Gen. Burma expressed gratitude and appreciation for World Vision's cooperation with the Sudanese government,



Ted Engstrom shares a laugh with children at the Sennar nutrition center.

Children cluster around makeshift huts at the Sennar nutrition center.

and offered to establish a formal protocol recognizing World Vision's work in Sudan. The general gave World Vision direct access to himself, and indicated willingness for the military to assist in relief efforts.

World Vision now has a well-established distribution system in the central region. It has 40 full-time local employees at the village level and 120 monitors, mostly graduates of the local university at Gizira.

More than 17,000 tons of food has come through and is being distributed by World Vision staff. Most of this food is from World Vision Canada. The rest is from World Food Program and USAID.

**Meanwhile**, the remote far west of Sudan continues to hold pockets of calamitous famine. At the Angi Koti camp near Nyala, which is maintained for refugees from Chad by the Africa Committee for Rehabilitation of Southern Sudan (ACROSS) and World Vision, conditions among the staff and more than 20,000 camp residents are improving. At one stage a swollen river isolated staff members from the refugees. As soon as the flood abated, staff workers went to live among camp residents. Now two doctors and 13 nurses

**"I am convinced that long-term development programs in poverty-stricken areas are the answer to Sudan's famine problems."**

are working there and three nutrition centers are in operation. Meanwhile, staff members are replacing tent quarters with permanent mud-brick huts.

Although the rains have intensified food shortages among half of Sudan's population, the needed moisture has also turned the formerly drought-ravaged countryside green with fresh crops. Agricultural experts are hoping that a harvest due in mid-November will yield at least average quantities of sorghum, millet, sesame, peanuts and other crops. But, as with so many factors in the huge, remote and crippled African country, yields remain unpredictable.

At the close of his Sudan tour, Ted Engstrom stated, "I am more than convinced that long-term development programs in poverty-stricken areas are the answer to Sudan's famine problems. While food-growing is of

supreme importance now and later, it is projects such as reforestation and a steady supply of water which will roll back the advancing desert and give the Sudanese a chance for a settled life. We intend to give our maximum support to these efforts here in Sudan and in the Sahelian countries where we are already heavily involved."

Though mass starvation has been averted thus far in Sudan, this historic land where Arabic Africa meets black Africa is certain to remain heavily in need of relief assistance for the rest of the year, and in continued need as normal stores of food and herds of livestock are rebuilt in the two or three years that follow. □

*Edited by Randy Miller from reports by World Vision International Communicator Bruce Brander, World Vision New Zealand Communicator Lloyd Ashton, and World Vision Communications Manager for Africa Jacob Akol.*

**To help** World Vision's emergency teams bring food, medicine and a Christian witness to the victims of Sudan's widespread famine, please use the return envelope provided between pages 16 and 17. Thank You!



This Chadian family at the nutrition center near Wad Medani has no shelter yet, but they are glad that they at least have something to eat.

## THESE ARE YOUR HANDS

By Karin Hubby

**I'll do anything.** Please just let me go to Africa and help those hungry children."

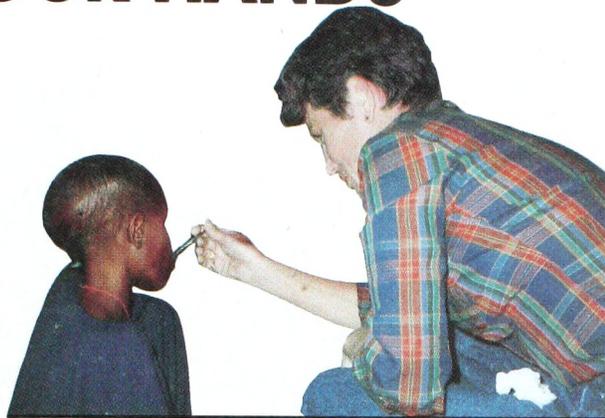
These are words I hear often while performing my responsibility in the recruitment of overseas contract personnel for World Vision Relief Organization. Because of the necessarily stringent qualifications for overseas positions, many people who have a desire to help the needy in Africa are not able to go.

What about those who do go? How do they survive the anguish they become a part of?

Recently, during a visit to some of World Vision's ministry locations in Africa, I was able to get answers to this question by observing and talking with several of our medical personnel in Ethiopia.

One of World Vision's largest nutrition-health centers in Ethiopia, feeding approximately 31,480 people daily, is at Ajibar. This mountainous site (9000 feet) is where I spent two days meeting with our staff and helping to feed the children in the super-intensive section of the nutrition-health center, where the most seriously malnourished and sick children receive care. The suffering in Ajibar is far worse than what I had seen on film and read in the newspapers. During six years spent previously in West Africa and Indonesia, I had seen more human misery than most people ever see, but nothing compared to the devastation I saw and felt in Ethiopia during my recent few days there.

So how did I get through our visit without breaking down? I'm sure it



Karin gently coaxes a severely malnourished girl to swallow a few spoonfuls of Faffa porridge in the intensive feeding unit of the Ajibar nutrition-health center.

was the prayers of my friends and family back home that helped me survive emotionally.

How, then, does the staff cope for six months and longer while working in the nutrition-health centers? I asked this question of Theresa Obwaya, public health nurse working with World Vision, as we walked through what was called "the gauntlet" by Dr. George Horst, directing physician of Ajibar at that time. The "gauntlet" of Ajibar is a maze of hundreds of sick, cold, hungry, dying people camped outside the nutrition-health center, waiting for admittance into the program. Each day the staff has to make their way from staff facilities to the center through this mass of destitute humanity. I soon discovered how it got its name. As I worked my way through the crowd, people cried at me, grabbed me and begged me for help.

I asked Theresa, "How do you do this every day?" Her reply: "I put my hands in my pockets and don't look into their eyes."

Cold indifference? No. It was the only way to reach the camp with enough emotional control left to minister effectively.

At the camp, Theresa's skilled hands went to work as she let her eyes meet those of the desperate people she was able to help.

From Ajibar, I then went to another World Vision nutrition-health center—this one in Ansokia, Ethiopia. The hands of Dr. Bob Gibson reached for mine as he helped me out of the World

Vision Twin Otter aircraft which had just landed on the rough airstrip in Ansokia. "There's the lady who got me into this mess," were the first words Bob said to me. Those joking words of welcome seriously describe how most of us would feel about living in Ansokia. Bob had taken temporary leave of his family and a busy medical practice in Portland, Oregon. Yet as he showed me around camp, Bob spoke of how blessed he was in being there in Ansokia to "hang up his shingle in diarrhea village."

Both George Horst, who worked in Ajibar, and Bob Gibson, here, had worked with World Vision in refugee camps in Thailand. So had Dr. Donald Cheever who recently returned from another nutrition-health center in Ethiopia at Sanka. These words from the diary he kept there best describe our workers—who are *your hands* in Ethiopia:

"I'm more than ready to leave. This is a very stressful situation—I can't harden myself to death. Lord, from start to finish, I have felt Your presence, protection and guidance. I know it was part of Your plan for me to do this, and through this experience, I feel so much closer to You, and much more aware of my constant need for You in my life, and Your constant, perfect care for me. May I never lose sight of this. And if another, similar situation develops, may I echo Isaiah and say, 'Here am I, send me.'" □

*Karin Hubby is overseas recruitment administrator for World Vision U.S.*

Medical warfare in a remote village

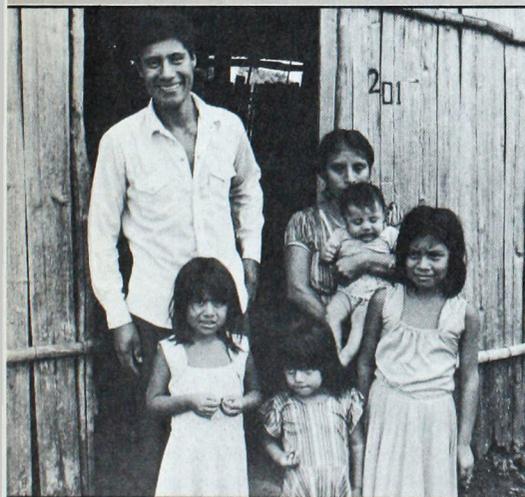
# FIGHTING MEASLES IN UXPANAPA

**W**orld Vision Mexico has responded with emergency relief to the needs of the 3000 residents of Uxpanapa. Located in the Veracruz region east of Mexico City, Uxpanapa is an isolated community about 30 miles from the next village. It is one of 15 villages of Chinanteco-speaking people, accessible only by boat or unpaved roads.

In Uxpanapa, an extended outbreak of measles was claiming the lives of eight to eleven children a day, reports Rubin Sois, World Vision Mexico's area coordinator for the Veracruz region. Malnutrition is high among both children and adults, making the effects of the epidemic

especially severe, and tuberculosis poses an additional health problem.

In partnership with the local Baptist church, World Vision has provided food, medical supplies, evangelism material and the salaries of a medical team. A small medical assistance unit has been built, with World Vision furnishing a substantial amount of the materials. Community residents contributed the labor and some of the materials. World Vision, in turn, furnished 60-day food kits for 400 families whose members helped in the construction, and all 3000 community members have received medical assistance. □



Marcos Cristóbal Manuel, leader of the little Uxpanapa community, and his family stand in the doorway of their hand-built house.





The grandmother of Marcos Cristóbal holds his youngest child. Homemade hammocks created by knotting (something like macramé) are used for a variety of purposes: as chairs, as infant cradles and as beds. The chicks are not temporary pets, but a part of everyday life. The constant presence of animal wastes within dwellings is a cause of disease and infection among villagers.



Gabriela Ramírez, a student in the Educational Indian Center (World Vision's partner agency in the Uxpanapa project) is giving a Bible lesson to a group of the Chinantecan children. Bible stories are available in the people's own Chinanteco language.



Marcos Cristóbal's mother teaches her granddaughters how to weave a traditional dress ("huipil") like the one she is wearing. The Chinantecans preserve such ways of life by passing down their skills and crafts from generation to generation.

**E**ight to eleven of the small community's children were dying each day.

...est daughter of Marcos  
...al is grinding corn, one of the  
...old's daily tasks. She and her  
...ters and brother all had measles  
...the recent epidemic. The lives  
...of them were threatened, but  
.../ision medical aid arrived in  
...ensure their recovery.

In Latin American cities

# POPULATION— PROBLEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES

by John Maust

**M**y first crack at writing about a city came with *Christianity Today* magazine in an article on evangelism in New York City. That article required every ounce of my writing ability. It took about twice as long as expected, and I remember not getting finished until the wee hours of the morning I left for Spanish language school in Costa Rica.

So maybe it was crazy to take on a project that embraces ten cities, not one. Especially as several of the ten were even bigger than New York.

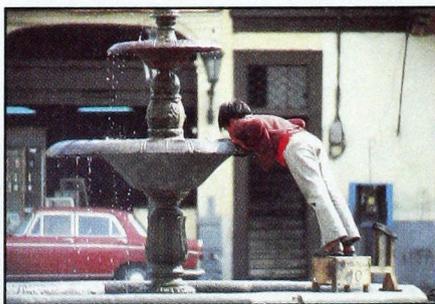
But now, thousands of air miles and lots of late nights later, I can say it was worth it.

This book arose out of a shared concern of the Latin America Mission and certain other Christian groups because the Latin cities' mind-boggling growth is outstripping the church's present means to reach all those millions.

Latin America's future rests with its cities. Rural to urban migrations are occurring in every country. For instance, in the early 1980s, an estimated 500,000 Brazilians moved each year to São Paulo. That's like an entire Pittsburgh picking up and moving to New York City every year.

Wouldn't it be helpful to find out what God's church is doing in these urban sprawls? Is it growing? What are the Latin church's needs . . . its vision . . . its goals? And what is the context in which these churches work?

We wanted to find effective urban ministries and share some of them as



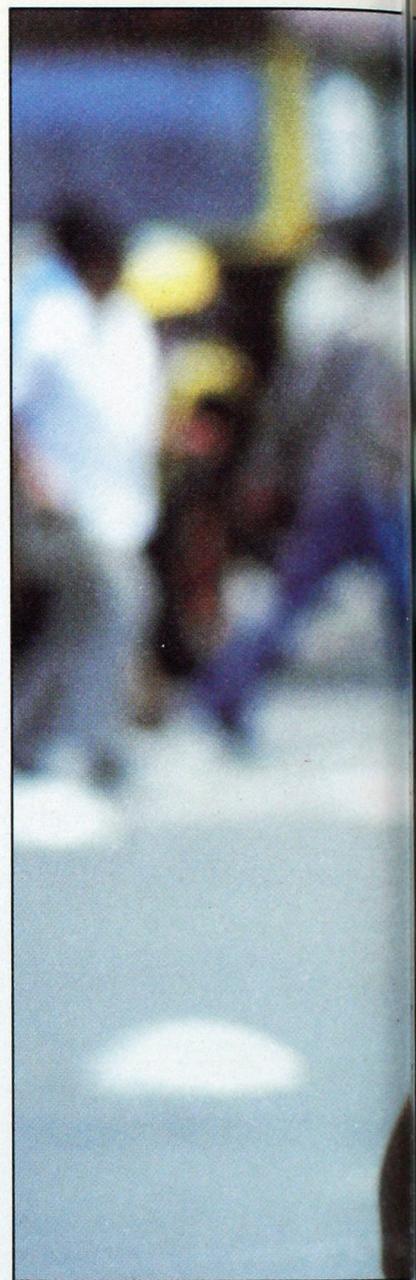
case studies. Also, we wanted to find people groups in every city that so far are largely untouched by evangelical witness.

In doing preparatory research, I found very little published about the church in these cities. And quite often, the urban church leaders I spoke with had never been interviewed before.

We settled on ten cities. Generally, I stayed ten days to two weeks in each one. Mexico City, the world's largest, required two trips.

Each city found me trying to jam as many interviews as possible into the limited time available. I tried to talk first with a person who had an overall view of the church scene, and then get leads to work from there. To get a feel for life in that city, I spoke with both Latins and expatriates. It helped that I'd visited most of these cities three years earlier, in the course of other writing assignments.

I pray that God will use these chapters as a tool and a spark: as a tool that Christians may use to effectively communicate the gospel in a Latin urban setting, and as a spark to light fires of concern for the wonderful people who live in each of these cities.



## LIMA, PERU: new towns in an old city

**You see them in the bus terminals,** poor man's port-of-entry to life in the big city. They arrive in Lima from places like Puno and Ayacucho, with all their own wrapped in a box or a shawl.

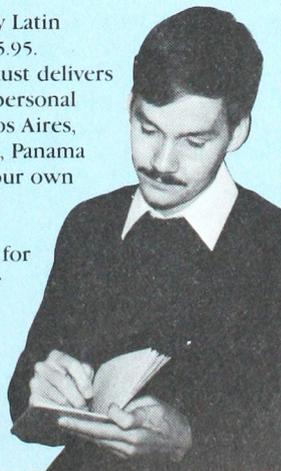
Some are lucky enough to have family or friends to stay with. Others will move to the *pueblos jóvenes*, a government-coined euphemism literally meaning "young towns" but liveably meaning something far less appealing.

It will be hard. They will sell fruit, drive taxis, learn masonry, do anything



**What's the population** of Lima? Of São Paulo? Of Mexico City? A journalist who wants you not only to pass a pop quiz but feel more like a brother or sister to the fascinating people who crowd those metropolises is John Maust, formerly of *Christianity Today* and now of Latin America Mission. Last year Maust completed a study tour of ten Latin American cities and wrote a photographically illustrated book worth the attention of any half-curious Christian who lives north of those rapidly changing population centers. The book: *Cities of Change*, by

John Maust, published by Latin America Mission, 1984, \$5.95. On 136 large pages Maust delivers both factual details and personal impressions about Buenos Aires, Caracas, La Paz, Medellín, Panama City, Santiago and even our own Miami, besides the three mentioned earlier. To whet your appetite for this mind-stretcher, taste the small fragments of some of his chapters as excerpted on this and the next few pages.



to get a foothold for themselves and their families. TV antennas sprout from shantytown shacks like signals of hope. And some do make a reasonable living. Those who don't—well, they still feel their chances are better here than in the places they left behind. These are the new *Limeños*. They are changing the formerly white face and lordly character of Peru's capital city. Depending on whose figures you use, Lima's 1984 population is between 5 and 6 million, or about one-third of the national total. The annual growth rate approaches 4%. In 1982 people moved into Lima at

the rate of 230 per day, according to official figures. It's safe to place the current number at several times that. But who can measure this flow of humanity, which in recent months gushed in torrents?

In many ways the rural immigrants are a plus for Lima. However, with the city and nation going through one of its most severe economic crises ever, the added people create a heavy burden.

Peru's inflation hit 125% in 1983, and unemployment, 51%. Authorities blamed hard times on the crime increase, as women feared to wear their jewelry on Lima streets for fear of having it ripped off them. In 1984 nearly 170,000 teachers went on strike for a wage increase. They were

followed out by 500,000 government employees.

As I launched into this study of ten different Latin American cities, it seemed appropriate to start with Lima. Its rural immigration typifies that in cities across Latin America. In Peru, for instance, the ratio of rural to urban population has reversed since 1950. Roughly 70% lived in the country then, as compared to 70% living in the cities today.

The migrations result in the uprooting of centuries-old traditions, which are grafted into the urban culture. Openness to new ideas sometimes includes receptivity to the Christian gospel. New hope which either thrives or dies. . . .

## SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL: many mouths to feed

**The street child** made his rounds in the downtown São Paulo restaurant. Some customers ignored him. If you gave to every child beggar here, you'd run out of money in a hurry. Others dropped a coin or two in the boy's dirty, outstretched hand.

But Billy and Josephine Hart knew that what this boy needed was food. Billy ordered him a Coke and a sandwich. Suspicious, surprised, grateful, the boy sat down beside them. When the sandwich arrived, the boy asked for a knife to cut it. That seemed like a strange request from a hungry street kid.

The Harts watched the boy deftly part the sandwich three ways. And then, as if from nowhere, two equally waif-like children descended on the table. Their friend shared.

"After that, my husband just couldn't eat," recalled Josephine. "He fed them all. And, though I couldn't speak the language then, I told them that Jesus loved them, and that I loved them."

The Harts had been thinking before about ministering to children in São Paulo, but this seemed to confirm the idea. Just two years away from earning retirement with full benefits, Billy resigned his job. Now the couple operates a Christian orphanage with 33 children, ages 4 to 18.

Physical needs practically slap you

### More on Lima

Their reasons differed for coming, but migrants have changed the character of Lima, the so-called City of Kings, by blending Iberian and Inca traditions in a way no other South American city does.

**History:** For nearly three centuries after its 1535 founding by Francisco Pizarro, Lima served as the key city in the Spaniard's Latin American empire. Until the onslaught of rural immigrants it retained a lordly, aristocratic character with well-defined class distinctions.

**Geography:** Lima lies 12 degrees south of the equator, and is sandwiched to the north and south between parts of one of the world's driest deserts. The Pacific Ocean port of Callao is eight miles west of Lima's center. The Andes Mountains stand an hour's drive east.

**Education:** The percentage of those finishing high school has risen from 31% to 40% in the last ten years. But overcrowding in the universities keeps many from going further. Highly competitive entrance exams annually weed out more than 90% of the applicants at the University of San Marcos.

**Religion:** More than 90% are Roman Catholics, with most of the rest being Protestants. The city has at least 800 evangelical congregations, with the Assemblies of God and the Christian and Missionary Alliance being the fastest-growing groups.

**Transportation:** Lima's location in relation to the rest of South America makes it a common spot for continent-wide meetings. The Pan-American

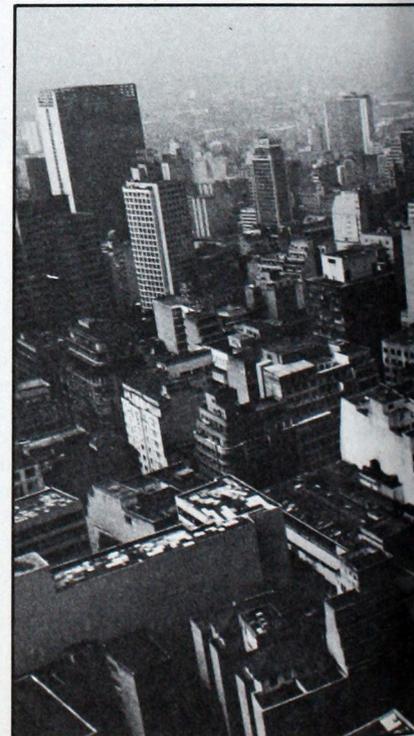


Lima's main shopping mall.

Highway connects it with Ecuador and Chile. Traffic congestion and overcrowded public transportation remain serious problems.

**Government:** Peru has a democratic government under President Belaúnde Terry. But Lima voters soundly rejected Belaúnde's party in the November 1983 mayoral election. Instead, the leftist party candidate Alfonso Barrantes won.

**Outlook:** Widespread labor and student unrest, alongside terrorist attacks, made things tense in Lima in 1984. Peru had 125% inflation and 51% underemployment in 1983. Evangelical churches seem to be growing, perhaps as tensions awaken *Limeños* from spiritual complacency.



the face in São Paulo—street children being one example, the vast *favelas*, or slums, the most obvious. Someone's bound to get left out in a city of 14 million growing at monstrous proportions.

Don't get the wrong idea. There is wealth here. Besides being South America's largest city, São Paulo is its industrial capital. People call it the Chicago of Latin America. São Paulo is also a convention and cosmopolitan social center. The metro area now occupies roughly 3000 square miles of rolling terrain.

An estimated 70% of the people are descendants of immigrants—mainly Portuguese, Italians, Germans, Japanese, Spaniards and Lebanese Arabs. High birth and rural immigration rates contributed to an alarming 4.5% annual growth rate.

With Brazil going through its worst economic crisis of the century and rural immigrants arriving by the thousands, poverty grows ever more visible. How will city officials ever provide the necessary services?

In my study of the evangelical church scene in São Paulo, I particularly wanted to find groups that combined an evangelistic outreach with ministry to physical needs. Such holistic ministry is especially relevant in a city such as São Paulo. . . .

### More on São Paulo

It's a working man's city, the industrial center of Brazil—and the largest metropolis in South America.

**History:** Two Jesuit priests founded São Paulo as a mission station in 1554 on what was calculated to be the anniversary of the conversion of St. Paul (hence, the name São Paulo). The introduction of coffee-planting in the 19th century created new wealth and attracted thousands of European immigrants. The city has kept on growing due to immigration. About 20% of São Paulo residents come from rural areas.

**Geography:** Greater São Paulo covers more than 3100 square miles at an average of 2400 feet above sea level. The city lies within the tropics, but the altitude makes for a temperate climate with a year-round average temperature of 66 degrees.

**Education:** The city boasts good primary and secondary schools, with free and compulsory primary education for all up to age 14. Children in the vast slum areas, however, need encouragement to learn and break out of their cycle of poverty. The city has at least

three quality universities and many cultural outlets.

**Religion:** Roughly 85% are Roman Catholics—15% of them practicing ones. Pentecostals form the largest evangelical group. Yet spiritism, introduced by African slaves, pervades the culture so much that almost everyone has had some contact with it.

**Transportation:** The relatively new subway system has 100 miles of track and 46 stations. The recently opened Tiete bus terminal was called the second largest in the world, with daily movement of 5200 buses and 160,000 passengers. An estimated 2 million cars, 35,000 taxis and 8500 buses squeeze onto the streets and highways.

**Government:** The city has a mayor and council, and also is the seat of the state government. Military-dominated governments have controlled Brazil since 1964, but gradual reforms included a planned turnover in 1985 to a civilian-elected president.

**Outlook:** Widespread unemployment and economic woes are blamed for a drastic hike in violent crime. São Paulo must prepare for a predicted population of 26 million in the year 2000. The city is fertile ground for almost any religious group. The prevalent spiritism may hold the most influence.



Food supplies for São Paulo are available to all who can afford it, thanks to the agricultural revolution brought by Japanese immigrants.



University campus mural represents Mexicans' striving for industrial progress.

500,000 per year still coming in 1984, how will they all find work?

Just getting around is enough of a problem. An estimated 2.4 million vehicles circulate daily on the overcrowded highways. Fuel exhaust stains the air yellowish-brown, and air pollution reaches damaging levels.

Several years ago, people said breathing for a day in Mexico City equaled smoking a pack of cigarettes. On my last visit, a reporter hiked that equivalency to two packs.

In a recent lecture at Mexico City Children's Hospital, Dr. José Pérez Neria said ten percent of the children in Mexico City suffer bronchial asthma caused by allergy-inducing emissions of cars and industry. If something isn't done, within two decades 50% will be affected. . . .

Never before have so many people lived in one urban area at one time. Mexico City and "megacities" like it are, as one reporter put it, "mushrooming into the realm of the unknown." □

## MEXICO CITY, MEXICO: biggest is not always best

**Public works employee** Carlos Dingler sighted across the bowl-shaped depression. Field corn swayed on the floor of the extinct volcano La Caldera just outside Mexico City.

"How long do you think it will last?" asked his boss, engineer Jorge Sandoval García.

Carlos spat. "Oh, 28 years—easy. That's figuring we dump in 1000 tons per day. You see, actually there are two craters." He pointed farther over to another vast hollow.

Sandoval nodded approvingly. La Caldera would hold more garbage than he'd thought. With the Federal District producing 10,000 tons of trash every day, every available nook, cranny and volcanic crater is subject to survey as a sanitary landfill.

Trash removal, all 2 million pounds of it every 24 hours, is only one of the problems—though one of the more weighty—in an urban area the size of metropolitan Mexico City. The city has become a monster, with monstrous challenges.

How will it ever provide the necessary services for a city growing by one million additional residents every year? Reportedly, two million children are being denied schooling simply because there is not enough space for them.

Water becomes especially precious in a city this size. Inspectors, visiting homes to try to find water leaks, worry about heavy trucks driving over and cracking water lines. Many slum-dwellers walk to public wells and, if those go dry, must buy bottled water or beg for it at private homes.

The city produces sewage water at 45 cubic meters per second; and authorities want some of it treated for industrial use, so that more pure water can be saved for drinking.

And what about food? Mexico City is consuming more than 30% of the food required by the nation. And jobs? In 1981, said sociologist César Moreno, 1200 rural immigrants were arriving *daily*. With an estimated 400,000 to

### More on Mexico City

Researchers predict population of 31 to 36 million by the year 2000.

**History:** Mexico City in 1521 rose upon the ruins of Tenochtitlán, the Aztec capital leveled by Hernán Cortez and his men. The Aztecs built it on an island in Lake Texcoco. As late as 1900, before the slow process of drainage ended, men poled flatboats from the city to villages on the lake shores.

**Geography:** The city lies at an altitude of 7300 feet in the Valley of Mexico, which is rimmed by a chain of mountain peaks and extinct volcanoes. Temperature varies little from the middle 70s the year round. Metropolitan Mexico City includes the Federal District and adjacent communities in the State of Mexico.

**Education:** In a city this size, the gravest problem is overcrowding. *Newsweek* said 2 million children have no access to a school. The National Autonomous University is among the world's largest, with nearly 330,000 enrollees in 1984.

**Religion:** More than 90% are Roman Catholics. Their Basilica of Guadalupe, built on the site where the Virgin Mary

was supposed to have appeared to an Indian, Juan Diego, ranks among Latin America's most venerated shrines. Protestants number between 850,000 and one million, with 1800 churches and preaching points. Protestant religious organizations cannot own buildings or property, and foreigners may not pastor churches.

**Transportation:** An estimated 2.4 million cars daily create nerve-wracking congestion, besides pollution. The highly efficient, clean subway daily carries up to 3.5 million people on its seven lines.

**Government:** In the nation's capital, there's an overlapping of federal, Federal District and municipal sectors. The federal government occupies office space in 15,000 buildings just in the Federal District. The Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) of President Manuel De la Madrid controls the political scene.

**Outlook:** Mexico City has entered uncharted territory. Never before has there been a city its size. It has plunged ahead in solving population-caused problems, including pollution and lack of sufficient services for all its millions. Evangelical churches find that thousands of rural migrants, open to change, are a mission field coming to them.

## Mini-message

### EAT THE BREAD OF LIFE!

**On a Galilean hillside** Jesus fed thousands of hungry people. But the very next day He spoke of a more

important kind of bread. He declared, "I am the bread of life." And He promised, "If a man eats of this bread, he will live forever" (John 6:35, 51).

His hearers that day failed to understand what Jesus meant. But at other times and places, spiritually hungry

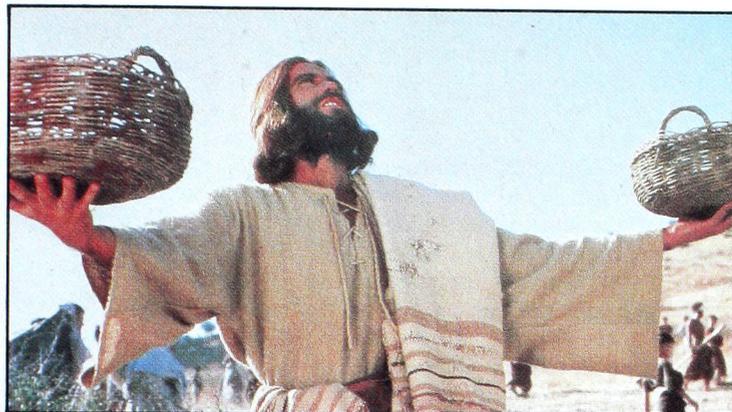
people took Him at His word, received Him into their very beings, and found His promise true.

Today it still is true. While the metaphor remains a mystery to many, it's a great reality to all who truly trust in Him as Lord and Savior.

Reader, are *you* eating the bread of life? If so, you've more to rejoice about than did the people on that Galilean hillside. But if not, *why not?*

If this makes little sense to you, please read the Gospel of John searchingly, talk with a pastor or other committed Christian, learn what saving faith is—and *eat* the bread of life!

For a free copy of a booklet called "Becoming a Christian," simply write the Editor, WORLD VISION Magazine, 919 W. Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016.



As portrayed in the film Jesus

## THROUGH A PERCEPTIVE JOURNALIST'S EYES

**An African Journey** by Mark Patinkin (Eerdmans, 1985). Reviewed by Elizabeth Wilson.

*"Even more than the scenes of pain, I will hold onto this scene of hope: the chief, pouring water into the desert, trying to begin anew."*

Late last year, Mark Patinkin, a 32-year-old writer for the Providence Journal in Rhode Island, spent a month in Africa. From Ethiopia, to Sudan, to Kenya; across the continent to Burkina Faso and Mali, Patinkin looked at, and wrote about, drought and famine—and the people whose lives had been engulfed by disaster.

First appearing as columns telexed from Africa back to his home paper, Patinkin's comments and personal interviews evoked an understandably impressive response. Scenes and settings are sharply etched; the writing is crisp, concretely descriptive; aware of ironies, even humor, in the midst of crisis; often deeply moving—without a trace of sentimentality or hype. The people come alive: government officials, children, relief workers, a nomad Touareg chief whose shattered way of life had followed centuries-old patterns.

Accompanying photographs, taken by the author, amplify the restrained intensity of the text.

Africa's famine lands, the patient, dignified, starving people, the magnitude of the need and the spirit of those who are trying to bring relief—both immediate and long-range—are all brought together. "I turn to look back at the people who have been changed but not broken by hunger."

A word of appreciation is in order for the publisher's perceptivity in giving Patinkin's observations a wider audience, and in realizing the book's potential to that audience. Patinkin is not a Christian—and this is not a "Christian book." There are brief references to the presence of Christian relief organizations, and there is a short quote from a Christian flyer. Patinkin, however, focuses on the secular relief organizations and their people. Not with the air of one who is discounting the work of Christian agencies, but simply as one who is more comfortable, more at home, with the non-religious groups. But Christians, especially those with hearts for the need in Africa, will find *African Journey* informative, illuminating and thought-provoking.

### Please pray . . .

- **for the hunger-wracked** people in Sudan, Ethiopia and other famine-stricken African countries.
- **for the relief/development teams** bringing food, medical care and self-help opportunities to the needy.
- **for the war-weary** residents of Beirut, Lebanon.
- **for those who bring Christ** and practical help to Beirut's homeless, bereaved and injured ones.
- **for Latin America's** struggling urban people.
- **for Latin Christians** who share the Word of Life with urban Latins.
- **for Mexican families** who have little access to medical care.
- **for the providers** of physical and spiritual health care in Mexico.
- **for Haitian children** growing up without adequate food or education.
- **for Haitian childcare workers.**
- **for your own church's outreach** to the lost and the needy.
- **for your personal involvement** in Christ-honoring outreach to the needy.

A "what if" that became a reality

# PROJECT MERCY

**O**ne of the first things we wanted to do after our uprooted lives had become more stable was to help our own Ethiopian people," said Marta Gabre-Tsadick. Tall and slender, Marta's aquiline features are softened by a gentle, gracious dignity, and it's not difficult to visualize her in her former role as Ethiopia's first woman senator.\*

It is not politics or matters of state, however, that are priority issues for Marta today. Instead, she is spreading the word about what Project Mercy, a Christian relief organization of which she is co-founder, wants to do for destitute Ethiopians in that famine-stricken land. Coming to the United States in 1976 when the present regime overthrew Emperor Haile Selassie's government, Marta and her husband Deme, both committed Christians, have not forgotten their homeland.

"The people's two most immediate needs," says Marta, "are food and clothing, and we are concerned about both." In partnership with World Vision, Project Mercy is already shipping quantities of Atmit (a high-nutrition food powder), which is now in use in nutrition-health centers. But Atmit is another story in itself, and today Marta particularly wants to discuss PM's clothing project, a new WV/PM partnership endeavor which has already been started in a small way, with plans for rapid expansion.

*\*Marta has told the suspenseful story of her life, including her departure with her family from Ethiopia, in her book, Sheltered by the King (Chosen, 1983), \$9.30 including postage. May be ordered from the Project Mercy address given at the end of this article.*

Although life-sustaining nutrients must be top priority in famine-crisis relief, Marta is sensitive to the demoralizing effect it has on innately dignified, self-respecting people to have to face each difficult day clothed only in tattered rags.

Some time ago, Project Mercy had tried to meet immediate needs by shipping quantities of carefully sorted used clothing to Ethiopia (and to refugee camps of Ethiopians in other African nations). Unfortunately, although such garments did afford needed covering, they were culturally—and often climatically—

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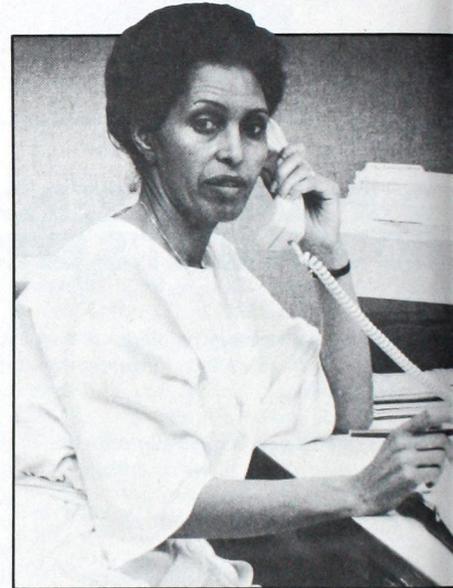
**Here's something your church group can do with their hands to clothe Ethiopia's needy.**

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unsuitable. Of most significance, however, was the fact that the several African governments involved soon prohibited the entry of any used clothing shipments to their countries.

**Undaunted**, and with the picture of inadequately clothed men, women and children sharply etched in her mind, Marta began to analyze possible ways to supply the Ethiopian famine victims with brand-new garments. The clothing, reasoned Marta, should be appropriate to the people's own culture, must be of strong, durable fabric compatible with the warmth of sunny days and the chill of unsheltered nights, and which would dry rapidly if rain *did* chance to fall on the drought-

Once the first woman senator in Emperor Haile Selassie's government, now an active partner with her husband in their own business, Marta also uses her executive expertise at the helm of Project Mercy.



stricken wearers. It would also, of course, need to be as low-cost as possible so that clothing could be supplied in large quantities.

After much searching, the ideal dress fabric turned out to be an ivory-colored light-weight flannel sheeting, a blend of 60 percent cotton and 40 percent synthetic. (The off-white color was chosen because it is the color of everyday Ethiopian clothing.)

The remaining question was how thousands of garments could be made and sent without incurring prohibitively high costs. As Marta prayed and planned, she thought of Christian groups to whom she had told the story of the Ethiopian people's desperate



Marta Gabre-Tsadick shares her concerns for the people of her Ethiopian homeland at a World Vision chapel in Monrovia, California.

needs, and of how many people had expressed a desire to do something personal to help—something with their own hands—in addition to giving money.

What if . . . she thought; what if Project Mercy could design simple patterns, use the cost-effective fabric, and prepare thousands of garments in a cut-out-ready-to-sew form? These

could be sent in boxes of 50 or 100 garments each, complete with sewing instructions, to church groups, clubs and other interested organizations. There the garments would be sewn quickly and returned to Project Mercy for shipping to Ethiopia where they would be distributed by World Vision at nutrition-health centers.

“What if” turned into reality. Simply designed patterns for men’s, women’s and children’s garments in three sizes

each were developed. The full-skirted dress, for example, has a minimum of seams and is similar to those normally worn by Ethiopian women. For men, the shirt design is also compatible with their traditional clothing: a loose-

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## **G**arments can be sewn quickly and returned for shipment to Ethiopia.

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fitting pullover with one button at the neck placket.

A pilot lot of 900 garments was successfully completed and shipped to Ethiopia, and a goal of 65,000 garments for fall shipment has been set. Adequate room for a large-scale cutting operation has been supplied with 7500 square feet of warehouse space in which appropriate equipment was recently installed.

**Marta is rejoicing** in the response the project is receiving. A number of Washington women, including several members of the Congressional Wives Prayer Group, are strong supporters, and increasing numbers of churches are becoming involved.

As the word spreads, exciting things are happening. A donation of 29,000 yards of Oxford cloth will become men’s shirts. Eighteen thousand yards of Pendleton fabric at a price so low as to make it a virtual donation has been obtained from an institution that had the material in storage and wanted to see it put to a worthwhile use. McCall’s Patterns has donated its

services to custom-design a men's Bermuda shorts pattern in several sizes, and inmates of the Illinois Correctional Center are donating their labor to put these together, using the Pendleton materials. (Because of the greater complexity of sewing construction, these shorts will not be sent out to be sewn by the volunteer groups making the dresses and shirts.) McCall's is also donating further research and design services for other needed patterns.

The need for clothing in areas of Ethiopia which have been experiencing long-lasting famine and the accompanying overall impoverishment is expected to continue for an extended period. Marta, Deme and Project Mercy are long-time supporters of World Vision relief in Ethiopia. Project Mercy, in turn, has been

enabled to launch this much-needed provision of clothing as it has been joined in a three-way partnership with World Vision and with churches and other supporting groups.

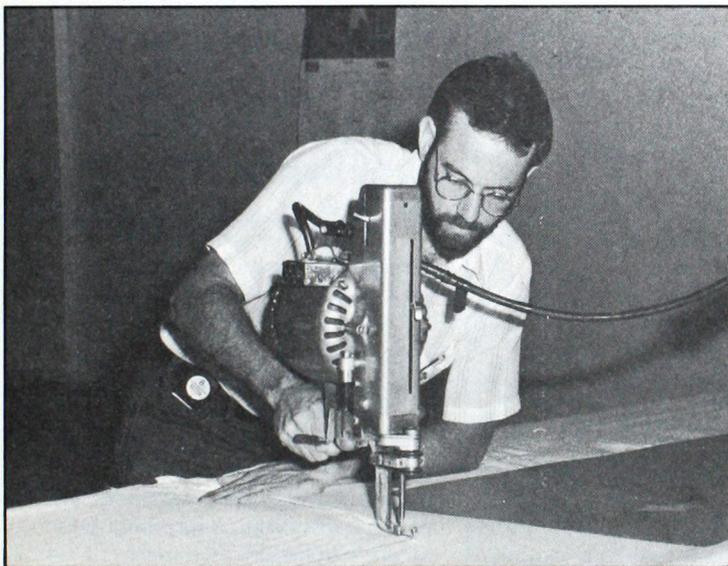
Project Mercy will be depending on a direct response from hundreds of women's groups to undertake the sewing, and from many concerned individuals who will provide the needed funds for fabric, shipping and other costs. □

**Have you felt** a desire to do something with your own hands for Ethiopia's suffering children and their

**A goal of 65,000 garments for fall shipment has been set.**

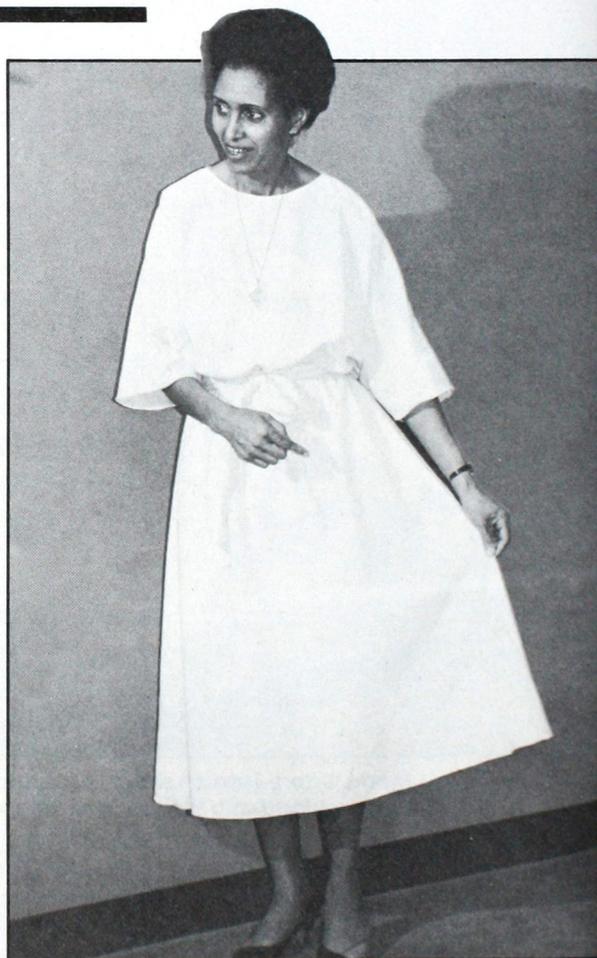
*parents? Now you can do just that, as you and other members of your church group or other organization sew pre-cut garments for some who are not only hungry, but who must also face their daily struggle for survival in tattered rags of clothing which they have no means of replacing.*

*Project Mercy will send boxes of 50 or 100 pre-cut garments (full instructions included) to your group to be sewn and returned to P.M. Large, combined shipments will then be sent to Ethiopia and distributed at World Vision nutrition-health centers. Contact Project Mercy, 7011 Ardmore Avenue, Ft. Wayne, IN 46809; (219) 749-8480.*



A heavy-duty professional machine cuts pattern pieces from many layers of cloth in one operation.

This box is being filled with ready-to-sew pieces for shipment to a volunteer group who will finish the garments for distribution in Ethiopia.



Marta models one of the Project Mercy dresses being sewn by volunteer groups and distributed in Ethiopia at World Vision nutrition-health centers.

# Samaritan sampler

SOME WAYS PEOPLE ARE HELPING  
OTHERS IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

## Alternatives to the commercialization of Christmas

are appealingly presented in a filmstrip/cassette packet, *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas*. Its 17-minute length blends music and the varied voices of narrators with colorful photography. A complete script booklet with ideas for the material's use is also included. The importance of celebration and gift-giving among loved ones is not criticized, just simplified; then practical suggestions are given for ways in which families or groups can share Christmas joy with those in need. Best used in October or November, the packet may be purchased (\$20) or rented (\$6) from Alternatives, Box 429, Ellenwood, GA 30049; (404) 961-0102.

**Senders** is a new ministry of Caleb Project to equip and encourage world-missions-minded Christians who feel God leading them to be senders and who are willing to adopt a "missionary" lifestyle. For information contact Senders, 1605 Elizabeth St., Pasadena, CA 91104; (818) 794-1532.

## Academic education and vocational training

are combined in a new research project and school being aided by Food for the Hungry's Mission-By-Involvement program. Five FFH teams recently built the first section of the project in Mexico, 17 miles east of Navajoa in Sonora. In addition to traditional educational subjects, students will be able to gain experience in bookkeeping, metal work and ceramics. Also available will be horticulture labs where students can learn to maintain gardens, beehives and rabbits, and to engage in more extensive agricultural projects. For information contact Wesley Bell (602) 998-3100.



Changing Christmas priorities gave this family time to share with others Christ came to serve.

**Voice of Calvary**, in Jackson, Mississippi, is seeking people who "have a heart for all races." VOC's ministries need carpenters, doctors, nurses, receptionists, writers, computer experts, administrators and teachers. Cooperative businesses, a health center, youth programs, education, vocational training, community development projects and a multi-racial church are some of VOC's ongoing endeavors. For information contact Career Opportunities, Voice of Calvary, 1655 St. Charles Street, Jackson, MS 39209; (601) 353-1635.

**An inexpensive hand pump** (about \$15.50) is providing help from the Mennonite Central Committee for some farmers in India. Called a "rower pump" from the motion used in its operation, it requires less energy than a conventional hand pump, while its output of water is 50-60 percent greater. Thus, a farmer may be enabled to grow two crops rather than just one, a year: both rainy-season rice and, with the pump, an irrigated dry-season crop. Widely applicable to varied needs, the rower pumps are now also used in Kampuchea. For information contact: MCC, 21 S. 12th St., Akron, PA 17501; (717) 859-1151.

**Spanish-language Bibles** and other Christian books, curriculum and hymnals are now more readily obtainable in Hispanic areas of the U.S. through Christian bookstores supplied by VIDA Publishers, 3360 N.W. 110th St., Miami, FL 33167; (305) 685-6334.

**Equipping local churches for effective missionary preparation** is the goal of the Conference on Mission Preparation (COMP) being held on the UCLA campus, Los Angeles, California, January 2-4, 1986. Co-sponsored by the California Association of Missions Pastors and the Association of Church Missions Committees, the conference is intended for missionary candidates—and prospective candidates—and for leaders from the candidates' own churches.

All candidates attending the conference are required to be accompanied by a leader. Workshops will be divided into two tracks: ten for candidates and ten for leaders. Plenary speakers are D. Stuart Briscoe, Luis Palau, Richard L. Strauss and Charles R. Swindoll.

**The Jews for Jesus organization** now offers a selection of books, albums, cassettes and teaching tapes. Christians engaged in dialogue with Jews,

or simply interested in Jewish thought and culture from an evangelical perspective will find helpful materials described in their current order form. To obtain a copy write Jews for Jesus, 60 Haight St., San Francisco, CA 94102-5895.

**Iranian Christians International** reaches expatriate Iranians with the gospel and trains them to minister to their own people. As many as three million Iranians are living outside their own country today, more than 250,000 of them in the United States. ICI coordinates a ministry that includes local ICI groups; a counseling and resource center; a Persian/English quarterly publication, *Mojdeb*; annual ICI conferences, distribution of Persian Christian literature, 24-hour prayer chain and refugee resettlement program. For information contact Iranian Christians International, Box 2415, Ann Arbor, MI 48106; (313) 769-5529.

**Retirees with time, skills and energy on their hands** are warmly received at the U.S. Center for World Mission in Pasadena, California. USCWM, a consortium of mission agencies and related organizations, is in need of volunteer services of many kinds. Library assisting, grounds maintenance, general repair work, audio-visual recording, "grandparenting" at the Extended Family Co-op, typing, bookkeeping, envelope stuffing—all of these and more, are part of USCWM's ongoing needs. The low-budget missionary lifestyle helps stretch volunteers' retirement incomes, and dorm residency for short-termers doesn't require the bringing of much "stuff." For information contact Evelyn Varney, USCWM Personnel, 1605 Elizabeth St., Pasadena, CA 91104.

A simple idea that's saving lives

## THE PLASTIC SECURITY BLANKET

**N**ights are cold and windy at the 9300-foot altitude of Ajibar, Ethiopia, 130 miles due north of Addis Ababa. There, at one of World Vision's largest nutrition-health centers, thousands of malnourished children, without either body fat or blankets for protection, face night temperatures that dip below 50 degrees. Now that some rains have returned, torrential downpours and even hail compound the life-threatening conditions. Some nights as many as 65 deaths have been recorded.

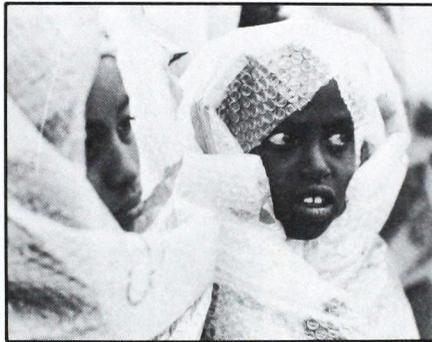
Such problems, related to the well-being of children, are never far below the surface consciousness of World Vision staff members, whatever their own primary responsibilities may be. Recently, in a rare moment of relaxation, British engineer Roy Higgins sat in the radio communications room at World Vision's Ethiopian famine projects headquarters in Addis Ababa, absently playing with the bubble-plastic wrapping from a newly arrived radio.

Winding his hand inside the material, Roy quickly felt heat building around his hand. The proverbial light bulb flashed on. Might he have stumbled onto an extremely inexpensive and readily obtainable means of meeting, at least temporarily, the night-survival problem of Ajibar's children?

Roy immediately set about ordering an experimental roll of this bubble-pack material from Great Britain. Lightweight for transport, insulative for warmth, protective from the rain, the imported bubble-plastic found its way to Ajibar for a trial run under the supervision of the project's technical manager, Dr. Hector Jalipa.

Over 100 sleeping bags were manufactured from the approximately five-foot-wide bolt. It was decided to

(right) World Vision sanitarian Yeteshawork Merne is pleased by this child's protective covering. (below) Windy, hillside nights are bitterly cold. These children are enjoying the warmth—and novelty—of bubble-plastic wraps.



make the bags large enough only for children, to ensure that the most vulnerable famine victims would be the ones to benefit from the limited supply.

In order to measure the necessary length before cutting and taping the sides of the bags, several children up to age 12 were selected from among the orphans to lie down and act as patterns. Soon hordes of children were pushing their way up, trying to get in on the act. Many of the little ones became quite possessive about their part in the manufacturing process and tried to drag away bunches of their new-found "security blankets." (Unlike flat, clinging plastic material, this bubble-plastic doesn't pose a suffocation threat in its use as a covering.)

Dr. Jalipa discovered an irresistible sport in popping the bubbles of scrap pieces of the plastic, which soon earned it the nickname "Hector's toy." Initially, however, the Ajibar camp residents' reaction to these pieces of petroleum by-product was somewhat

measured. Recalling people's comments, Hector laughed, "Oh, it was weird. They kept asking, 'What's this?'" But when the concept of waterproof warmth caught on at Ajibar, World Vision went ahead with a new larger order of the bubble-plastic.

Although the plastic's use has not been without its problems, mainly due to tearing on the rough terrain where the people sleep, it is very simple and inexpensive to replace, a more than worthwhile effort for people desperate for life-sustaining warmth. And in addition to the sleeping bags for children, some lengths of the plastic have also been distributed as makeshift tent material for those entirely without shelter on the windy hillsides.

Now, a shipment of more than 5500 yards of bubble-plastic is being cleared in Ethiopia's Assab harbor on its way to an application that its inventors undoubtedly never dreamed of.

*Kathleen Walker  
WV Ethiopia Communications*

# TWO-THIRDS OF ALL THE PEOPLE IN THE WORLD

**Numbers** may impress statisticians, but one gripping example of human need will do more to prompt most of us to action than a memory bank full of figures. That's why, in this magazine and in our letters and on television, we tell stories of people. When we feel the suffering of one person—a man without a job, a hungry child, a mother who lost her children—we more easily identify with the two-thirds of the world's population who live in extreme poverty.

Just the same, some statistics—infant mortality rates, per capita income, population growth, as examples—shock me and move me to a greater commitment to our ministry. The most significant of these figures is the one I mentioned above: *two out of every three people on the face of this planet subsist in stark and frightful conditions.* That means they usually go to bed hungry at night; they don't have acceptable health care (if any); they live in inadequate housing (if they have a roof at all); and most of them have not heard the good news about Jesus Christ.

That's why we've begun to use the term "Two-Thirds World" rather than the more common "Third World." For years now, "Third World" has been used loosely to refer to politically nonaligned, economically developing, and less industrialized nations. But the concept is vague and misleading, and we prefer the more descriptive expression, "Two-Thirds World."

Recently I've taken a close look at some of the figures our researchers have drawn together, and I think I can underline this idea by sharing a few of the more sobering ones with you.

For example, the average life expectancy for this two-thirds of the population is 16 years lower than the other one-third. The infant mortality rate is five times as high. Yet the population growth of these lesser-developed countries averages 2.4 percent annually, compared to 0.7

percent for the other one-third of the world.

The average per capita income (all the money one person receives for a year) for the 35 least developed countries in the world is below \$200. All of them together account for only three percent of the gross global product. On top of this, the poorer countries have borrowed more than \$100 billion from the richer countries in recent years, and simply paying the interest on these loans strains the economy of many nations.\*

## Few Americans realize that millions of people live on less than \$200 a year.

While we're looking at numbers, let's turn the proposition around and look at the one-third who enjoy 84 percent of the world's educational expenditures and 91 percent of all that's spent on public health care. On the average these countries give less than one-half of one percent of their gross national product to help the poorer nations. Two countries, Holland and Sweden, give more than one percent, but the United States gives closer to two-tenths of one percent.

If you're like me, the figures begin to blur in your mind after a while. Two-thirds, one-half of one percent, less than \$200 a year on which to exist—it all adds up to a tragedy beyond comprehension. I've had the privilege of traveling to 135 countries of the world, and I've seen every imaginable condition. Yet I can't grasp the full significance of those figures.

I can, however, grasp what I believe should be the Christian response to such basic human need, and I can put it in one word—give. I like the way Richard Foster puts it in *Freedom of Simplicity*. "God's great generosity to

us sets us free to model that generosity toward others. Because He gave, we are enabled to give."

We hear a lot today from the economists and the political scientists who warn us of the impending disaster if the gap between the "haves" and the "have nots" widens—and it is widening. They speak in purely economic or political terms in which the motivation to give is self-interest. In an increasingly interdependent world, they say, we must help the poorer nations for our own sake. This isn't charity, they emphasize; it's an investment.

As Christians, our motivation, if we let the Spirit of God work in our hearts, is none other than love. If we let Him turn those imposing statistics into individual stories of human need, we'll find ourselves compelled to reach out toward an impoverished Two-Thirds World.

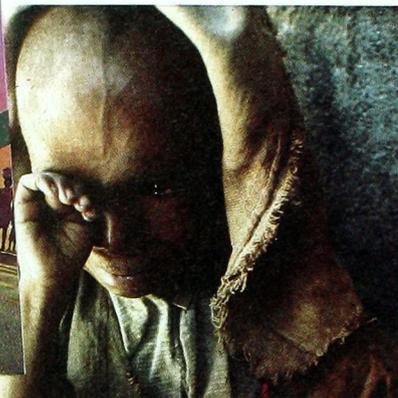
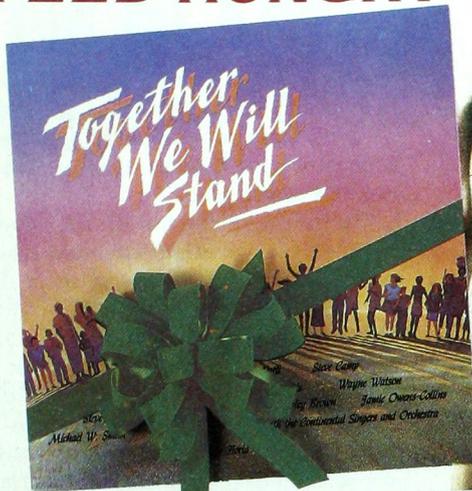
Love seizes opportunities to share in ways that meet someone's deep need. Your partnership with us in meeting someone's deep need means so much to that person enabled by your sharing to cope again and hope again. We thank you on that person's behalf. God bless you.

  
Ted W. Engstrom  
President



\* Most of these statistics come from the preface to the Encyclopedia of the Third World.

# WISH MERRY CHRISTMAS TO A FRIEND...WHEN YOU HELP FEED HUNGRY CHILDREN



For many of us, Christmas is a time of joy and sharing.

But for millions of families in drought-stricken Africa, this Christmas will be a day of struggle just like every other day...a day of crying hunger and silent death.

That's why the Continental Singers have joined with World Vision to help bring hope to starving children and their families in Africa this Christmas. They have donated their time and talent to record an inspirational album called *Together We Will Stand*.

For every suggested \$20 donation you send to help feed hungry families in Africa through World Vision, you will receive a copy of this unique album to give to a friend as a special Christmas gift. You will also receive a card for your friend explaining that the

album gift has helped to feed four hungry children in Africa for a week.

This album features the music of popular Christian recording artists Amy Grant, Sandi Patti, Steve Camp, Steve Green, The Imperials, Wayne Watson, Steve Taylor, Scott Wesley Brown, Jamie Owens-Collins, and Michael W. Smith, with the Continental Singers and Orchestra as back-up artists.

This Christmas let the Continental Singers and World Vision help you share Christ's love with hungry children. To give *Together We Will Stand* to a friend, just fill in the attached coupon and mail it today with your special gift to World Vision.



**WORLD VISION**

**YES...** I want to give hope to starving children this Christmas... and a copy of *Together We Will Stand* to my friend(s).

Enclosed is my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

(One album or cassette for each suggested \$20.)

Please send me: \_\_\_\_\_ Record(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Cassette(s)

Qty. 271G20 /K Qty. 271G20 /12

3007

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

Facing Sudan's  
food crisis

Bridge to  
the future

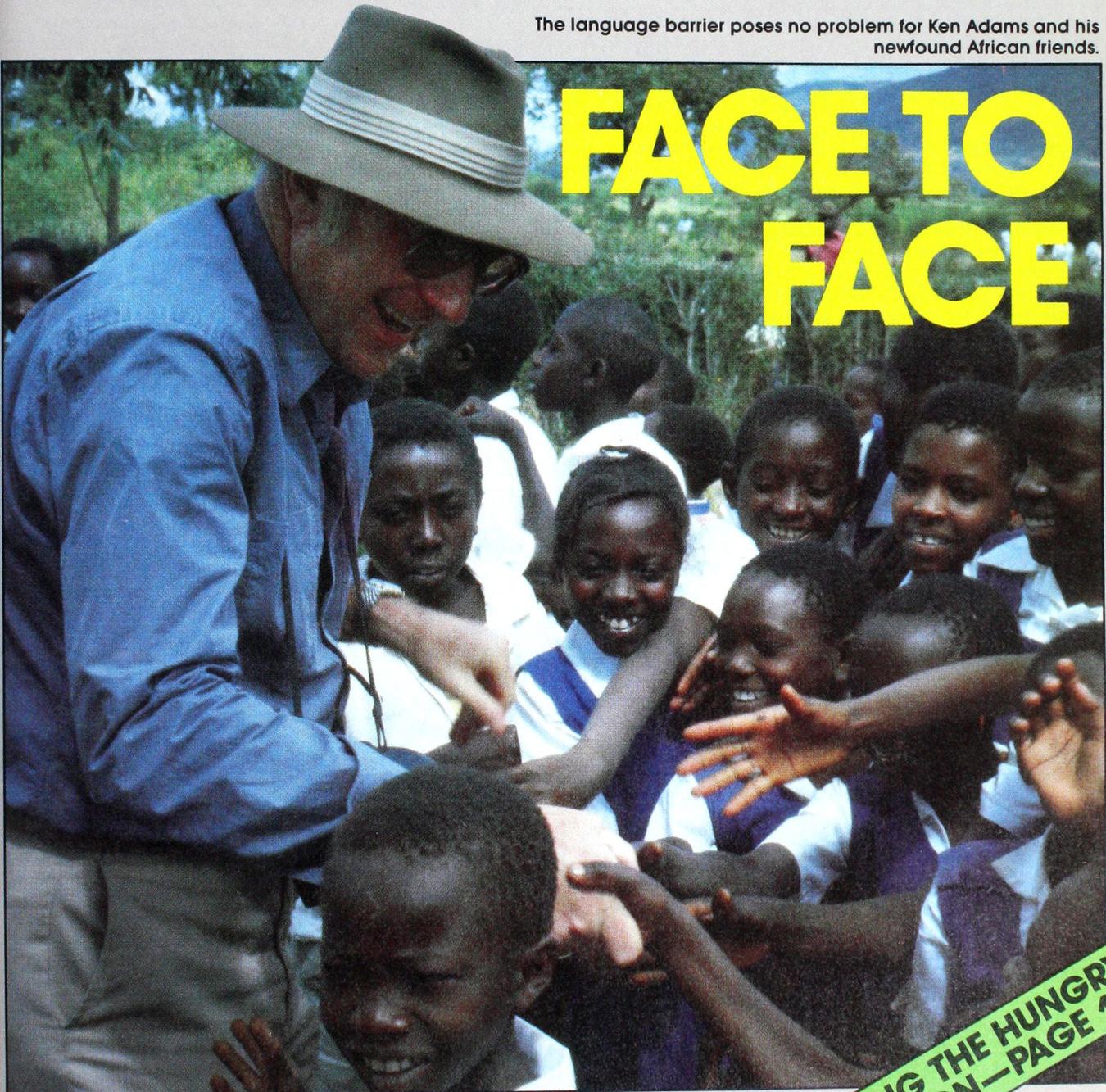
Business leaders  
visit Africa's poor

October-November 1985

# World Vision®

The language barrier poses no problem for Ken Adams and his  
newfound African friends.

## FACE TO FACE



MEETING THE HUNGRY  
IN PERSON — PAGE 12

# Readers write

## He knew hunger himself

As a Cambodian refugee now resettled in USA, I bear witness to the work of God carried out through World Vision. Now that my body doesn't look like a skeleton and my stomach does not growl anymore, I know what I give now will be in the stomachs of the needy.

Thanks, God! Thanks to everybody who gives.  
*Hong Ly Kbuy  
Honolulu, HI*

## Giving in hope

My husband and I have a daughter seven months old. When we saw your program on television a few months ago, it was the children and the parents of those children that especially touched our hearts.

We imagined how we would feel watching our own child die of starvation or some terrible disease. We saw children suffering in their so-short lives, who had never had the chance to enjoy life in even the most simple way—for how can they when they are constantly hungry?

What must it be like to hold in your arms a child that is screaming in pain and hunger—or whimpering softly, too weak to cry out?

I know our contribution is not much, but it's what we can give and is given with much love in our hearts. And hope! We pray that we can stop just one child from dying, that we can save one family from that pain, that we can bring joy to just one child's eyes and heart. If we can do that, then perhaps at least one child will live and grow with God's love and peace and joy.

*Mrs. David Schafer  
Rockford, IL*

## True peace and freedom

Thank you for the Mini-message, "Do You Know the Peace Giver?" This morning when I read it I was so encouraged and set free. Our family prays together every night for those starving in Ethiopia and other parts of Africa. We need to pray not only for these people's physical needs but also for God's peace in their hearts, a peace that truly passes all understanding.

*Hope Gilmore  
Blue springs, MO*

## Self-help commended

I appreciated the last issue because of your telling us in detail of your efforts to

aid needy people to help themselves as well as just being helped, and of trying to get folks back to their home places. I also trust you do give out the saving gospel wherever you can.  
*Pastor C.A. White  
New Richmond, OH*

## Development most important

The article, "Ethiopia's Long Walk . . ." stated: "It is not so much a lack of water that is devastating Ethiopia, as a lack of access to water." Development activities should be the most important type of effort to engage in and publicize.

*Barbara Susan Ash  
St. Petersburg, FL*

## "And I complain?"

Thank you for your informative and touching June-July magazine. My heart aches for these people. The articles by Thea Chitambar, "What I Learned from an Ethiopian Boy," and "An Ethiopian Widow's Mite," were especially moving. And I complain about not having enough at times? Outrageous!

*Ann Wolf  
Fair Oaks, CA*

## Lest we forget

I hope and pray that people everywhere who are aware (And who is not?) of the suffering and tragedy of countless others in this world, and who have responded with their hearts, will not let time or the lack of future media reminders diminish their commitment to help.

*Margie Sanford  
Boston, MA*

## Help at home first?

In a discussion with two relatives, the subject of helping those overseas came up. Both said they thought we should help the poor of our country first and then others. I would like them to read the wonderful articles on Ethiopia in your June-July issue. Could you send them each a copy?

We contribute regularly to World Vision as well as sponsoring a child. If only all of us in our country could realize what is going on in the world through *your* eyes, so much more could be done.

*Mrs. Haydon Spidell  
Sutter Creek, CA*

*World Vision is also mindful of the needs of people here at home. Through our U.S. Ministries division, working in partnership with churches and other agencies, we meet a broad range of needs in holistic minis-*

*tries to ethnic minorities, refugees and other needy people.*

## Sorrow becomes joy

I became aware of the Ethiopian crisis by accident one night. Drowning in my personal sorrow, I flipped through the channels in search of diversion. I couldn't find a comedy program that could make me laugh; rather, I found myself watching World Vision's plea for help for desperately needy people.

Now my tears were for others. When I picked up the phone to become a contributor, I felt a burst of inner happiness and knew that what I sent would reach and help people in Ethiopia.

*C. Perez  
Haverhill, MA*

## Excuses

There are many excuses for not helping the needy. One is: "How do I know if the money I send is going to help the needy?"

There *are* people in the world who swindle others by various means. However, with faith in God through Jesus Christ, we can be directed to organizations such as yours and know that the money we send is helping.

*Marvin B. Jones  
Huntsville, AL*

## Not just to Ethiopians

I understand Ted Engstrom's concern in his article "When the TV Image Flickers Away." I want World Vision to know that my commitment is not just to those my commitment in need but to the world in need. My commitment to help feed and clothe the hungry only ends when there are no more hungry to be fed and no more naked to be clothed.

*Clarinda White  
Beaverton, OR*

## Sewing to share

I've just finished the June-July magazine and read it from cover to cover. How well off we all are in comparison to those destitute people in Ethiopia.

I pray every day for them and contribute each month to your work. I'm 78 years old and still pretty active. I do custom sewing, so I can still help those in need.

*Jane Youngblood  
Ennis, TX*

# World Vision®



## 4 Fighting flood and famine in Sudan

Rains bring harvest hopes for fall—but frustration now.

## 9 A bridge to the future

Bridge-building in Ethiopia: food-for-work and hope for tomorrow.

## 12 Face to face with Africa's poor

U.S. business leaders take Mother Teresa's words to heart.



### Also

- 2 Readers write
- 16 On World Food Day
- 17 Eat the bread of life
- 17 Please pray
- 18 Project Mercy
- 21 Samaritan sampler
- 22 The plastic security blanket
- 23 Two-thirds of the world

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## ON THIS DISASTER-PRONE PLANET

**On one side** of the globe a pair of earthquakes shatter the lives of thousands in the world's largest city. On the opposite side a prolonged famine saps the lives of thousands in widespread countryside. Meanwhile, warfare traumatizes thousands in other nations east and west, north and south.

How can a few million Christians bring the healing touch of Jesus Christ to so many suffering people in such diverse places? The answer is that God, who keeps His eyes on everyone everywhere, calls certain of His people to be His hands in certain places, and He calls many others of us to equip and support them in their mercy work.

At His behest a contingent is at

work for Him in Mexico City; another in Ethiopia; another in Sudan; yet others in Lebanon, El Salvador and other disaster areas. And the more faithfully we—His fingers—make ourselves and our means wholly available to Him, the sooner all the peoples on this whole disaster-prone planet will be able to feel His touch and hear His voice calling them to take eternal refuge at His side.

*David Olson*

PHOTOS: Cover, pp. 12, 14: Tom Getman; pp. 4, 5, 6 (left), 7, 8: Jacob Akol; p. 6 (right): Pat Fisher; pp. 9, 10 (center), 11 (right): Peter Richards; pp. 10 (top and bottom), 11 (top): Steve Reynolds; p. 11 (bottom): Mary Peterson; pp. 13, 15: Sharon Sopher; p. 16: Arthur Kemp; pp. 18, 20 (right): Deborah Greenburg; p. 19: Doug Kelly; p. 20 (left): Project Mercy; p. 21: Alternatives; p. 22: David Ward.

In Africa's largest nation

# FIGHTING FLOOD AND FAMINE IN SUDAN

**R**ains are falling in Sudan and a harvest is being reaped—but the scythe is being swung by the angel of death, and the harvest is grim. Malnutrition has been rampant for many months and an estimated 150,000 people, mostly children, have perished of starvation since January. Most relief workers agree that the toll will climb significantly higher by the end of the year.

National surveys show unprecedented malnutrition, and aid experts estimate that the death toll among children has increased by at least 20,000 a month. Bradford Morse, director of the United Nations Office of Emergency Operations for Africa, says, "Hundreds of thousands of lives are at stake in Sudan." In a plea for assistance to government and relief organizations throughout the world, Morse said, "Health conditions in all regions of Sudan are extremely serious and deteriorating rapidly."

Severe flooding occurring in the southern half of Sudan is a consequence of heavy rainfall that began early in July. Now, with more than two months of rainfall, many mud-brick villages in the country's agricultural central region—between the White and Blue Nile Rivers—lie under several feet of water. Encampments of thousands of famine-stricken migrants from western Sudan and refugees from the neighboring western country of Chad, who have come to the irrigated central

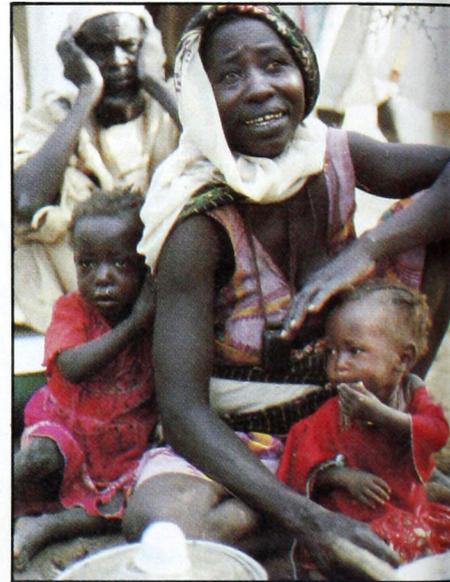
**M**any of the central region's 7500 villages lie under a foot or two of water.

region hoping to find food, also have been hard hit by the summer rains.

Makeshift shelters of reed matting, cloth and plastic sheeting thrown up by camp dwellers prove insufficient to protect them from the downpours. The camp areas have turned several times into seas of mud. One camp near the town of Wad Medani, 120 miles south of Sudan's capital of Khartoum, was isolated from motor vehicles for a week. During that period, while the camp continued to grow toward its present population of 7000, trucks delivered relief shipments of grain to the edge of the impassable area and men from the camp carried the sacks on their backs over the remaining hour's distance.

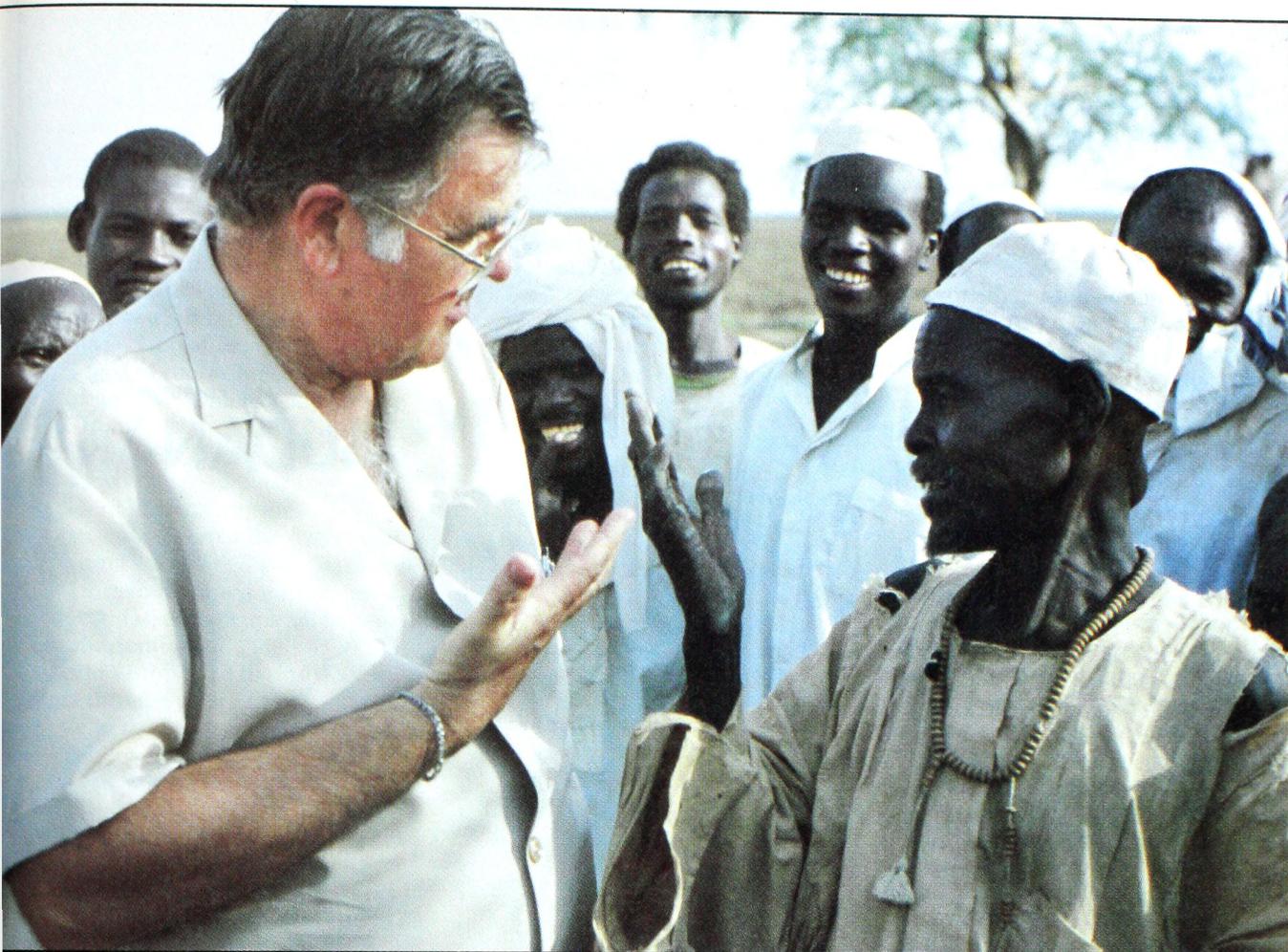
**Thanks to massive aid** from world governments and 49 voluntary relief agencies, catastrophic nationwide starvation has been averted. Yet some 8.4 million people out of a total population of 22 million in the continent's largest country will continue to depend almost wholly upon international food assistance at least until mid-November.

Seared by widespread African drought that has lasted from three to ten years



in various parts of Sudan, farmers and nomadic pastoralists in the largely agricultural country have been stricken by total crop failure and annihilation of livestock herds. The response of many destitute families over the past year and more was to abandon traditional homelands and villages and go wandering through the barren countryside in search of work and food.

Neither was available anywhere, and camps ranging in size from dozens to many thousands of displaced people spontaneously sprang up along the Nile River and on the outskirts of mud-brick towns and the city of Khartoum.



(far left) Recently arrived Chadian refugees at the Movy nutrition center (above) A Chadian elder at Movy thanks Ted Engstrom for World Vision's assistance to his people. (left) Workers load barrels of rapeseed oil from WV Canada.



has the potential to be the breadbasket of northeast Africa, but that has not prevented 1.3 million of the region's 4.2 million population from being affected by the drought.

Meanwhile, some 1.2 million refugees were pouring into Sudan seeking to escape drought, famine and political strife in the neighboring countries of Ethiopia to the east, Chad to the west, and Uganda and Zaire to the south. The refugees set up squalid camps of their own. Though desperately burdened by the plight of its own people, Sudan, a notably hospitable country, permitted the masses of refugees to remain within its borders. World Vision President Ted Engstrom, upon returning from a recent tour of

## Sudan has only one major road—from Port Sudan to Khartoum—which was opened in 1980.

Under crowded conditions, with sanitation nonexistent, whole families huddled in tiny makeshift huts, suffering severe hunger and disease.

The country's central region is currently bearing the brunt of the crisis. Migrants from the west have traditionally moved there in search of seasonal labor picking cotton, which represents 65 percent of the country's exports. Agriculturalists say this area

famine-stricken areas in Sudan, said, "Sudan has to be one of our major emphases for World Vision concern. However, despite evidence of suffering at nearly every turn, we have made and are making a difference in needy areas such as the central region among Sudanese as well as famine refugees from Chad.

"More than 5000 of these Chadians are now sheltering outside the town of Sennar, some four hours' drive south of Khartoum. They lead a depressing life: a family of five, for example, has nothing more than a circular straw or sack hut about six feet in diameter and not much higher than that. They, like the other 3000 Chadians near the town of Wad Medani, depend on World Vision now and for the foreseeable future."

**Through spring** of 1985, many people in Sudan subsisted by foraging for "famine foods," often no more than withered leaves, grasses, bark and berries that provide little or no nutrition and cause severe digestive problems. Meanwhile, the world community, already alerted to Africa's continent-wide killer-drought, was pouring food into the country's single major entry point, Port Sudan on the Red Sea. By mid-July, 420,000 tons of grain jammed warehouses and dock-sides in the port, while more ships



Ted Engstrom confers with Sudan Survey Team Leader Arne Bergstrom.

## FACTS ABOUT SUDAN

**Population:** 21.8 million (mid-1985 estimate). Only 41 percent live in urban areas. Sudan contains the most heterogeneous society in Africa, with divisions along ethnic, tribal, geographic, linguistic and sectarian lines.

**Geography:** 967,500 square miles. Sudan is geographically the largest nation in Africa. The Sahara Desert spreads across the northern sector. Semi-arid plains make up the region near Khartoum. This gently rolling territory is succeeded in the south by tropical plains with more abundant rainfall. In the extreme south, the land is choked by dense jungle growth. The Nile River is the main route of north-south communication and travel.

**Languages:** More than 140 languages are spoken. Most of northern Sudan uses Arabic, the nation's official language. Other principal tongues: English, dialects of the southern Nilotic people, dialects of the Hamitic and Semitic people, and in the southern provinces Bantu dialects.

**Education:** 32 percent literacy. One teacher for every 155 school-age children.

**Health:** One doctor for every 8800 Sudanese. Life expectancy is 48 years. Infant mortality rate is about 12 percent.

**Religion:** Northern Sudan is predominantly Muslim (73 percent). Southern Sudan is ten percent Christian. Most southerners are animists who worship many gods, especially their ancestral spirits.

**Economy:** Average annual income is \$400 (1983 estimate). Main crops: cotton, gum arabic, peanuts, sesame. Main industries: cotton ginning, textiles and apparel, food processing, agricultural processing, light manufacturing. The influx of 1.2 million refugees from Ethiopia, Chad, Zaire and Uganda has heavily burdened the weak national infrastructure.



**History and government:** The ancient history of Sudan (the Cush of antiquity), one of the oldest civilizations in the world, revolved around the Pharaohs of Egypt and the Nubian people in central Sudan. After the reign of Egyptian Pharaohs, the Sudan split into a collection of small independent states. Christianity was introduced in the sixth century. Much of the country adopted Islam by the end of the 13th century. British colonial rule began in 1899 and was replaced in 1956 by a coalition government. After a period of military rule, Colonel Gaafer Nemeiry took control in 1969. In early 1985 General Abdul Rahman Suwar al Dahab, former defense minister, led a bloodless coup and formed the Transitional Military Council, promising a return to civilian rule.



laden with food waited offshore for berthing space.

But the rains also crippled relief efforts. Sudan's rail link from the Red Sea to the west amounts to a single length of track spanning an area nearly one-third the size of the contiguous United States. Downpours collapsed a major bridge along the route and washed out the line in nine other places. Roads threading over the country's vast stretches of desert, savanna and forest are few and difficult in the best of times. Sudan has only one major road, which is an 850-mile route from Port Sudan to Khartoum opened in 1980. Elsewhere, one drives following not a road but a compass, the sun or stars or previous wheel tracks running across the desert. But these tracks are wiped away with every sand storm and turned into impassable mud when seasonal rains fall between June and September.

World Vision tried to push food shipments through an area of starving people in the country's southeast by hooking tractors to trailers loaded with grain. Most of the tractors stalled

in mire. Undaunted, the project coordinator, American Episcopalian Priest Peter Larom of White Plains, New York, rented camels and organized a caravan that successfully crossed a 50 mile barrier of mud in three days.

Nearer to Khartoum, displaced people uncertain about returning to their homelands wait for nothing in sodden huts and wallow through clinging mud to nutrition centers and medical facilities. Relief agencies struggle to alleviate malnutrition throughout the region. At the same time, they do what they can to help the hunger-weakened people who contract malaria, measles, dysentery, typhoid and acute gastroenteritis.

Outbreaks of acute gastroenteritis are threatening large numbers of migrants, refugees and urban squatters in Sudan. Sporadic outbreaks of the cholera-like disease are occurring around the three sister towns of Khartoum, Khartoum North and Omdurman, where 858 cases (with 69 deaths) have been reported.

A UNICEF specialist in diarrheal diseases, Dr. D. Patte, told aid agency leaders meeting in Khartoum in August that more than 60 people a day in the capital are being admitted to hospitals with the disease. He said that UNICEF personnel believe that admissions in the capital will rise to 100 a day in the near future.

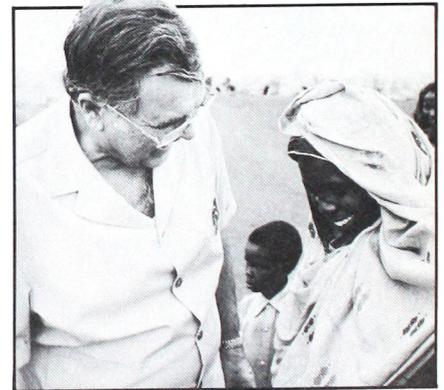
## **Agricultural experts are hoping that the mid-November harvest will yield at least average crops.**

**World Vision's** relationship with the country's new government has been positive since World Vision began its work in the country last May. In August, World Vision International Vice President Cliff Benzel and Project Coordinator Peter Larom met with Major General Fadalla Burma, a senior member of Sudan's ruling transitional military council.

During their 30-minute meeting, Mr. Benzel outlined the scope of World Vision's programs in Sudan and expressed World Vision's desire to increase its commitment over the next 12 months. He also voiced World Vision's interest in establishing major long-term development projects when the present famine crisis is alleviated.

Gen. Burma expressed gratitude and appreciation for World Vision's cooperation with the Sudanese government,

## **The rains have increased food shortages.**



Ted Engstrom shares a laugh with children at the Sennar nutrition center.

Children cluster around makeshift huts at the Sennar nutrition center.

and offered to establish a formal protocol recognizing World Vision's work in Sudan. The general gave World Vision direct access to himself, and indicated willingness for the military to assist in relief efforts.

World Vision now has a well-established distribution system in the central region. It has 40 full-time local employees at the village level and 120 monitors, mostly graduates of the local university at Gizira.

More than 17,000 tons of food has come through and is being distributed by World Vision staff. Most of this food is from World Vision Canada. The rest is from World Food Program and USAID.

**Meanwhile**, the remote far west of Sudan continues to hold pockets of calamitous famine. At the Angi Koti camp near Nyala, which is maintained for refugees from Chad by the Africa Committee for Rehabilitation of Southern Sudan (ACROSS) and World Vision, conditions among the staff and more than 20,000 camp residents are improving. At one stage a swollen river isolated staff members from the refugees. As soon as the flood abated, staff workers went to live among camp residents. Now two doctors and 13 nurses

**"I am convinced that long-term development programs in poverty-stricken areas are the answer to Sudan's famine problems."**

are working there and three nutrition centers are in operation. Meanwhile, staff members are replacing tent quarters with permanent mud-brick huts.

Although the rains have intensified food shortages among half of Sudan's population, the needed moisture has also turned the formerly drought-ravaged countryside green with fresh crops. Agricultural experts are hoping that a harvest due in mid-November will yield at least average quantities of sorghum, millet, sesame, peanuts and other crops. But, as with so many factors in the huge, remote and crippled African country, yields remain unpredictable.

At the close of his Sudan tour, Ted Engstrom stated, "I am more than convinced that long-term development programs in poverty-stricken areas are the answer to Sudan's famine problems. While food-growing is of

supreme importance now and later, it is projects such as reforestation and a steady supply of water which will roll back the advancing desert and give the Sudanese a chance for a settled life. We intend to give our maximum support to these efforts here in Sudan and in the Sahelian countries where we are already heavily involved."

Though mass starvation has been averted thus far in Sudan, this historic land where Arabic Africa meets black Africa is certain to remain heavily in need of relief assistance for the rest of the year, and in continued need as normal stores of food and herds of livestock are rebuilt in the two or three years that follow. □

*Edited by Randy Miller from reports by World Vision International Communicator Bruce Brander, World Vision New Zealand Communicator Lloyd Ashton, and World Vision Communications Manager for Africa Jacob Akol.*

**To help** World Vision's emergency teams bring food, medicine and a Christian witness to the victims of Sudan's widespread famine, please use the return envelope provided between pages 16 and 17. Thank You!



This Chadian family at the nutrition center near Wad Medani has no shelter yet, but they are glad that they at least have something to eat.

A food-for-work program in Ethiopia is building . . .

# A BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE

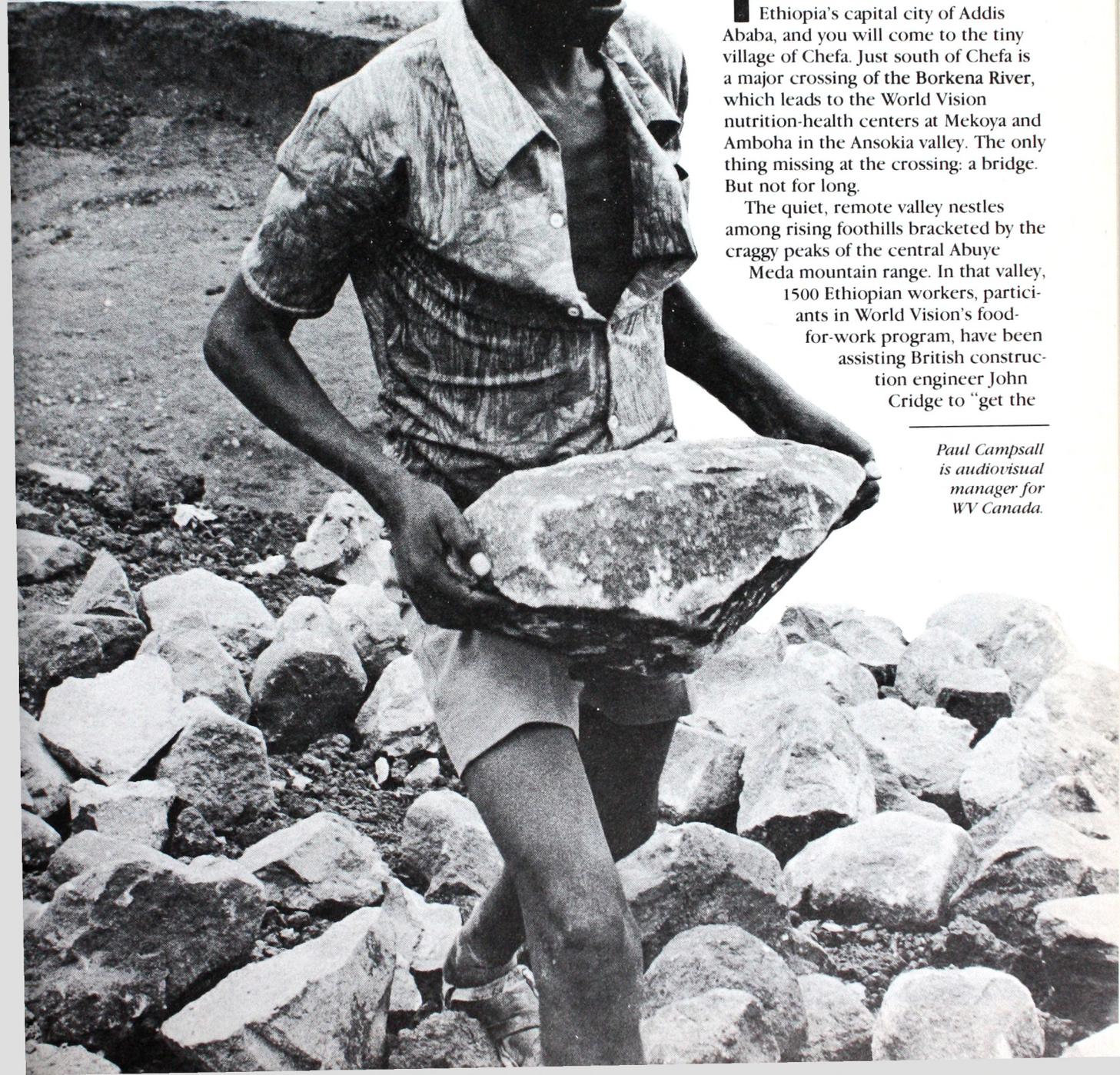
by Paul Campsall

**T**ravel 140 miles northeast of Ethiopia's capital city of Addis Ababa, and you will come to the tiny village of Chefa. Just south of Chefa is a major crossing of the Borkena River, which leads to the World Vision nutrition-health centers at Mekoya and Amboha in the Ansokia valley. The only thing missing at the crossing: a bridge. But not for long.

The quiet, remote valley nestles among rising foothills bracketed by the craggy peaks of the central Abuye Meda mountain range. In that valley, 1500 Ethiopian workers, participants in World Vision's food-for-work program, have been assisting British construction engineer John Cridge to "get the

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*Paul Campsall  
is audiovisual  
manager for  
WV Canada.*



supports in" for a bridge that may mean the difference between life and death for more than 28,000 people being helped at the Ansokia World Vision nutrition-health centers. The total potential beneficiaries will exceed 300,000 people when the bridge is in place.

Each year ten or more people drown during the flooding *belg* (autumn) rains. Though only a brief flooding, and often carrying insufficient water for the needs of farmers, it turns the river gorge into a sea of mud and for several weeks makes this vital trail to Ansokia almost impassable.

"This bridge is essential for the development of the area," Cridge said. "Even now trucks cannot cross the

Borkena River bed because the seasonal rains have started and it's too muddy."

Roy Higgins, a Briton who is the World Vision Ethiopia famine program's chief engineer, explained some of the complications workers on the bridge project have been faced with. "Ten to fourteen workdays were lost because of floods. The crew also had to wait for more than a month to receive the bridge's three 90-foot steel sections, sent from England, because of a tremendous backlog at Assab Harbor." (The harbor has limited dockage and wharfing space; therefore harbor traffic is slow.) Another problem is land transportation because of the limited number of trucks and the conditions of the roads in the area.

Higgins added, "If you realize that

John [Cridge] has had only a water pump with no other mechanical tools or equipment on site—no concrete mixer (we mix by hand); no power generator (we must stop work at dark); and no other modern equipment at all—we've been going along quite nicely."

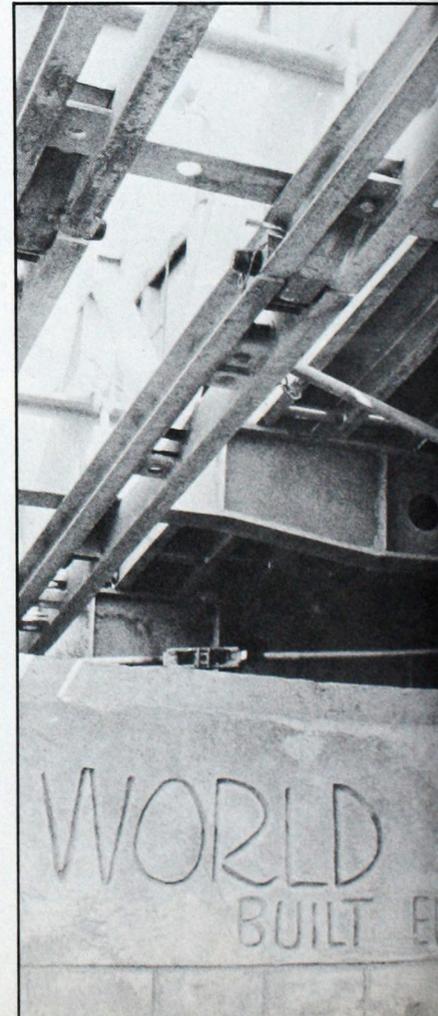
## The only thing missing at the river crossing: a bridge. But not for long.

Local food-for-work laborers participate in the pre-fabricated bridge's construction by hand-carrying stones for the foundation.

More than 1500 farmers displaced from their lands by persisting drought and famine took part in the food-for-work program, which preserved the workers' dignity by providing a chance to earn food from World Vision donors.



Women proved eager laborers when World Vision initiated the food-for-work program, often carrying stones slung across their backs or perched on their heads.



Equipment and supplies—including building materials—must be transported from Kombolcha in the north, or Addis Ababa in the south, via truck to the river's eastern bank. Then the cargo is unloaded onto workers' backs to be carried across a temporary footbridge erected by a World Vision crew. From there the materials are reloaded on donkeys or camels to be moved to Mekoya and Amboha. This is slow, backbreaking work that often damages goods because they are handled so much. Yet this complex route has been the vital lifeline for the Ansokia valley nutrition-health centers.

The workers on this project are local farmers who are paid two kilos of grain per day to dig excavations, mix and pour concrete, serve as porters of goods or do any other work that is needed. World Vision provides the grain for the ongoing food-for-work program. In this area, which has been affected heavily by the recent drought, food is a much more valuable commodity than money. Food-for-work provides life-sustaining food supplies for the workers and their families while preserving their self-respect and ability to provide for themselves.

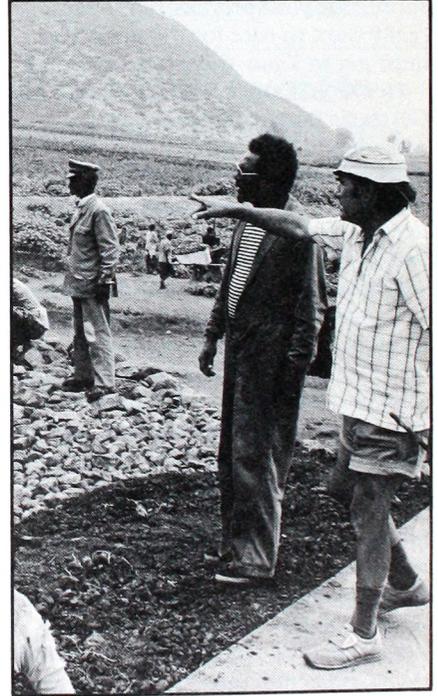
"These people are very hard workers, especially the women. They just keep working all day," says British engineer David Charlesworth. "I think that the workers appreciate why they are building a bridge. They understand that it will bring benefits in the future."

The benefits of this World Vision project are both immediately visible and mirrored in the future. Already 1000 families are being fed in this famine-stricken valley. In the near future, with the completion of the bridge, feeding can increase, and long-range transportation, irrigation and development projects can be undertaken. Perhaps, as one Ethiopian put it, someday this valley can become "a breadbasket for Ethiopia." □



Labor crews mix cement for the bridge's foundations.

British engineer John Cridge consults with an Ethiopian foreman during the final stages of the bridge's support construction.



Beneath the bridge's steel span, credit to the builders—and the Maker—is given.

American business leaders come . . .

# FACE TO FACE WITH AFRICA'S POOR

by Randy Miller

**M**other Teresa looked into the faces of Senator Mark Hatfield's staff members who had clustered around her in their office to offer her their prayers. She thanked them for their support, then added a gentle prod to their consciences. "I appreciate your prayers. But if you really want to care for the poor, you must get to know them personally."

Her words lodged deep in Tom Getman's heart, and served as the catalyst which eventually launched a DC-8 full of business executives, volunteers and relief goods on a trip to needy areas in Ethiopia, Sudan and Kenya.

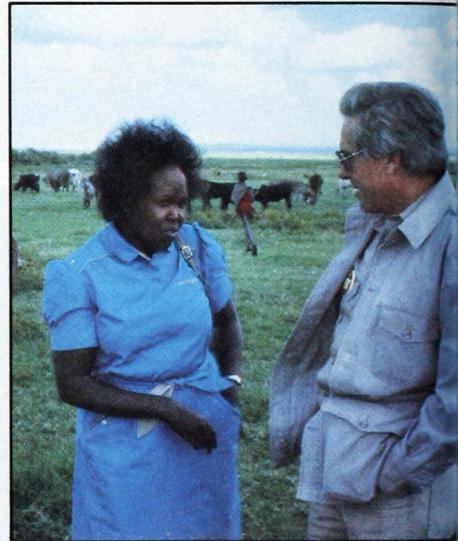
Getman, who at the time was the senator's legislative assistant, had found himself devoting an increasing amount of his time to problems in Africa. "A senator needs a 'generalist' in the capacity of legislative assistant," Getman said. "I felt a need to be more focused on Africa, especially the famine-stricken countries." Ultimately that calling led him to accept a position as assistant to World Vision's president. Based in Washington, DC, Getman's primary focus is on World Vision's long-term development work in Africa. Part of his job involves fulfilling Mother Teresa's

mandate: taking groups of business persons, politicians and others to Africa so they can see the famine situation firsthand and get to know some of its victims personally.

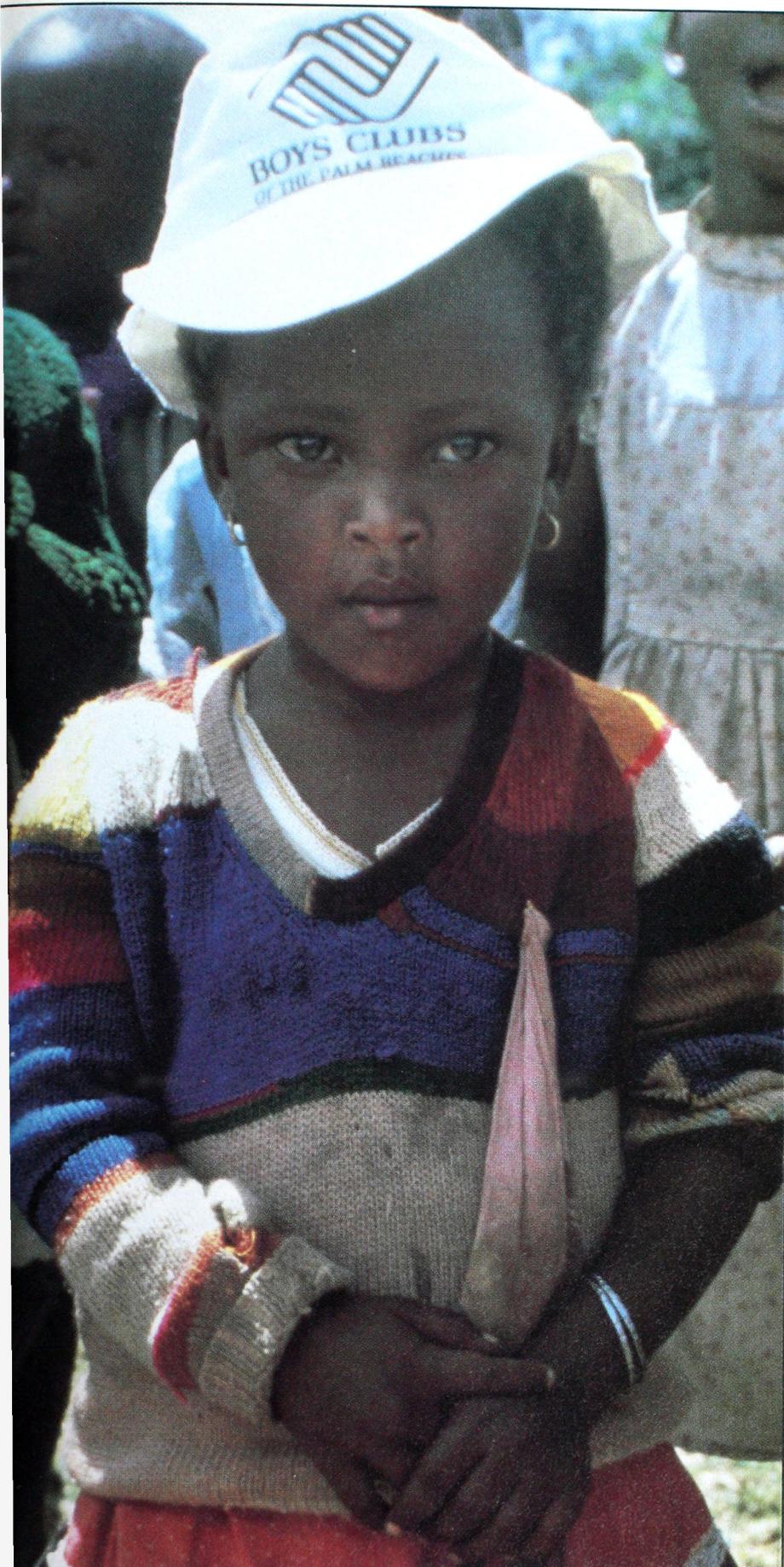
The vision to take groups to Africa began with Mother Teresa's compelling words and grew as Getman accepted her challenge and traveled overseas himself to witness the work of Mother Teresa and her Missionaries of Charity.

"I saw how totally engaged they were in their work," Getman explained. "They really *do* see Christ in the person who needs clothing and a cup of cold water. And their lives are

**Rebecca Cherono of the World Vision Kenya staff describes the details of a project near Nairobi to John Temple.**



The group pauses for a photo at the White House after meeting with government officials.



palpably different because of that.”

A three-month sabbatical in Africa followed that trip. With his wife and children, he visited the poor in Egypt, Kenya, Uganda and South Africa. In South Africa alone he covered 5400 miles in seven weeks—visiting eight of the nine “homelands” and all major black townships—and meeting with black, colored and white Christian leaders throughout the country.

“It was during that sabbatical that the vision really grew,” Getman remarked. “I began to imagine how wonderful it would be if some of my business associates and political friends could have their hearts touched by experiences similar to this.”

**Last June** that vision finally became reality as a former astronaut, a former governor, a polo club vice president, several business leaders from Florida’s Palm Beach County and 29 volunteers from other relief agencies embarked on a ten-day journey to east Africa.

Their trip began with a White House breakfast briefing, where the group received input from Vice President George Bush; Peter McPherson, director of the Agency for International Development; Chester Crocker, assistant

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**“If you really want to care for the poor, you must get to know them personally.”**

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secretary for Africa affairs; Loret Ruppe, director of the Peace Corps; and Sudan’s high commissioner for refugees, Ambassador Al Ahmadi.

Anita Mitchell, the Palm Beach County public relations executive who coordinated the travel logistics for the seven Florida residents who went, discovered that none of her advance legwork could prepare them for the psychological jolt they all would encounter upon reaching African soil.

“One of the things we kept hearing before we left was, ‘You won’t be the same when you get back,’ ” Mitchell

**Members of the group met this little girl as they visited with families living in the sprawling slums of Nairobi’s Mathare Valley.**

said. "But I thought I was ready. I'd seen the pictures and done extensive reading. When I got there I discovered I still wasn't ready."

Upon reaching Africa, the group split into two parts, with one contingent observing World Vision projects in Ethiopia, the other visiting projects in Sudan. After a few days in each country, the travelers met again in Kenya, where they were hosted by the World Vision staff.

Members of both groups touring Ethiopia and Sudan came face to face with the dire living conditions endured by hundreds of thousands of drought and famine victims continent-wide: the ramshackle cardboard and mud shacks, open sewers, human and animal feces in the streets and flies everywhere. But what shone through the mire and poverty were the loving hearts and smiling faces that greeted them at virtually every turn.

"The outpouring of love from these people toward us—total strangers—was overwhelming," Anita Mitchell said. "They have so much pride and

**These uniformed school children in Kenya are as eager to learn about Anita Mitchell as she is to learn about them.**



**In Kenya, group members listen to Sam Matu describe the Kima Dams project.**



dignity, yet they're so open and warm. There is no bitterness despite their bitter plight, even as many of them are literally starving to death."

In Ethiopia, the travelers visited World Vision's nutrition-health center at Ilnat, a development project at Lake Tana, and long-term water and agricultural projects underway in the Anskia Valley.

Sudan's visitors witnessed the famine relief work which World Vision has stepped up heavily since May in that country. They walked among residents at a relief camp at Wad Sherife on the Ethiopian border, where 120,000 Tigrayans and Eritreans have sought refuge; saw a CARE/AID reforestation project in Qadarif, and visited the 2.1 million-acre Gezira irrigation scheme located between the Blue and White Nile Rivers.

World Vision Kenya staff members Rebecca Cheron and McMillin Kiru greeted the two groups when they arrived in Nairobi. There they were exposed to various projects, including those in Nairobi's Mathare Valley and Korogocho slums, where group members walked in pairs and trios, visiting families in the poverty-stricken communities.

**Reactions** to what they saw in each of the countries varied, but none among the visitors was left unmoved.

"I can't conceive of people living in the conditions in which they are living," remarked Palm Beach County Commissioner Ken Adams. In World War II I saw death and a lot of other things . . . but nothing of this magnitude. We're talking about an entire generation that could be brain damaged because of malnutrition—and young women who will be unable to have children."

Byron Schneider, 4-H director for Minnesota, cabled his wife from Africa

to tell her he was coming home a different person from the one who left. "This is one of the deepest spiritual experiences I have ever had in my life," he said.

Spiritual awakening—or reawakening—was not uncommon among the group as they were exposed to fellow Christians and others caught in famine's grip. Former astronaut Stuart Roosa, who flew aboard Apollo 14, discovered in himself a renewed spiritual commitment after this journey. "I may be a hard-talking military man, but I want what the Lord wants for me, and I'm praying for that."

John Temple, president of Disney/Arvida, told Tom Getman at the close of the trip, "I see now that the answer to Africa's need is primarily spiritual. I have, after years of pursuing my business career to the exclusion of everything else, realized that I must return to the religious commitments of my youth."

The short message given to Anita Mitchell by a young villager at one project came straight to the point. "As we were leaving one village, a young, very skinny boy reached up and pulled on my leg. He whispered to me what were probably the only two English words he knew. 'Please help,' he said."

Helping, in whatever ways they could, was what was on the minds of the visitors as they returned home.

"We're a very giving country," said Robert Sanders, chief operating officer of the Goodman Company of West Palm Beach. "We can't stand by and watch television—the dead and starving people with bones as thin as dead twigs lying on the Ethiopian plain—and not want to do something about it. We, who have so much, must do something for these humble souls."

"I also think that if a real solution is to be found, the United States and other nations involved must be willing to put aside politics and self-interest. If we don't, then Africa is going to remain in the shadow of death with very little hope for change."

Laurie Ylvisaker, vice president for development of the Palm Beach Polo and Country Club, echoed Sanders' concern and added, "The United States has a lot more to give than just dollars. We need to share our education so

other people can survive and flourish. That is what this mission is really all about."

The suffering of people in squalid living conditions in Africa not only moved Ken Adams to want to do something for the needs of famine victims on that continent, but also brought to mind the people living in dumpsters and abandoned cars near his own community. When he returned home, he urged the Palm Beach County government to designate some tax funds toward housing for migrant farm workers in the Belle Glade area. With his heart-felt urging, \$5 million has been earmarked for migrant workers' housing this year; another \$5 million is targeted for housing projects next year.

**Commitments** for needs in Africa, too, are being discussed by trip members. Questions being dealt with are not "If we can help . . ." but rather, "When?" and "Where?"

Reflecting on the journey upon his return to the U.S., Tom Getman said, "The primary purpose of the trip was to give people an opportunity to get outside their everyday lives and pressures from their businesses so that they might be rejuvenated in their own spirits and touched by the graciousness of the committed relief workers in Africa. And then secondly, that there would come from that experience a sharing of resources and influences that these business people have in order to help meet specific needs of the people who are suffering in the Sahel."

"What has resulted, in the first instance, is that I think every person on that trip could say that it was one of the most important spiritual journeys of their lives, that they'll never be the same because of it, and that they see life differently because of the way they saw people living and needs being met in Africa."

"To me, this is a symbol of the emerging Kingdom. It's the sons and daughters of God standing on tip toe, seeing the Kingdom happening. They see, for perhaps the first time in their lives, where they can make a difference."

"Once they're there, actually meeting the people face to face, it happens—what Mother Teresa said. If they really want to care for the poor, they become friends with the people. And when they become friends with the people, they'll never forget them." □



**Tom Getman (right) discusses feeding distribution plans with Sudan Project Coordinator Peter Larom (left) and Logistics Expert Jim Rosenberry.**

Notable hunger-fighting efforts

## ON WORLD FOOD DAY

**A**lmost every member of your church will be reminded of world hunger on October 16. That's World Food Day—the annual time when secular and religious organizations across America and in 155 other countries call attention to the plight of our planet's starving and malnourished people—and to what we well-fed people can do about it.

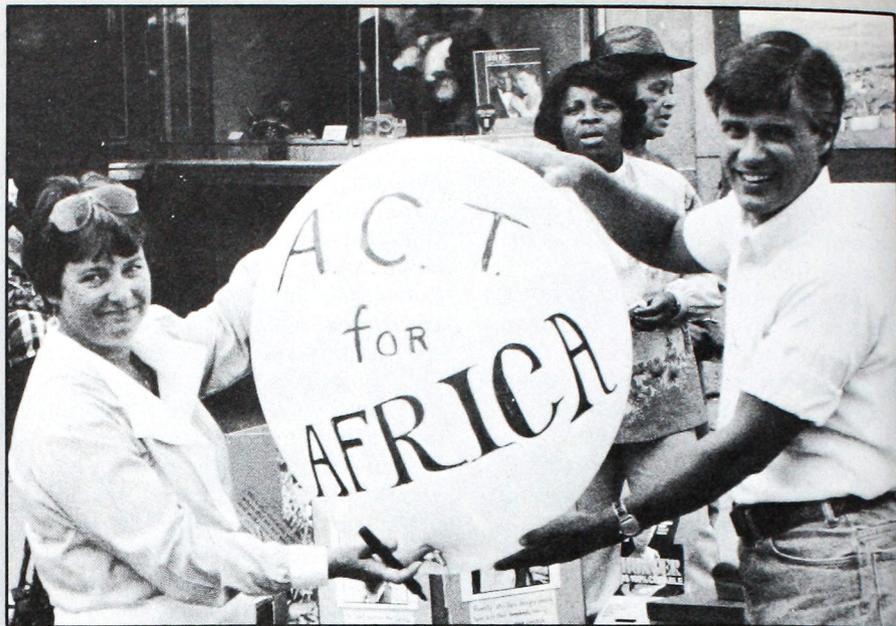
World Vision is among the 340 American sponsors of this year's World Food Day observances, encouraging local and regional groups of Christians everywhere to take practical action that will provide not only swift food delivery to starving people, but solid food-production capability to those who otherwise will face the same plight next year and beyond.

One regional group whose special efforts will become more publicly visible on World Food Day is ACT for Africa—Akron and Canton (Ohio) Together.

This group of business and professional leaders started early this year to mobilize response to Africa's famine. Led by Malone College administrator Dan Cormany, they appealed first to major area employers through employee challenge campaigns. When interest spread to other companies and civic organizations, ACT spread its umbrella.

"It had not been organized to any significant extent," said founding committee member Louise Gissendaner, a First National Bank officer. "When so many people got involved, a structure had to be formed."

In accepting the job of organizing two cities (Akron and Canton), ACT gave itself a tall order. Schedules had



Akron's Mayor Tom Sawyer and a project volunteer prepare a publicity send-off.

to be made. Coordination of activities had to be attempted. Churches had to be invited to become involved. Donation sites and an accounting system had to be established.

Ron Largent, World Vision's regional representative in Ohio, soon became involved in the process. "We provided the avenue between local concern and international needs—an avenue to stop the hurting," he said. "One way to ensure that the aid is effective is to let the field workers in Africa determine what supplies are needed. Before we purchase anything, we find out the needs in the drought areas."

By July, \$50,000 had been receipted and a second phase begun. Rev. Arthur E. Kemp, of Akron's Mount Olive Baptist church and head of the Akron-area black clergy group, became project coordinator. Kemp stimulated involvement by many segments of community leadership, including the black churches, and more clearly defined ACT's goals.

A new series of fundraisers—this time involving the general public—was announced. A division to contact small businesses was formed, along with a division to contact small civic, cultural and fraternal organizations. Donation tables were set up in malls; boxes went up in supermarkets; volunteers signed up.

On World Food Day, two shipments will be loaded into sea vans and be shipped to Dakar, Senegal, for distribution in Mauritania, Mali and Senegal. ACT's goal is to send 200 metric tons to these countries.

A second shipment of sea vans will be loaded in downtown Akron during a World Food Day celebration to be attended by Ohio Governor Richard F. Celeste, Akron Mayor Tom Sawyer, and thousands of other Ohioans involved in meeting immediate needs and providing long-term solutions.

Six ACT leaders plan to visit the cities and projects that are receiving the emergency supplies. During this visit, ACT hopes to strengthen the partnership between Ohio and Africa by establishing sister-city relationships.

"As each person contacted another person, and as involvement grew from individuals to groups," Ron Largent said, "thousands in Ohio became aware of Africans' needs and began helping. It's a testimony to God's marvelous timing and guidance. □



Rev. Arthur E. Kemp, ACT project coordinator and pastor of Akron's Mount Olive Baptist Church

## Mini-message

### EAT THE BREAD OF LIFE!

On a Galilean hillside Jesus fed thousands of hungry people. But the very next day He spoke of a more

important kind of bread. He declared, "I am the bread of life." And He promised, "If a man eats of this bread, he will live forever" (John 6:35, 51).

His hearers that day failed to understand what Jesus meant. But at other times and places, spiritually hungry

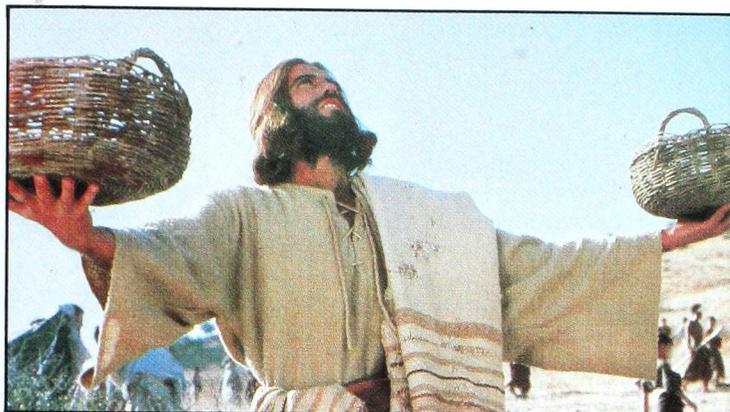
people took Him at His word, received Him into their very beings, and found His promise true.

Today it still is true. While the metaphor remains a mystery to many, it's a great reality to all who truly trust in Him as Lord and Savior.

Reader, are *you* eating the bread of life? If so, you've more to rejoice about than did the people on that Galilean hillside. But if not, *why not?*

If this makes little sense to you, please read the Gospel of John searchingly, talk with a pastor or other committed Christian, learn what saving faith is—and *eat* the bread of life!

For a free copy of a booklet called "Becoming a Christian," simply write the Editor, WORLD VISION Magazine, 919 W. Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016.



As portrayed in the film Jesus

## THROUGH A PERCEPTIVE JOURNALIST'S EYES

*An African Journey* by Mark Patinkin (Eerdmans, 1985). Reviewed by Elizabeth Wilson.

*"Even more than the scenes of pain, I will hold onto this scene of hope: the chief, pouring water into the desert, trying to begin anew."*

Late last year, Mark Patinkin, a 32-year-old writer for the Providence Journal in Rhode Island, spent a month in Africa. From Ethiopia, to Sudan, to Kenya; across the continent to Burkina Faso and Mali, Patinkin looked at, and wrote about, drought and famine—and the people whose lives had been engulfed by disaster.

First appearing as columns telexed from Africa back to his home paper, Patinkin's comments and personal interviews evoked an understandably impressive response. Scenes and settings are sharply etched; the writing is crisp, concretely descriptive; aware of ironies, even humor, in the midst of crisis; often deeply moving—without a trace of sentimentality or hype. The people come alive: government officials, children, relief workers, a nomad Touareg chief whose shattered way of life had followed centuries-old patterns.

Accompanying photographs, taken by the author, amplify the restrained intensity of the text.

Africa's famine lands, the patient, dignified, starving people, the magnitude of the need and the spirit of those who are trying to bring relief—both immediate and long-range—are all brought together. "I turn to look back at the people who have been changed but not broken by hunger."

A word of appreciation is in order for the publisher's perceptivity in giving Patinkin's observations a wider audience, and in realizing the book's potential to that audience. Patinkin is not a Christian—and this is not a "Christian book." There are brief references to the presence of Christian relief organizations, and there is a short quote from a Christian flyer. Patinkin, however, focuses on the secular relief organizations and their people. Not with the air of one who is discounting the work of Christian agencies, but simply as one who is more comfortable, more at home, with the non-religious groups. But Christians, especially those with hearts for the need in Africa, will find *African Journey* informative, illuminating and thought-provoking.

### Please pray . . .

- for the hunger-wracked people in Sudan, Ethiopia and other famine-stricken African countries.
- for the relief/development teams bringing food, medical care and self-help opportunities to the needy.
- for the war-weary residents of Beirut, Lebanon.
- for those who bring Christ and practical help to Beirut's homeless, bereaved and injured ones.
- for Latin America's struggling urban people.
- for Latin Christians who share the Word of Life with urban Latins.
- for Mexican families who have little access to medical care.
- for the providers of physical and spiritual health care in Mexico.
- for Haitian children growing up without adequate food or education.
- for Haitian childcare workers.
- for your own church's outreach to the lost and the needy.
- for your personal involvement in Christ-honoring outreach to the needy.

A "what if" that became a reality

# PROJECT MERCY

**O**ne of the first things we wanted to do after our uprooted lives had become more stable was to help our own Ethiopian people," said Marta Gabre-Tsadick. Tall and slender, Marta's aquiline features are softened by a gentle, gracious dignity, and it's not difficult to visualize her in her former role as Ethiopia's first woman senator.\*

It is not politics or matters of state, however, that are priority issues for Marta today. Instead, she is spreading the word about what Project Mercy, a Christian relief organization of which she is co-founder, wants to do for destitute Ethiopians in that famine-stricken land. Coming to the United States in 1976 when the present regime overthrew Emperor Haile Selassie's government, Marta and her husband Deme, both committed Christians, have not forgotten their homeland.

"The people's two most immediate needs," says Marta, "are food and clothing, and we are concerned about both." In partnership with World Vision, Project Mercy is already shipping quantities of Atmit (a high-nutrition food powder), which is now in use in nutrition-health centers. But Atmit is another story in itself, and today Marta particularly wants to discuss PM's clothing project, a new WV/PM partnership endeavor which has already been started in a small way, with plans for rapid expansion.

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*\*Marta has told the suspenseful story of her life, including her departure with her family from Ethiopia, in her book, Sheltered by the King (Chosen, 1983), \$9.30 including postage. May be ordered from the Project Mercy address given at the end of this article.*

Although life-sustaining nutrients must be top priority in famine-crisis relief, Marta is sensitive to the demoralizing effect it has on innately dignified, self-respecting people to have to face each difficult day clothed only in tattered rags.

Some time ago, Project Mercy had tried to meet immediate needs by shipping quantities of carefully sorted used clothing to Ethiopia (and to refugee camps of Ethiopians in other African nations). Unfortunately, although such garments did afford needed covering, they were culturally—and often climatically—

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**Here's something your church group can do with their hands to clothe Ethiopia's needy.**

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unsuitable. Of most significance, however, was the fact that the several African governments involved soon prohibited the entry of any used clothing shipments to their countries.

**Undaunted**, and with the picture of inadequately clothed men, women and children sharply etched in her mind, Marta began to analyze possible ways to supply the Ethiopian famine victims with brand-new garments. The clothing, reasoned Marta, should be appropriate to the people's own culture, must be of strong, durable fabric compatible with the warmth of sunny days and the chill of unsheltered nights, and which would dry rapidly if rain *did* chance to fall on the drought-

Once the first woman senator in Emperor Haile Selassie's government, now an active partner with her husband in their own business, Marta also uses her executive expertise at the helm of Project Mercy.



stricken wearers. It would also, of course, need to be as low-cost as possible so that clothing could be supplied in large quantities.

After much searching, the ideal dress fabric turned out to be an ivory-colored light-weight flannel sheeting, a blend of 60 percent cotton and 40 percent synthetic. (The off-white color was chosen because it is the color of everyday Ethiopian clothing.)

The remaining question was how thousands of garments could be made and sent without incurring prohibitively high costs. As Marta prayed and planned, she thought of Christian groups to whom she had told the story of the Ethiopian people's desperate



Marta Gabre-Tsadick shares her concerns for the people of her Ethiopian homeland at a World Vision chapel in Monrovia, California.

needs, and of how many people had expressed a desire to do something personal to help—something with their own hands—in addition to giving money.

What if . . . she thought; what if Project Mercy could design simple patterns, use the cost-effective fabric, and prepare thousands of garments in a cut-out-ready-to-sew form? These

could be sent in boxes of 50 or 100 garments each, complete with sewing instructions, to church groups, clubs and other interested organizations. There the garments would be sewn quickly and returned to Project Mercy for shipping to Ethiopia where they would be distributed by World Vision at nutrition-health centers.

“What if” turned into reality. Simply designed patterns for men’s, women’s and children’s garments in three sizes

each were developed. The full-skirted dress, for example, has a minimum of seams and is similar to those normally worn by Ethiopian women. For men, the shirt design is also compatible with their traditional clothing: a loose-

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## **G**arments can be sewn quickly and returned for shipment to Ethiopia.

---

fitting pullover with one button at the neck placket.

A pilot lot of 900 garments was successfully completed and shipped to Ethiopia, and a goal of 65,000 garments for fall shipment has been set. Adequate room for a large-scale cutting operation has been supplied with 7500 square feet of warehouse space in which appropriate equipment was recently installed.

**Marta is rejoicing** in the response the project is receiving. A number of Washington women, including several members of the Congressional Wives Prayer Group, are strong supporters, and increasing numbers of churches are becoming involved.

As the word spreads, exciting things are happening. A donation of 29,000 yards of Oxford cloth will become men’s shirts. Eighteen thousand yards of Pendleton fabric at a price so low as to make it a virtual donation has been obtained from an institution that had the material in storage and wanted to see it put to a worthwhile use. McCall’s Patterns has donated its

services to custom-design a men's Bermuda shorts pattern in several sizes, and inmates of the Illinois Correctional Center are donating their labor to put these together, using the Pendleton materials. (Because of the greater complexity of sewing construction, these shorts will not be sent out to be sewn by the volunteer groups making the dresses and shirts.) McCall's is also donating further research and design services for other needed patterns.

The need for clothing in areas of Ethiopia which have been experiencing long-lasting famine and the accompanying overall impoverishment is expected to continue for an extended period. Marta, Deme and Project Mercy are long-time supporters of World Vision relief in Ethiopia. Project Mercy, in turn, has been

enabled to launch this much-needed provision of clothing as it has been joined in a three-way partnership with World Vision and with churches and other supporting groups.

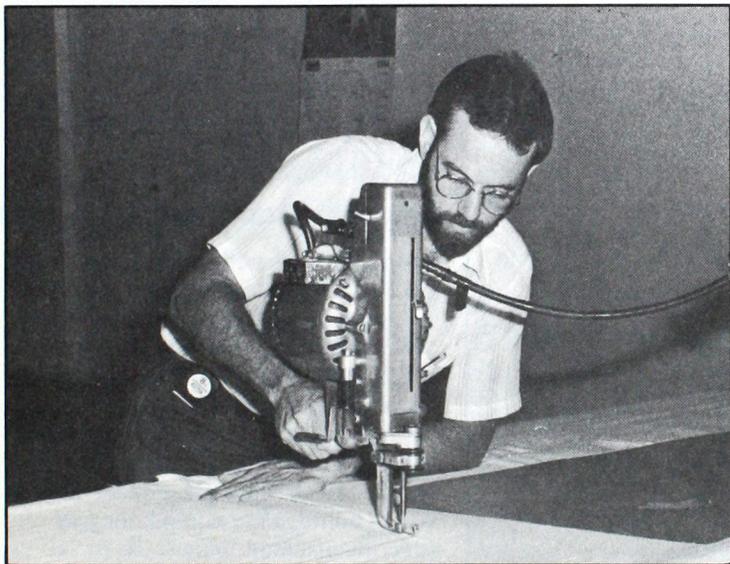
Project Mercy will be depending on a direct response from hundreds of women's groups to undertake the sewing, and from many concerned individuals who will provide the needed funds for fabric, shipping and other costs. □

**Have you felt** a desire to do something with your own hands for Ethiopia's suffering children and their

**A goal of 65,000 garments for fall shipment has been set.**

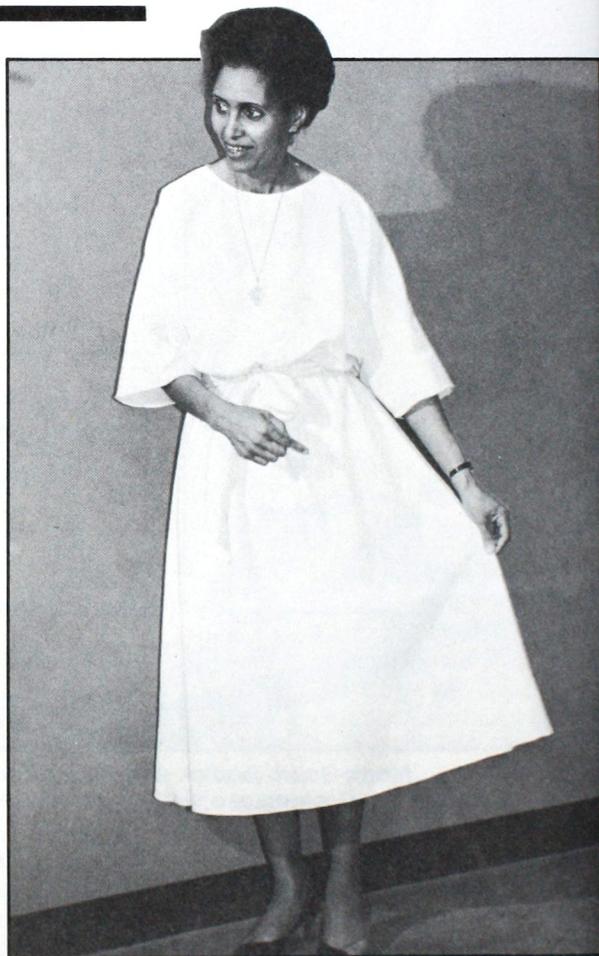
*parents? Now you can do just that, as you and other members of your church group or other organization sew pre-cut garments for some who are not only hungry, but who must also face their daily struggle for survival in tattered rags of clothing which they have no means of replacing.*

*Project Mercy will send boxes of 50 or 100 pre-cut garments (full instructions included) to your group to be sewn and returned to P.M. Large, combined shipments will then be sent to Ethiopia and distributed at World Vision nutrition-health centers. Contact Project Mercy, 7011 Ardmore Avenue, Ft. Wayne, IN 46809; (219) 749-8480.*



A heavy-duty professional machine cuts pattern pieces from many layers of cloth in one operation.

This box is being filled with ready-to-sew pieces for shipment to a volunteer group who will finish the garments for distribution in Ethiopia.



Marta models one of the Project Mercy dresses being sewn by volunteer groups and distributed in Ethiopia at World Vision nutrition-health centers.

# Samaritan sampler

SOME WAYS PEOPLE ARE HELPING  
OTHERS IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

## Alternatives to the commercialization of Christmas

are appealingly presented in a filmstrip/cassette packet, *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas*. Its 17-minute length blends music and the varied voices of narrators with colorful photography. A complete script booklet with ideas for the material's use is also included. The importance of celebration and gift-giving among loved ones is not criticized, just simplified; then practical suggestions are given for ways in which families or groups can share Christmas joy with those in need. Best used in October or November, the packet may be purchased (\$20) or rented (\$6) from Alternatives, Box 429, Ellenwood, GA 30049; (404) 961-0102.

**Senders** is a new ministry of Caleb Project to equip and encourage world-missions-minded Christians who feel God leading them to be senders and who are willing to adopt a "missionary" lifestyle. For information contact Senders, 1605 Elizabeth St., Pasadena, CA 91104; (818) 794-1532.

## Academic education and vocational training

are combined in a new research project and school being aided by Food for the Hungry's Mission-By-Involvement program. Five FFH teams recently built the first section of the project in Mexico, 17 miles east of Navajoa in Sonora. In addition to traditional educational subjects, students will be able to gain experience in bookkeeping, metal work and ceramics. Also available will be horticulture labs where students can learn to maintain gardens, beehives and rabbits, and to engage in more extensive agricultural projects. For information contact Wesley Bell (602) 998-3100.



Changing Christmas priorities gave this family time to share with others. Christ came to serve.

**Voice of Calvary**, in Jackson, Mississippi, is seeking people who "have a heart for all races." VOC's ministries need carpenters, doctors, nurses, receptionists, writers, computer experts, administrators and teachers. Cooperative businesses, a health center, youth programs, education, vocational training, community development projects and a multi-racial church are some of VOC's ongoing endeavors. For information contact Career Opportunities, Voice of Calvary, 1655 St. Charles Street, Jackson, MS 39209; (601) 353-1635.

**An inexpensive hand pump** (about \$15.50) is providing help from the Mennonite Central Committee for some farmers in India. Called a "rower pump" from the motion used in its operation, it requires less energy than a conventional hand pump, while its output of water is 50-60 percent greater. Thus, a farmer may be enabled to grow two crops rather than just one, a year: both rainy-season rice and, with the pump, an irrigated dry-season crop. Widely applicable to varied needs, the rower pumps are now also used in Kampuchea. For information contact: MCC, 21 S. 12th St., Akron, PA 17501; (717) 859-1151.

**Spanish-language Bibles** and other Christian books, curriculum and hymnals are now more readily obtainable in Hispanic areas of the U.S. through Christian bookstores supplied by VIDA Publishers, 3360 N.W. 110th St., Miami, FL 33167; (305) 685-6334.

**Equipping local churches for effective missionary preparation** is the goal of the Conference on Mission Preparation (COMP) being held on the UCLA campus, Los Angeles, California, January 2-4, 1986. Co-sponsored by the California Association of Missions Pastors and the Association of Church Missions Committees, the conference is intended for missionary candidates—and prospective candidates—and for leaders from the candidates' own churches.

All candidates attending the conference are required to be accompanied by a leader. Workshops will be divided into two tracks: ten for candidates and ten for leaders. Plenary speakers are D. Stuart Briscoe, Luis Palau, Richard L. Strauss and Charles R. Swindoll.

**The Jews for Jesus organization** now offers a selection of books, albums, cassettes and teaching tapes. Christians engaged in dialogue with Jews,

or simply interested in Jewish thought and culture from an evangelical perspective will find helpful materials described in their current order form. To obtain a copy write Jews for Jesus, 60 Haight St., San Francisco, CA 94102-5895.

**Iranian Christians International** reaches expatriate Iranians with the gospel and trains them to minister to their own people. As many as three million Iranians are living outside their own country today, more than 250,000 of them in the United States. ICI coordinates a ministry that includes local ICI groups; a counseling and resource center; a Persian/English quarterly publication, *Mojdeb*; annual ICI conferences, distribution of Persian Christian literature, 24-hour prayer chain and refugee resettlement program. For information contact Iranian Christians International, Box 2415, Ann Arbor, MI 48106; (313) 769-5529.

**Retirees with time, skills and energy on their hands** are warmly received at the U.S. Center for World Mission in Pasadena, California. USCWM, a consortium of mission agencies and related organizations, is in need of volunteer services of many kinds. Library assisting, grounds maintenance, general repair work, audio-visual recording, "grandparenting" at the Extended Family Co-op, typing, bookkeeping, envelope stuffing—all of these and more, are part of USCWM's ongoing needs. The low-budget missionary lifestyle helps stretch volunteers' retirement incomes, and dorm residency for short-termers doesn't require the bringing of much "stuff." For information contact Evelyn Varney, USCWM Personnel, 1605 Elizabeth St., Pasadena, CA 91104.

A simple idea that's saving lives

# THE PLASTIC SECURITY BLANKET

**N**ights are cold and windy at the 9300-foot altitude of Ajibar, Ethiopia, 130 miles due north of Addis Ababa. There, at one of World Vision's largest nutrition-health centers, thousands of malnourished children, without either body fat or blankets for protection, face night temperatures that dip below 50 degrees. Now that some rains have returned, torrential downpours and even hail compound the life-threatening conditions. Some nights as many as 65 deaths have been recorded.

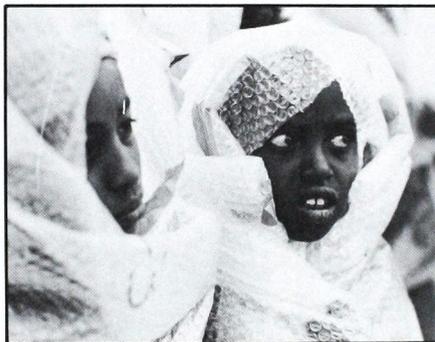
Such problems, related to the well-being of children, are never far below the surface consciousness of World Vision staff members, whatever their own primary responsibilities may be. Recently, in a rare moment of relaxation, British engineer Roy Higgins sat in the radio communications room at World Vision's Ethiopian famine projects headquarters in Addis Ababa, absently playing with the bubble-plastic wrapping from a newly arrived radio.

Winding his hand inside the material, Roy quickly felt heat building around his hand. The proverbial light bulb flashed on. Might he have stumbled onto an extremely inexpensive and readily obtainable means of meeting, at least temporarily, the night-survival problem of Ajibar's children?

Roy immediately set about ordering an experimental roll of this bubble-pack material from Great Britain. Lightweight for transport, insulative for warmth, protective from the rain, the imported bubble-plastic found its way to Ajibar for a trial run under the supervision of the project's technical manager, Dr. Hector Jalipa.

Over 100 sleeping bags were manufactured from the approximately five-foot-wide bolt. It was decided to

(right) World Vision sanitarian Yeshawork Merne is pleased by this child's protective covering. (below) Windy, hillside nights are bitterly cold. These children are enjoying the warmth—and novelty—of bubble-plastic wraps.



make the bags large enough only for children, to ensure that the most vulnerable famine victims would be the ones to benefit from the limited supply.

In order to measure the necessary length before cutting and taping the sides of the bags, several children up to age 12 were selected from among the orphans to lie down and act as patterns. Soon hordes of children were pushing their way up, trying to get in on the act. Many of the little ones became quite possessive about their part in the manufacturing process and tried to drag away bunches of their new-found "security blankets." (Unlike flat, clinging plastic material, this bubble-plastic doesn't pose a suffocation threat in its use as a covering.)

Dr. Jalipa discovered an irresistible sport in popping the bubbles of scrap pieces of the plastic, which soon earned it the nickname "Hector's toy." Initially, however, the Ajibar camp residents' reaction to these pieces of petroleum by-product was somewhat

measured. Recalling people's comments, Hector laughed, "Oh, it was weird. They kept asking, 'What's this?'" But when the concept of waterproof warmth caught on at Ajibar, World Vision went ahead with a new larger order of the bubble-plastic.

Although the plastic's use has not been without its problems, mainly due to tearing on the rough terrain where the people sleep, it is very simple and inexpensive to replace, a more than worthwhile effort for people desperate for life-sustaining warmth. And in addition to the sleeping bags for children, some lengths of the plastic have also been distributed as makeshift tent material for those entirely without shelter on the windy hillsides.

Now, a shipment of more than 5500 yards of bubble-plastic is being cleared in Ethiopia's Assab harbor on its way to an application that its inventors undoubtedly never dreamed of.

*Katbleen Walker  
WV Ethiopia Communications*

# TWO-THIRDS OF ALL THE PEOPLE IN THE WORLD

**Numbers** may impress statisticians, but one gripping example of human need will do more to prompt most of us to action than a memory bank full of figures. That's why, in this magazine and in our letters and on television, we tell stories of people. When we feel the suffering of one person—a man without a job, a hungry child, a mother who lost her children—we more easily identify with the two-thirds of the world's population who live in extreme poverty.

Just the same, some statistics—infant mortality rates, per capita income, population growth, as examples—shock me and move me to a greater commitment to our ministry. The most significant of these figures is the one I mentioned above: *two out of every three people on the face of this planet subsist in stark and frightful conditions.* That means they usually go to bed hungry at night; they don't have acceptable health care (if any); they live in inadequate housing (if they have a roof at all); and most of them have not heard the good news about Jesus Christ.

That's why we've begun to use the term "Two-Thirds World" rather than the more common "Third World." For years now, "Third World" has been used loosely to refer to politically nonaligned, economically developing, and less industrialized nations. But the concept is vague and misleading, and we prefer the more descriptive expression, "Two-Thirds World."

Recently I've taken a close look at some of the figures our researchers have drawn together, and I think I can underline this idea by sharing a few of the more sobering ones with you.

For example, the average life expectancy for this two-thirds of the population is 16 years lower than the other one-third. The infant mortality rate is five times as high. Yet the population growth of these lesser-developed countries averages 2.4 percent annually, compared to 0.7

percent for the other one-third of the world.

The average per capita income (all the money one person receives for a year) for the 35 least developed countries in the world is below \$200. All of them together account for only three percent of the gross global product. On top of this, the poorer countries have borrowed more than \$100 billion from the richer countries in recent years, and simply paying the interest on these loans strains the economy of many nations.\*

## Few Americans realize that millions of people live on less than \$200 a year.

While we're looking at numbers, let's turn the proposition around and look at the one-third who enjoy 84 percent of the world's educational expenditures and 91 percent of all that's spent on public health care. On the average these countries give less than one-half of one percent of their gross national product to help the poorer nations. Two countries, Holland and Sweden, give more than one percent, but the United States gives closer to two-tenths of one percent.

If you're like me, the figures begin to blur in your mind after a while. Two-thirds, one-half of one percent, less than \$200 a year on which to exist—it all adds up to a tragedy beyond comprehension. I've had the privilege of traveling to 135 countries of the world, and I've seen every imaginable condition. Yet I can't grasp the full significance of those figures.

I can, however, grasp what I believe should be the Christian response to such basic human need, and I can put it in one word—give. I like the way Richard Foster puts it in *Freedom of Simplicity*. "God's great generosity to

us sets us free to model that generosity toward others. Because He gave, we are enabled to give."

We hear a lot today from the economists and the political scientists who warn us of the impending disaster if the gap between the "haves" and the "have nots" widens—and it is widening. They speak in purely economic or political terms in which the motivation to give is self-interest. In an increasingly interdependent world, they say, we must help the poorer nations for our own sake. This isn't charity, they emphasize; it's an investment.

As Christians, our motivation, if we let the Spirit of God work in our hearts, is none other than love. If we let Him turn those imposing statistics into individual stories of human need, we'll find ourselves compelled to reach out toward an impoverished Two-Thirds World.

Love seizes opportunities to share in ways that meet someone's deep need. Your partnership with us in meeting someone's deep need means so much to that person enabled by your sharing to cope again and hope again. We thank you on that person's behalf. God bless you.

  
Ted W. Engstrom  
President



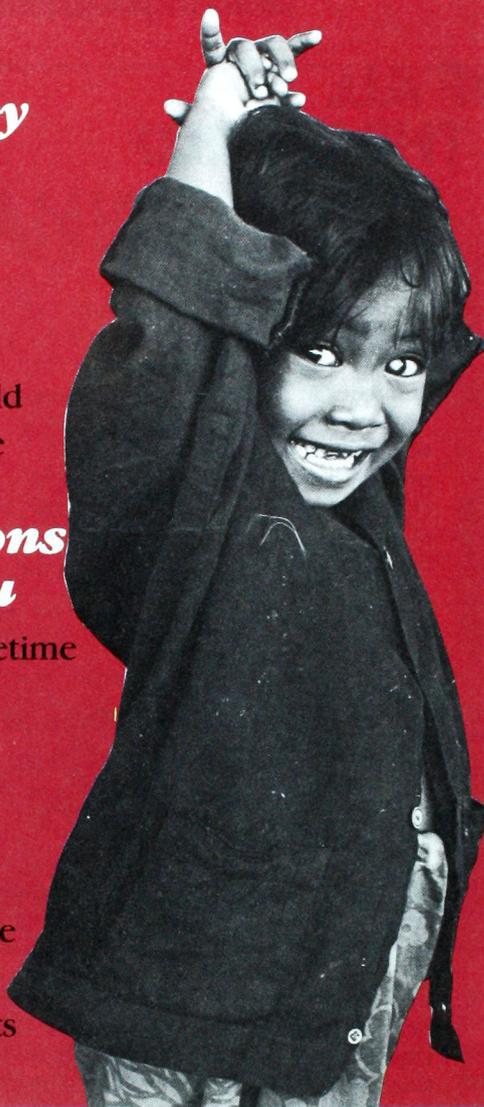
\* Most of these statistics come from the preface to the Encyclopedia of the Third World.

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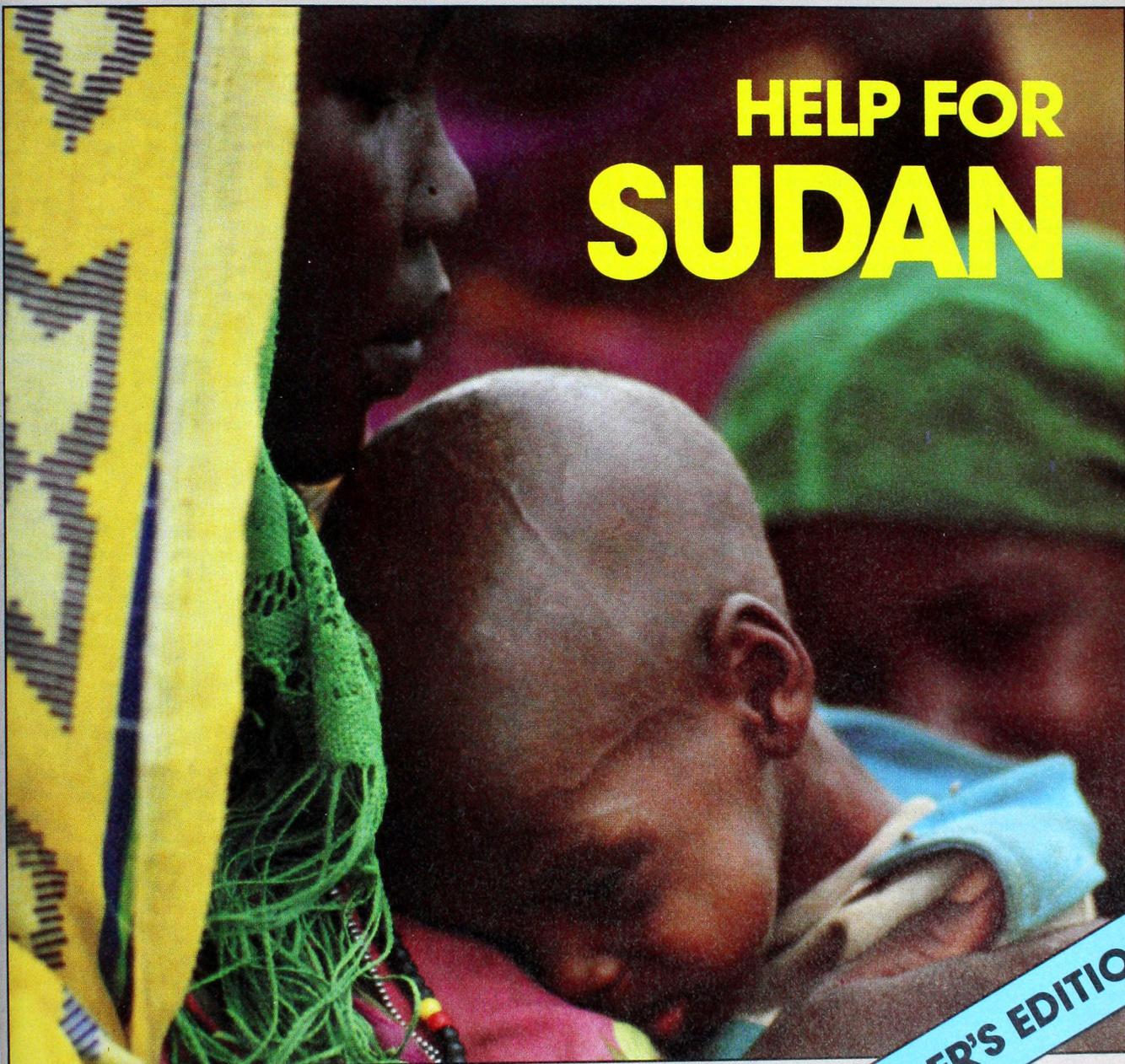
Facing Sudan's  
food crisis

Brazilian  
pastors

Denominational  
hunger action

October-November 1985

# World Vision®



**HELP FOR  
SUDAN**

**LEADER'S EDITION**

# Readers write

## He knew hunger himself

As a Cambodian refugee now resettled in USA, I bear witness to the work of God carried out through World Vision. Now that my body doesn't look like a skeleton and my stomach does not growl anymore, I know what I give now will be in the stomachs of the needy.

Thanks, God! Thanks to everybody who gives.  
*Hong Ly Kbtuy  
Honolulu, HI*

## Giving in hope

My husband and I have a daughter seven months old. When we saw your program on television a few months ago, it was the children and the parents of those children that especially touched our hearts.

We imagined how we would feel watching our own child die of starvation or some terrible disease. We saw children suffering in their so-short lives, who had never had the chance to enjoy life in even the most simple way—for how can they when they are constantly hungry?

What must it be like to hold in your arms a child that is screaming in pain and hunger—or whimpering softly, too weak to cry out?

I know our contribution is not much, but it's what we can give and is given with much love in our hearts. And hope! We pray that we can stop just one child from dying, that we can save one family from that pain, that we can bring joy to just one child's eyes and heart. If we can do that, then perhaps at least one child will live and grow with God's love and peace and joy.

*Mrs. David Schafer  
Rockford, IL*

## True peace and freedom

Thank you for the Mini-message, "Do You Know the Peace Giver?" This morning when I read it I was so encouraged and set free. Our family prays together every night for those starving in Ethiopia and other parts of Africa. We need to pray not only for these people's physical needs but also for God's peace in their hearts, a peace that truly passes all understanding.

*Hope Gilmore  
Blue springs, MO*

## Self-help commended

I appreciated the last issue because of your telling us in detail of your efforts to

aid needy people to help themselves as well as just being helped, and of trying to get folks back to their home places. I also trust you do give out the saving gospel wherever you can.

*Pastor C.A. White  
New Richmond, OH*

## Development most important

The article, "Ethiopia's Long Walk . . ." stated: "It is not so much a lack of water that is devastating Ethiopia, as a lack of access to water." Development activities should be the most important type of effort to engage in and publicize.

*Barbara Susan Ash  
St. Petersburg, FL*

## "And I complain?"

Thank you for your informative and touching June-July magazine. My heart aches for these people. The articles by Thea Chitambar, "What I Learned from an Ethiopian Boy," and "An Ethiopian Widow's Mite," were especially moving. And I complain about not having enough at times? Outrageous!

*Ann Wolf  
Fair Oaks, CA*

## Lest we forget

I hope and pray that people everywhere who are aware (And who is not?) of the suffering and tragedy of countless others in this world, and who have responded with their hearts, will not let time or the lack of future media reminders diminish their commitment to help.

*Margie Sanford  
Boston, MA*

## Help at home first?

In a discussion with two relatives, the subject of helping those overseas came up. Both said they thought we should help the poor of our country first and then others. I would like them to read the wonderful articles on Ethiopia in your June-July issue. Could you send them each a copy?

We contribute regularly to World Vision as well as sponsoring a child. If only all of us in our country could realize what is going on in the world through *your* eyes, so much more could be done.

*Mrs. Haydon Spidell  
Sutter Creek, CA*

*World Vision is also mindful of the needs of people here at home. Through our U.S. Ministries division, working in partnership with churches and other agencies, we meet a broad range of needs in holistic minis-*

*tries to ethnic minorities, refugees and other needy people.*

## Sorrow becomes joy

I became aware of the Ethiopian crisis by accident one night. Drowning in my personal sorrow, I flipped through the channels in search of diversion. I couldn't find a comedy program that could make me laugh; rather, I found myself watching World Vision's plea for help for desperately needy people.

Now my tears were for others. When I picked up the phone to become a contributor, I felt a burst of inner happiness and knew that what I sent would reach and help people in Ethiopia.

*C. Perez  
Haverhill, MA*

## Excuses

There are many excuses for not helping the needy. One is: "How do I know if the money I send is going to help the needy?"

There *are* people in the world who swindle others by various means. However, with faith in God through Jesus Christ, we can be directed to organizations such as yours and know that the money we send is helping.

*Marvin B. Jones  
Huntsville, AL*

## Pastoral networking

I like the idea of a Pastor's Edition of WORLD VISION magazine. I would like to see a column on "How to keep the local church informed of world need other than through the pulpit."

*Pastor Gary Fenton  
Stillwater, OK*

## More music for famine relief

Groups of British, American, Canadian, French, Hispanic, Gospel, Heavy Metal, Hawaiian, Country/ Western and other musicians have produced albums and videos for the benefit of African famine victims. This good trend should continue. I urge readers to organize musicians of their church or of their state to do the same kind of thing on a local basis.

*Benjamin Urrutia  
Provo, UT*

# World Vision®



## 4 Fighting flood and famine in Sudan

Rains bring harvest hopes for fall—but frustration now.

## 12 'We must nurture each other'

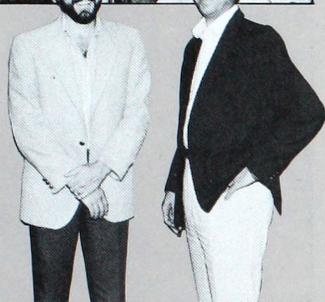
Brazilian pastors discover a renewed vitality in Brasilia.

## 19 Opening eyes, hearts, hands

Two church leaders share long-range hopes.

### Also

- 2 Readers write
- 9 These are your hands
- 14 Missions is a two-way street
- 15 Child prostitution
- 16 On World Food Day
- 17 Crusade fights hunger
- 18 Questions people ask
- 21 Samaritan sampler
- 23 Two-thirds of the world



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## ON THIS DISASTER-PRONE PLANET

**On one side** of the globe a pair of earthquakes shatter the lives of thousands in the world's largest city. On the opposite side a prolonged famine saps the lives of thousands in widespread countryside. Meanwhile, warfare traumatizes thousands in other nations east and west, north and south.

How can a few million Christians bring the healing touch of Jesus Christ to so many suffering people in such diverse places? The answer is that God, who keeps His eyes on everyone everywhere, calls certain of His people to be His hands in certain places, and He calls many others of us to equip and support them in their mercy work.

At His behest a contingent is at

work for Him in Mexico City; another in Ethiopia; another in Sudan; yet others in Lebanon, El Salvador and other disaster areas. And the more faithfully we—His fingers—make ourselves and our means wholly available to Him, the sooner all the peoples on this whole disaster-prone planet will be able to feel His touch and hear His voice calling them to take eternal refuge at His side.

*David Olson*

PHOTOS: Cover, pp. 4, 5, 6 (left), 7, 8: Jacob Akol; p. 6 (right): Pat Fisher; p. 9: Bill Gary; pp. 12, 13: John Hatton; p. 16: Arthur Kemp; pp. 19, 20: Dana MacDuff; p. 21: Alternatives; p. 22: Doug Kelly.

In Africa's largest nation

# FIGHTING FLOOD AND FAMINE IN SUDAN

**R**ains are falling in Sudan and a harvest is being reaped—but the scythe is being swung by the angel of death, and the harvest is grim. Malnutrition has been rampant for many months and an estimated 150,000 people, mostly children, have perished of starvation since January. Most relief workers agree that the toll will climb significantly higher by the end of the year.

National surveys show unprecedented malnutrition, and aid experts estimate that the death toll among children has increased by at least 20,000 a month. Bradford Morse, director of the United Nations Office of Emergency Operations for Africa, says, "Hundreds of thousands of lives are at stake in Sudan." In a plea for assistance to government and relief organizations throughout the world, Morse said, "Health conditions in all regions of Sudan are extremely serious and deteriorating rapidly."

Severe flooding occurring in the southern half of Sudan is a consequence of heavy rainfall that began early in July. Now, with more than two months of rainfall, many mud-brick villages in the country's agricultural central region—between the White and Blue Nile Rivers—lie under several feet of water. Encampments of thousands of famine-stricken migrants from western Sudan and refugees from the neighboring western country of Chad, who have come to the irrigated central

**M**any of the central region's 7500 villages lie under a foot or two of water.

region hoping to find food, also have been hard hit by the summer rains.

Makeshift shelters of reed matting, cloth and plastic sheeting thrown up by camp dwellers prove insufficient to protect them from the downpours. The camp areas have turned several times into seas of mud. One camp near the town of Wad Medani, 120 miles south of Sudan's capital of Khartoum, was isolated from motor vehicles for a week. During that period, while the camp continued to grow toward its present population of 7000, trucks delivered relief shipments of grain to the edge of the impassable area and men from the camp carried the sacks on their backs over the remaining hour's distance.

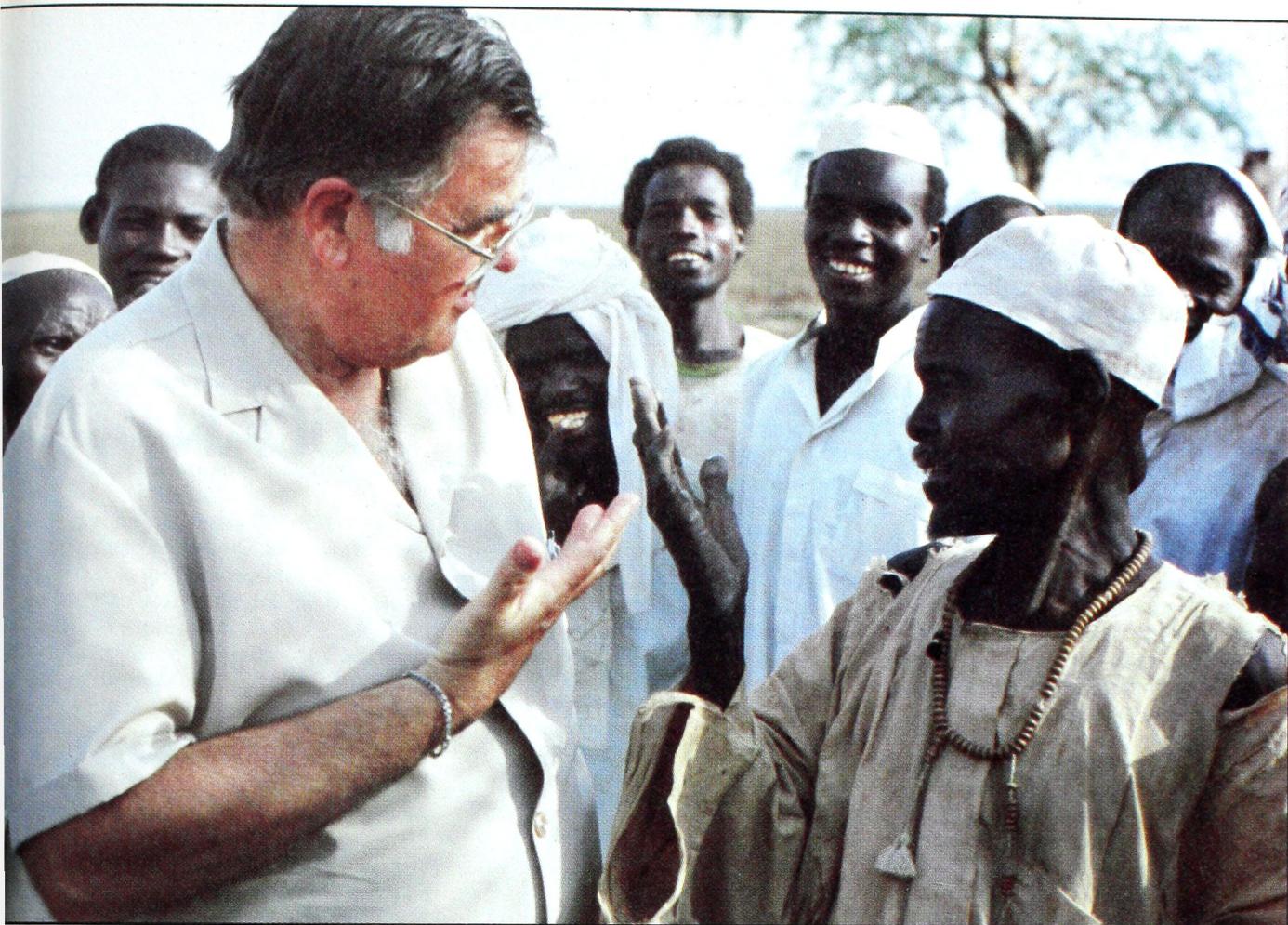
**Thanks to massive aid** from world governments and 49 voluntary relief agencies, catastrophic nationwide starvation has been averted. Yet some 8.4 million people out of a total population of 22 million in the continent's largest country will continue to depend almost wholly upon international food assistance at least until mid-November.

Seared by widespread African drought that has lasted from three to ten years



in various parts of Sudan, farmers and nomadic pastoralists in the largely agricultural country have been stricken by total crop failure and annihilation of livestock herds. The response of many destitute families over the past year and more was to abandon traditional homelands and villages and go wandering through the barren countryside in search of work and food.

Neither was available anywhere, and camps ranging in size from dozens to many thousands of displaced people spontaneously sprang up along the Nile River and on the outskirts of mud-brick towns and the city of Khartoum.



(far left) Recently arrived Chadian refugees at the Movy nutrition center (above) A Chadian elder at Movy thanks Ted Engstrom for World Vision's assistance to his people. (left) Workers load barrels of rapeseed oil from WV Canada.



has the potential to be the breadbasket of northeast Africa, but that has not prevented 1.3 million of the region's 4.2 million population from being affected by the drought.

Meanwhile, some 1.2 million refugees were pouring into Sudan seeking to escape drought, famine and political strife in the neighboring countries of Ethiopia to the east, Chad to the west, and Uganda and Zaire to the south. The refugees set up squalid camps of their own. Though desperately burdened by the plight of its own people, Sudan, a notably hospitable country, permitted the masses of refugees to remain within its borders. World Vision President Ted Engstrom, upon returning from a recent tour of

Under crowded conditions, with sanitation nonexistent, whole families huddled in tiny makeshift huts, suffering severe hunger and disease.

The country's central region is currently bearing the brunt of the crisis. Migrants from the west have traditionally moved there in search of seasonal labor picking cotton, which represents 65 percent of the country's exports. Agriculturalists say this area

**Sudan has only one major road—from Port Sudan to Khartoum—which was opened in 1980.**

famine-stricken areas in Sudan, said, "Sudan has to be one of our major emphases for World Vision concern. However, despite evidence of suffering at nearly every turn, we have made and are making a difference in needy areas such as the central region among Sudanese as well as famine refugees from Chad.

"More than 5000 of these Chadians are now sheltering outside the town of Sennar, some four hours' drive south of Khartoum. They lead a depressing life: a family of five, for example, has nothing more than a circular straw or sack hut about six feet in diameter and not much higher than that. They, like the other 3000 Chadians near the town of Wad Medani, depend on World Vision now and for the foreseeable future."

**Through spring** of 1985, many people in Sudan subsisted by foraging for "famine foods," often no more than withered leaves, grasses, bark and berries that provide little or no nutrition and cause severe digestive problems. Meanwhile, the world community, already alerted to Africa's continent-wide killer-drought, was pouring food into the country's single major entry point, Port Sudan on the Red Sea. By mid-July, 420,000 tons of grain jammed warehouses and dock-sides in the port, while more ships



Ted Engstrom confers with Sudan Survey Team Leader Arne Bergstrom.

## FACTS ABOUT SUDAN

**Population:** 21.8 million (mid-1985 estimate). Only 41 percent live in urban areas. Sudan contains the most heterogeneous society in Africa, with divisions along ethnic, tribal, geographic, linguistic and sectarian lines.

**Geography:** 967,500 square miles. Sudan is geographically the largest nation in Africa. The Sahara Desert spreads across the northern sector. Semi-arid plains make up the region near Khartoum. This gently rolling territory is succeeded in the south by tropical plains with more abundant rainfall. In the extreme south, the land is choked by dense jungle growth. The Nile River is the main route of north-south communication and travel.

**Languages:** More than 140 languages are spoken. Most of northern Sudan uses Arabic, the nation's official language. Other principal tongues: English, dialects of the southern Nilotic people, dialects of the Hamitic and Semitic people, and in the southern provinces Bantu dialects.

**Education:** 32 percent literacy. One teacher for every 155 school-age children.

**Health:** One doctor for every 8800 Sudanese. Life expectancy is 48 years. Infant mortality rate is about 12 percent.

**Religion:** Northern Sudan is predominantly Muslim (73 percent). Southern Sudan is ten percent Christian. Most southerners are animists who worship many gods, especially their ancestral spirits.

**Economy:** Average annual income is \$400 (1983 estimate). Main crops: cotton, gum arabic, peanuts, sesame. Main industries: cotton ginning, textiles and apparel, food processing, agricultural processing, light manufacturing. The influx of 1.2 million refugees from Ethiopia, Chad, Zaire and Uganda has heavily burdened the weak national infrastructure.



**History and government:** The ancient history of Sudan (the Cush of antiquity), one of the oldest civilizations in the world, revolved around the Pharaohs of Egypt and the Nubian people in central Sudan. After the reign of Egyptian Pharaohs, the Sudan split into a collection of small independent states. Christianity was introduced in the sixth century. Much of the country adopted Islam by the end of the 13th century. British colonial rule began in 1899 and was replaced in 1956 by a coalition government. After a period of military rule, Colonel Gaafer Nemeiry took control in 1969. In early 1985 General Abdul Rahman Suwar al Dahab, former defense minister, led a bloodless coup and formed the Transitional Military Council, promising a return to civilian rule.



laden with food waited offshore for berthing space.

But the rains also crippled relief efforts. Sudan's rail link from the Red Sea to the west amounts to a single length of track spanning an area nearly one-third the size of the contiguous United States. Downpours collapsed a major bridge along the route and washed out the line in nine other places. Roads threading over the country's vast stretches of desert, savanna and forest are few and difficult in the best of times. Sudan has only one major road, which is an 850-mile route from Port Sudan to Khartoum opened in 1980. Elsewhere, one drives following not a road but a compass, the sun or stars or previous wheel tracks running across the desert. But these tracks are wiped away with every sand storm and turned into impassable mud when seasonal rains fall between June and September.

World Vision tried to push food shipments through an area of starving people in the country's southeast by hooking tractors to trailers loaded with grain. Most of the tractors stalled

in mire. Undaunted, the project coordinator, American Episcopalian Priest Peter Larom of White Plains, New York, rented camels and organized a caravan that successfully crossed a 50 mile barrier of mud in three days.

Nearer to Khartoum, displaced people uncertain about returning to their homelands wait for nothing in sodden huts and wallow through clinging mud to nutrition centers and medical facilities. Relief agencies struggle to alleviate malnutrition throughout the region. At the same time, they do what they can to help the hunger-weakened people who contract malaria, measles, dysentery, typhoid and acute gastroenteritis.

Outbreaks of acute gastroenteritis are threatening large numbers of migrants, refugees and urban squatters in Sudan. Sporadic outbreaks of the cholera-like disease are occurring around the three sister towns of Khartoum, Khartoum North and Omdurman, where 858 cases (with 69 deaths) have been reported.

A UNICEF specialist in diarrheal diseases, Dr. D. Patte, told aid agency leaders meeting in Khartoum in August that more than 60 people a day in the capital are being admitted to hospitals with the disease. He said that UNICEF personnel believe that admissions in the capital will rise to 100 a day in the near future.

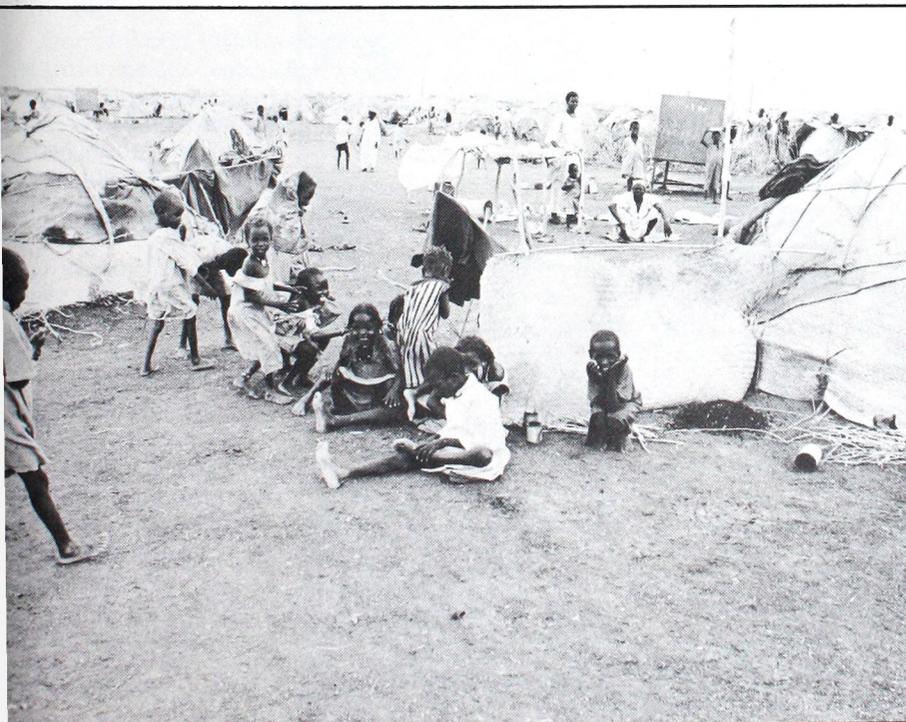
## **Agricultural experts are hoping that the mid-November harvest will yield at least average crops.**

**World Vision's** relationship with the country's new government has been positive since World Vision began its work in the country last May. In August, World Vision International Vice President Cliff Benzel and Project Coordinator Peter Larom met with Major General Fadalla Burma, a senior member of Sudan's ruling transitional military council.

During their 30-minute meeting, Mr. Benzel outlined the scope of World Vision's programs in Sudan and expressed World Vision's desire to increase its commitment over the next 12 months. He also voiced World Vision's interest in establishing major long-term development projects when the present famine crisis is alleviated.

Gen. Burma expressed gratitude and appreciation for World Vision's cooperation with the Sudanese government,

## **The rains have increased food shortages.**



**Ted Engstrom shares a laugh with children at the Sennar nutrition center.**

**Children cluster around makeshift huts at the Sennar nutrition center.**

and offered to establish a formal protocol recognizing World Vision's work in Sudan. The general gave World Vision direct access to himself, and indicated willingness for the military to assist in relief efforts.

World Vision now has a well-established distribution system in the central region. It has 40 full-time local employees at the village level and 120 monitors, mostly graduates of the local university at Gizira.

More than 17,000 tons of food has come through and is being distributed by World Vision staff. Most of this food is from World Vision Canada. The rest is from World Food Program and USAID.

**Meanwhile**, the remote far west of Sudan continues to hold pockets of calamitous famine. At the Angi Koti camp near Nyala, which is maintained for refugees from Chad by the Africa Committee for Rehabilitation of Southern Sudan (ACROSS) and World Vision, conditions among the staff and more than 20,000 camp residents are improving. At one stage a swollen river isolated staff members from the refugees. As soon as the flood abated, staff workers went to live among camp residents. Now two doctors and 13 nurses

**"I am convinced that long-term development programs in poverty-stricken areas are the answer to Sudan's famine problems."**

are working there and three nutrition centers are in operation. Meanwhile, staff members are replacing tent quarters with permanent mud-brick huts.

Although the rains have intensified food shortages among half of Sudan's population, the needed moisture has also turned the formerly drought-ravaged countryside green with fresh crops. Agricultural experts are hoping that a harvest due in mid-November will yield at least average quantities of sorghum, millet, sesame, peanuts and other crops. But, as with so many factors in the huge, remote and crippled African country, yields remain unpredictable.

At the close of his Sudan tour, Ted Engstrom stated, "I am more than convinced that long-term development programs in poverty-stricken areas are the answer to Sudan's famine problems. While food-growing is of

supreme importance now and later, it is projects such as reforestation and a steady supply of water which will roll back the advancing desert and give the Sudanese a chance for a settled life. We intend to give our maximum support to these efforts here in Sudan and in the Sahelian countries where we are already heavily involved."

Though mass starvation has been averted thus far in Sudan, this historic land where Arabic Africa meets black Africa is certain to remain heavily in need of relief assistance for the rest of the year, and in continued need as normal stores of food and herds of livestock are rebuilt in the two or three years that follow. □

*Edited by Randy Miller from reports by World Vision International Communicator Bruce Brander, World Vision New Zealand Communicator Lloyd Ashton, and World Vision Communications Manager for Africa Jacob Akol.*

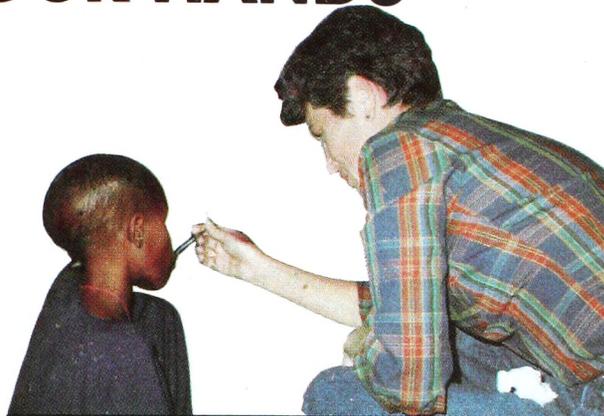
**To help** World Vision's emergency teams bring food, medicine and a Christian witness to the victims of Sudan's widespread famine, please use the return envelope provided between pages 16 and 17. Thank You!



This Chadian family at the nutrition center near Wad Medani has no shelter yet, but they are glad that they at least have something to eat.

## THESE ARE YOUR HANDS

By Karin Hubby



Karin gently coaxes a severely malnourished girl to swallow a few spoonfuls of Faffa porridge in the intensive feeding unit of the Ajibar nutrition-health center.

**I'll do anything.** Please just let me go to Africa and help those hungry children."

These are words I hear often while performing my responsibility in the recruitment of overseas contract personnel for World Vision Relief Organization. Because of the necessarily stringent qualifications for overseas positions, many people who have a desire to help the needy in Africa are not able to go.

What about those who do go? How do they survive the anguish they become a part of?

Recently, during a visit to some of World Vision's ministry locations in Africa, I was able to get answers to this question by observing and talking with several of our medical personnel in Ethiopia.

One of World Vision's largest nutrition-health centers in Ethiopia, feeding approximately 31,480 people daily, is at Ajibar. This mountainous site (9000 feet) is where I spent two days meeting with our staff and helping to feed the children in the super-intensive section of the nutrition-health center, where the most seriously malnourished and sick children receive care. The suffering in Ajibar is far worse than what I had seen on film and read in the newspapers. During six years spent previously in West Africa and Indonesia, I had seen more human misery than most people ever see, but nothing compared to the devastation I saw and felt in Ethiopia during my recent few days there.

So how did I get through our visit without breaking down? I'm sure it

was the prayers of my friends and family back home that helped me survive emotionally.

How, then, does the staff cope for six months and longer while working in the nutrition-health centers? I asked this question of Theresa Obwaya, public health nurse working with World Vision, as we walked through what was called "the gauntlet" by Dr. George Horst, directing physician of Ajibar at that time. The "gauntlet" of Ajibar is a maze of hundreds of sick, cold, hungry, dying people camped outside the nutrition-health center, waiting for admittance into the program. Each day the staff has to make their way from staff facilities to the center through this mass of destitute humanity. I soon discovered how it got its name. As I worked my way through the crowd, people cried at me, grabbed me and begged me for help.

I asked Theresa, "How do you do this every day?" Her reply: "I put my hands in my pockets and don't look into their eyes."

Cold indifference? No. It was the only way to reach the camp with enough emotional control left to minister effectively.

At the camp, Theresa's skilled hands went to work as she let her eyes meet those of the desperate people she was able to help.

From Ajibar, I then went to another World Vision nutrition-health center—this one in Ansokia, Ethiopia. The hands of Dr. Bob Gibson reached for mine as he helped me out of the World

Vision Twin Otter aircraft which had just landed on the rough airstrip in Ansokia. "There's the lady who got me into this mess," were the first words Bob said to me. Those joking words of welcome seriously describe how most of us would feel about living in Ansokia. Bob had taken temporary leave of his family and a busy medical practice in Portland, Oregon. Yet as he showed me around camp, Bob spoke of how blessed he was in being there in Ansokia to "hang up his shingle in diarrhea village."

Both George Horst, who worked in Ajibar, and Bob Gibson, here, had worked with World Vision in refugee camps in Thailand. So had Dr. Donald Cheever who recently returned from another nutrition-health center in Ethiopia at Sanka. These words from the diary he kept there best describe our workers—who are *your hands* in Ethiopia:

"I'm more than ready to leave. This is a very stressful situation—I can't harden myself to death. Lord, from start to finish, I have felt Your presence, protection and guidance. I know it was part of Your plan for me to do this, and through this experience, I feel so much closer to You, and much more aware of my constant need for You in my life, and Your constant, perfect care for me. May I never lose sight of this. And if another, similar situation develops, may I echo Isaiah and say, 'Here am I, send me.'" □

*Karin Hubby is overseas recruitment administrator for World Vision U.S.*

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“You have credit with us”

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# INSIDE BEIRUT

by Len Rodgers

**T**he bullet-battered green Dodge taxi is at the museum crossing just as our Muslim project manager promised. Yafi and his old, gray-haired driver have backed up into the Christian-held area so we can load our bags for the ride into the highly volatile western sector of the city.

Only yesterday, four Lebanese journalists working with the Associated Press were kidnapped, and there are warnings in the press which help us realize that today we are launching out on what could be a difficult, if not deadly, journey.

We have two objectives: To meet the government Minister for Education and Labor, Dr. Salim Al Hoss, and to make our way to the Beirut Airport for our afternoon flight to Cyprus. In normal times, the first would be rather routine in our World Vision work and the trip to the airport downright boring. Today, however, is different. Last month the American embassy in Beirut was bombed again—the third time in 18 months. Also just last month, Dr. Hoss was nearly killed in a car-bomb attack on his motorcade. Ten people, including his driver, were killed and 27 others were badly injured. Dr. Hoss missed death by an unexplainable quirk of fate.

Throughout the eleven-year civil war in Lebanon, polarization has been the norm. We work hard to maintain our traditional Christian contacts and at the same time attempt to keep our projects with those of all faiths going along.

Of all the overlapping conflicts in the Middle East, not one is so complicated as the many-layered struggle among the Lebanese. One could say that it is a more-than-millennium-long war between Christianity and Islam,

but that would be only partly true. Along with the ceaseless interfaith rivalry over the centuries, there have also been long stretches of peaceful, if wary, Christian/Muslim coexistence.

Many of the conflicts have been Muslim faction against Muslim faction and Christian sect against Christian sect. And in recent times, there have even been working political coalitions of some Christians with some Muslims against other Christians linked to other Muslims.

As for us in World Vision, we feel compelled to show the love of Christ to all people regardless of their religion, politics or race. This is our task.

**As we approach the western sector** of the city in the green taxi, Yafi recounts the story of our project to help sick and wounded Muslims during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, back in the summer of 1982. The doctor who was World Vision's project manager was at that time a medical professor at the American University of Beirut. Most foreigners were leaving the country then. Even many Lebanese doctors had already left.

The project manager stayed and endured the danger from bombing.

He also experienced the privation West Beirut suffered from lack of food and water. The greatest danger was that of being misunderstood by the very people he wanted to help. He knew he could be killed by an irate relative of a war casualty who might be happy to eliminate the first American he encountered for supplying the invading forces with U.S.-built weapons and bombs.

Our Muslim friend tells us, “You have credit with us.” We are safe today and need not worry too much about our well-being, since our colleagues in the work have proved to be friends in more than just words.

Of course, we realize keenly that we are living on another's credit. We hope no one will decide to foreclose on us without knowing the terms of agreement.

As the old taxi moves along, we realize that we have not seen any Muslims or mosques for the last three days. This is because we have been on



the Christian side of the city. A country that was known for tolerance and religious understanding is now divided for the opposite reasons. Friends and neighbors have been torn apart. The chasm is filled with blood and intolerance.

Shattered, pocked buildings along the way resemble the lives that have been mangled like those grotesque walls and floors that can now be seen through the "windows" made by bombs and rockets. Some are old and some are new, but all show the years of agony they have witnessed.

At least 126,000 physically disabled people now populate this small country of just over three million. Some say that more than 100,000 have died in the war. But the statistics which do not appear are the minds and morals that have been ruined by war, the children who will suffer the nightmares of strife and death all of their lives. No computer can register these.

**We are guided** into the office building where the government ministry is located. The French-speaking male secretary has us

wait in a clean but sparsely furnished room.

As we wait, our host tells us that Dr. Hoss is one of a rare breed. He is known to run his ministry without the normal granting of favors to friends and special interest groups. A sign on his door in Arabic reads, "If you want to talk about education, *you are welcome*. If you want to ask for special favors for students and teachers, do not enter. You will waste your time."

As a former professor of economics at the American University of Beirut, Dr. Hoss is known for his keen mind and fair play. He is a highly respected economist who also served as Prime Minister in the turbulent period of 1976-1980. Prior to his assignment to form the first cabinet under President Elias Sarkas, he served as the chairman of the key banking control commission of the Bank of Lebanon and, previously, as chairman and general director of the National Development Bank.

Our turn comes and we are ushered into the minister's office. His desk is that of a technocrat and a professor, not just a politician. Manuscripts are neatly piled, many of them written in his own hand. He is a man of substance first—then image and policy. He stands between the factions of right and left and is willing to lay down his life for the reuniting of his country. I see in him the best side of the government servant in a world where only the jaded and corrupt seem to make headlines.

**Coffee is served**, and as we are about to drink it, the minister stands and moves to one of his office doors. Several men rush in and there is a half-minute of confusion. Slowly it becomes clear that a kidnapped person has been released. He has come to thank His

Excellency for the mediation that led to his release.

## **We feel compelled to show the love of Christ to all people.**

There are smiles and handshakes all around.

One person in the group looks very familiar to me but I cannot recall where I have seen him. One of my colleagues in World Vision leans over and whispers, "Here comes Mr. Berri. Shake his hand." Everyone is smiling and excited. The man who has been released is crying and kissing the minister. Mr. Berri, the famous Amal (Shi'ite) militia leader, and his retinue have worked out the logistics for the release of the kidnapped man. The man says he had on his person some 50,000 Lebanese pounds (about \$5800 at today's rate) and it was not taken.

"You see your assailants were gentlemen, don't you?" Mr. Berri remarks, and everyone laughs.

Photographers flood into the room for the coverage of this event which would undoubtedly elevate the status of Dr. Hoss on the Christian side of the city, but he waves them off and says to everyone, "That's enough. This is not an important event. It is only our duty."

With long faces the photographers leave the room, but the freed kidnapped man is still weeping. As he leaves, instructions are given for his safe conduct home to the east side of the city.

Our conversation continues as though we had been interrupted only by a passing car that had beeped its horn. So goes just another moment in the life of a man committed to holding together the delicate fragments of a suffering nation. □

### **Presstime note**

*Shortly before this page went to press, shelling and gunfire destroyed or damaged numerous buildings in the immediate vicinity of World Vision's Beirut office and cut off all of the office's communication lines. Two days later, however, World Vision Lebanon personnel reopened the office and resumed their work as administrators of 53 childcare, relief and development projects.*



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## Pastors confer in Brasília

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# 'WE MUST NURTURE EACH OTHER'

**T**wo decades of military dictatorship have left their scars. Political, economic, moral and spiritual crises mark today's Brazil. It was only last March that Brazilians—filled with expectations of an honest and effective government—celebrated the inauguration of the "New Republic," a civilian government supported by public opinion. Will the *people* finally be the government's priority? Will the government be able to reduce corruption and find a way to pay its debts?

Brazilian pastors believe that in such times they must face their people, their leaders, their institutions and above all their own churches with the Word of God. United around this principle and claiming the promise in Jeremiah 3:15, "Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding," 206 pastors met June 17-21 in Brazil's capital city, Brasília.

Greater fellowship, spiritual nurture and a new pastoral vision for the church's mission in the world were sought through this conference.

"We do not wish to see an alienated church that knows nothing about the problems the country faces," said Pastor Júlio Borges de Macedo Filho, chairman of the conference's executive committee. "We wish to be present where God's Word needs to be heard."

That's quite a tremendous challenge for such a young church in such a young city. Brasília, intended to be a Federal District, was fully designed by one architect and planted in the center

Pastor Caio Fábio D'Araujo Filho challenges pastors to be authentic.

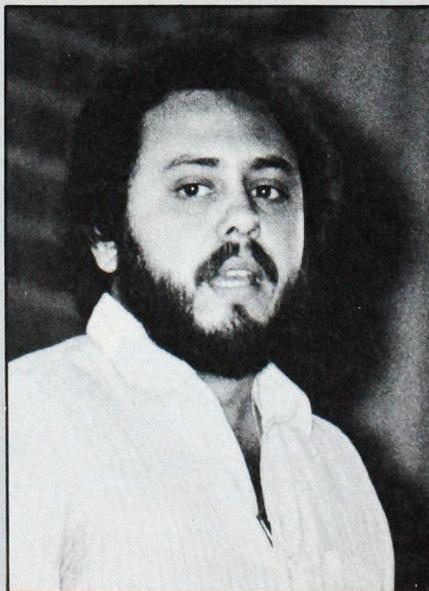
of the country only 25 years ago. It already has a population of 1.4 million.

The city's unpredicted growth led to the formation of many satellite cities—a great contrast to modern Brasília—where the working class that built the capital in the late 50's and early 60's settled. Eighty percent of the metropolitan area's population is said to be Catholic. Yet there are 2000 spiritist "tents" (centers), and many sects where anything from African gods to

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**"We do not wish to see an alienated church that knows nothing about the problems the country faces."**

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flying saucers are worshiped, making Brasília one of the world's largest mystical centers.

"I'm convinced that success in evangelizing a city depends on the unity of its pastors," said Pastor Adail Sandoval, president of Brasília's Council of Pastors. Pastor Orivaldo Pimentel Lopes Junior, World Vision Brazil's church relations coordinator, agrees. He notes that a main purpose of the conference was to promote unity among the pastors.

"Part of our ministry is a reconciling role in the Body of Christ," says Orivaldo. "We seek to encourage the members of Christ's body to discuss together their own ministry as well as the mission of the church in general."

"During this conference, we pastors have felt like sheep instead of shepherds," comments Pastor Júlio Borges. "A pastor's work can easily wear him down. He is constantly in touch with people but has no one to pastor him. We pastors must nurture each other."

"There is a hunger and an enormous need among us," says Presbyterian Pastor Jose Pereira. That's why I would like to encourage all who make up



World Vision—those who contribute financially or serve through this organization—to continue doing so because this ministry has made a big difference.”

The speakers talked about “the pastor’s family,” “the church’s mission today,” “discipleship” and “authentic ministry.” Dr. Sam Kamaleson, a World Vision International vice president, challenged pastors to intensify their relationship with God. “Discipleship

## “Part of our ministry is a reconciling role in the Body of Christ.”

begins with a personal call,” Kamaleson told the pastors. “When it comes, you will know it.”

Evangelist-pastor Caio Fábio D’Araujo Filho emphasized the need

for authenticity. He also told pastors that the pressures they undergo tend to produce extreme reactions: “Either you burn with zeal or you become indifferent.”

After any conference is over, there is always the question: What permanent results has this event achieved? Only time will tell, of course, but Júlio Borges de Macedo Filho is confident that the spirit of unity and mutual trust that was enhanced during the conference will be extended to neighboring cities. This, in turn, will help the churches to reach their respective cities for Christ.

To Orivaldo Lopes Junior, “Reaching a city is not simply the fruit of a pragmatic, rational or strategic mentality. We must weep over the city as Jesus wept for Jerusalem. We must pursue the city as God pursued Nineveh. We must understand and be acquainted with the city, be aware of our strengths and together plan for action. Only then will the impact be felt.” □

*Reported by John Hatton and Valeria Oliveira of World Vision Brazil’s communications office.*

Pastors join in the conference’s opening service.



## Pastors’ Conferences

**Two hundred six** pastors from 15 denominations, representing Brazil’s Federal District (Brasília) and three surrounding states, participated in World Vision’s seventh Brazilian pastors’ conference. The first three conferences were held in 1963, 1966 and 1971, before World Vision was officially implanted in the country. Founder Bob Pierce led the first two.

Since World Vision began its work in Brazil in 1975, Brazilian pastors’ conferences have been held in 1982, 1983, 1984 and now, in Brasília, in 1985. Samuel Kamaleson was the main speaker at all four of these conferences.

To date, World Vision has conducted 166 such conferences in 59 countries. The next is scheduled for Manipur, India, October 28 through November 1. Seven more are scheduled for 1986.

From left: Sam Kamaleson, Caio Fábio and Manfred Grellert chat after the evening service.

The way I see it . . .

# MISSIONS IS A TWO-WAY STREET

by L. Arden Almquist

**L**ong to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to strengthen you," writes a paternalistic-sounding Paul to the Christians in Rome. But then he seems to clear his throat and correct himself, adding: "that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine" (Romans 1:12).

My 30 years experience as a missionary and mission executive confirm that it's an important correction. For mission is a two-way street. Mission-minded people give and receive, teach and learn, heal and are healed. Like Paul, we are debtors to the people to whom we bring the Good News.

Let me describe my debt to the Africans among whom I lived with my wife and children for 18 years.

One of the truths they taught me is that *being is more important than doing*. That's a difficult lesson for Westerners; we are activists—busy, busy, busy. We do not readily hear the Psalmist when he says, "Be still, and know that I am God." Being what God made us to be, and are by His grace, is the secret of a full life which blesses ourselves and others. Sometimes in our busyness we are unable to be still and know that God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who made us in His own image, is indeed God and that we exist to glorify Him.

Another truth that Africans taught

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*Dr. L. Arden Almquist and his family served among the people of Ubangi in Zaire (then called the Congo), and in the mission office of the Evangelical Covenant denomination. He is the author of several books and numerous magazine and journal articles.*

me is that *relationships are more important than achievements*. Current titles in evangelical bookstores and journals suggest that we are beginning to recognize this truth ourselves. How much happier our spouses, our children, and our associates in all areas of life would be if we would give this truth the priority in daily living which the Scriptures give it!

A third lesson, even harder to accept, is that in certain ways the church as a whole is *more important than the individual*. In America we often stress the importance of the individual even above concern for the church. To African Christians I owe a deeper appreciation of the church as the body of Christ, the community of those who believe in Him as Savior and Lord.

My fourth lesson was that the Western distinction between the religious and the secular is false to the nature of things; for the religious and the secular are the warp and woof of the whole cloth of life. We dichotomize our response to these vital aspects of life. In doing so we gain more knowledge, more quickly, about the pieces of the world of which we are a part, and about ourselves, but we lose our sense of wholeness and of oneness with all creation.

I can best illustrate the African ability to reconcile the tension between the religious and the secular by an experience I had in Haiti. Riding down the streets of Port au Prince, I saw a brightly colored and lavishly painted bus bearing a name boldly printed in French on both sides. It was

the Thank you, Jesus! bus. And as we proceeded, we passed the Jesus Is Lord School of Electronics.

I am not defending secularism, which is a false religion. I am rather suggest-

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## An American reflects on lessons he's learned from Africans.

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ing that we do well to cultivate what Thomas E. Clarke calls "Christian secularity," an acceptance of the world as God made it, based on our assurance that He called it—*all of it*—good.

Africans also prepared me for a different understanding of time. In Lingala, for example, the same word, *lobi*, is used for both yesterday and tomorrow. The context shows which is meant. In the African mind it is the present which counts: the present is where the remembered past and the unknown future meet. For us Americans, time is a measure—with it we divide life into years, months, weeks, days, hours, minutes, seconds. For Africans, *time is the context of significant human events*. The realization that they and we differ profoundly in our understanding of time is fundamental to an acceptance of our differences as distinctive members of the human family. It took me a while to grasp this; for years, I fretted with the rest of the missionaries at the Africans' habit of coming late to meetings, to church for worship, and at the length of their worship services. Eventually I learned a measure of *patience*, a trait with which Africans seem to be more endowed than we.

**Besides** acknowledging that mission is a two-way street, Paul wrote that he was a debtor *unashamed*, for the gospel "is the power of God for salvation."

Of some things I *am* ashamed. Sometimes I lost my temper, a serious wrong in African society. At times I have been ashamed of my race, for its sins committed against people of color. I have also been ashamed of my country when we have been false to our Judeo-Christian heritage. And I have been ashamed of the church when it has failed to be prophetic in the face of injustice. But I am not ashamed of the gospel, for I have seen it to be the power of God for salvation in the fullest sense. I have seen it change individual lives and whole communities. Let me cite a couple of examples.

I think of Kama, from the Banza village of Bogofu. He was a notorious bottlegger who made his living selling home brew to patients and travelers along the road that passed our hospital. We had an encounter one day when he was caught selling his goods behind our maternity room, which he knew was against the rules. As an outcome of that encounter he later came to know the Lord through the ministry of the hospital chaplain, and became a powerful witness to God's grace in Christ.

Kama's village had been very resistant to the Gospel. With Kama's conversion, the village became open at last. Another convert was a patient suffering from tuberculosis with whom I prayed one night when he was hemorrhaging. He too accepted Christ and was healed. The combined witness of those two converts soon produced a strong church. The last communion I received in Africa before going home was at the hands of deacon Kama.

So, although I am a debtor, I am certainly a debtor unashamed. Jesus Christ has paid the sin-debt on the cross for me and for those to whom I went with the gospel. They, for their part, rewarded me far beyond my expectations or deserving; and our risen Lord is preparing a place for them and me which will make our small improvements look small indeed (John 14:2). All praise and honor to His Name! □

## CHILD PROSTITUTION IN THE TWO-THIRDS WORLD

**Beyond the distressing exploitation** of Two-Thirds World children in conventional areas of labor is the somber reality of widespread child prostitution—a long-accepted part of the total child labor picture in some areas.

At the recent United Nations Decade for Women conference in Nairobi, Kenya, one of the conditions in their countries about which many Asian delegates were most concerned was the routine sale by parents of their daughters (many as young as eight or nine) to prostitution agencies.

An interview in the July-September issue of *Together*, a quarterly journal of World Vision International, addresses the same topic. Dr. Mattani Rutnin, a professor at Thammasat University, Bangkok, Thailand, speaks of child prostitution there. Dr. Rutnin estimates the number of Thai girls under 14 who are working as prostitutes (and under inhuman conditions) at 200,000.

Speaking of the dominant role of parents in this situation and of the need for Christian intervention, Dr. Rutnin says: "We must begin to initiate development projects in these poor villages, and teach the villagers how to support themselves and to live wholesome Christian lives with the Holy Spirit as their protecting Guide. We must introduce the right values to combat the wrong ones. Poverty is not the only cause of this vice. Materialism and greed are the main factors which

pressure parents to sell their children. . . .

"It is our responsibility to save these children from hell and to lead them back to their Heavenly Father."

Thousands of young boys as well as girls are also sexually exploited. An example of one community in the Philippines is cited in the article "Bakla' Invasion," by Mariejo Benares and W. Dayton Roberts, in the same issue of *Together* mentioned above. Of the town's 4000 boys between the ages of four and fourteen, 3000—a staggering 75 percent—are reported to be involved in commercially motivated male child prostitution or male child abuse.

The percentage of boys involved in this particular place has unquestionably escalated since the late seventies, when the town began to appear in gay travel guides as "an ideal spot for establishing 'romantic friendships' with young boys." But, as in many other locations, the prostitution of young boys already existed when the place was "discovered" by foreign homosexuals.

The prostitution of children is a growing, worldwide sickness—a condition that is not confined to Two-Thirds World countries. In those nations, however, the pressure of economic hardship and the scarcity of strong Christian groups create fertile ground for child exploitation.

Notable hunger-fighting efforts

## ON WORLD FOOD DAY

**A**lmost every member of your church will be reminded of world hunger on October 16. That's World Food Day—the annual time when secular and religious organizations across America and in 155 other countries call attention to the plight of our planet's starving and malnourished people—and to what we well-fed people can do about it.

World Vision is among the 340 American sponsors of this year's World Food Day observances, encouraging local and regional groups of Christians everywhere to take practical action that will provide not only swift food delivery to starving people, but solid food-production capability to those who otherwise will face the same plight next year and beyond.

One regional group whose special efforts will become more publicly visible on World Food Day is ACT for Africa—Akron and Canton (Ohio) Together.

This group of business and professional leaders started early this year to mobilize response to Africa's famine. Led by Malone College administrator Dan Cormany, they appealed first to major area employers through employee challenge campaigns. When interest spread to other companies and civic organizations, ACT spread its umbrella.

"It had not been organized to any significant extent," said founding committee member Louise Gissendaner, a First National Bank officer. "When so many people got involved, a structure had to be formed."

In accepting the job of organizing two cities (Akron and Canton), ACT gave itself a tall order. Schedules had



Akron's Mayor Tom Sawyer and a project volunteer prepare a publicity send-off.

to be made. Coordination of activities had to be attempted. Churches had to be invited to become involved. Donation sites and an accounting system had to be established.

Ron Largent, World Vision's regional representative in Ohio, soon became involved in the process. "We provided the avenue between local concern and international needs—an avenue to stop the hurting," he said. "One way to ensure that the aid is effective is to let the field workers in Africa determine what supplies are needed. Before we purchase anything, we find out the needs in the drought areas."

By July, \$50,000 had been receipted and a second phase begun. Rev. Arthur E. Kemp, of Akron's Mount Olive Baptist church and head of the Akron-area black clergy group, became project coordinator. Kemp stimulated involvement by many segments of community leadership, including the black churches, and more clearly defined ACT's goals.

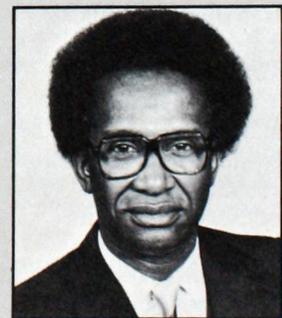
A new series of fundraisers—this time involving the general public—was announced. A division to contact small businesses was formed, along with a division to contact small civic, cultural and fraternal organizations. Donation tables were set up in malls; boxes went up in supermarkets; volunteers signed up.

On World Food Day, two shipments will be loaded into sea vans and be shipped to Dakar, Senegal, for distribution in Mauritania, Mali and Senegal. ACT's goal is to send 200 metric tons to these countries.

A second shipment of sea vans will be loaded in downtown Akron during a World Food Day celebration to be attended by Ohio Governor Richard F. Celeste, Akron Mayor Tom Sawyer, and thousands of other Ohioans involved in meeting immediate needs and providing long-term solutions.

Six ACT leaders plan to visit the cities and projects that are receiving the emergency supplies. During this visit, ACT hopes to strengthen the partnership between Ohio and Africa by establishing sister-city relationships.

"As each person contacted another person, and as involvement grew from individuals to groups," Ron Largent said, "thousands in Ohio became aware of Africans' needs and began helping. It's a testimony to God's marvelous timing and guidance. □"



Rev. Arthur E. Kemp, ACT project coordinator and pastor of Akron's Mount Olive Baptist Church

## EVANGELISTIC CRUSADE FIGHTS HUNGER TOO

**A massive food collection** was mounted at Anaheim Stadium in the final three days of the Southern California Billy Graham Crusade. The project, organized at the personal request of evangelist Billy Graham, was seen as an effort to put love and faith into action by helping to feed hungry people throughout the Southland.

More than 450 of the 500 food pantries involved in the distribution of the canned and packaged foods were maintained by local churches. The tens of thousands of Californians who attended the meetings were asked to bring high protein food such as beans, tuna, chicken or peanut butter. Large moving vans served as collection points strategically located around the stadium entrances and staffed by volunteers. Technical assistance was provided by the Interfaith Hunger Coalition and World Opportunities International, both

Los Angeles-based relief organizations.

In Southern California some 600,000 persons each month need emergency food aid. Dr. Emory Campbell, vice chairman of the crusade, who spearheaded the food-sharing effort, said, "This aspect of this crusade is a clear demonstration on the part of Southern California Christians, of the compassion and caring love of Jesus Christ for all people."

The ten-day crusade, sponsored by some 2000 churches, which provided 11,000 counselors and 10,500 choir members is Mr. Graham's fifth in Southern California over the last 36 years. Through simultaneous translation transmitted by miniature radios, attenders listened to Graham in their choice of 14 languages.

Attendance during the ten-day event climbed from the first night's 40,000 to the closing night's 80,000. A total of more than 33,000 individuals said that

they were making definite choices for Christ during the crusade.

The entire upper deck of Anaheim Stadium was filled with non-English speaking groups each listening in their native tongues. In his closing statement Billy Graham said, "A large number of those making decisions have come from the ethnic communities—Hispanic, Asian, European—peoples of many different cultures and languages. I could sense the joy that was felt as these people came forward in groups behind printed signs showing them where they could be counseled in Cambodian or Romanian or any of the languages they were able to understand."

Soon after the conclusion of the Southern California crusade, Graham left the United States to begin a six-week itinerary of preaching across Romania and Hungary.

## THROUGH A PERCEPTIVE JOURNALIST'S EYES

**An African Journey** by Mark Patinkin (Eerdmans, 1985). Reviewed by Elizabeth Wilson.

*"Even more than the scenes of pain, I will bold onto this scene of hope: the chief, pouring water into the desert, trying to begin anew."*

Late last year, Mark Patinkin, a 32-year-old writer for the Providence Journal in Rhode Island, spent a month in Africa. From Ethiopia, to Sudan, to Kenya; across the continent to Burkina Faso and Mali, Patinkin looked at, and wrote about, drought and famine—and the people whose lives had been engulfed by disaster.

First appearing as columns telexed from Africa back to his home paper, Patinkin's comments and personal interviews evoked an understandably impressive response. Scenes and settings are sharply etched; the writing is crisp, concretely descriptive; aware of ironies, even humor, in the midst of crisis; often deeply moving—without a trace of sentimentality or hype. The people come alive: government officials, children, relief workers, a nomad Touareg chief whose shattered way of life had followed centuries-old patterns.

Accompanying photographs, taken by the author, amplify the restrained intensity of the text.

Africa's famine lands, the patient, dignified, starving people, the magnitude of the need and the spirit of those who are trying to bring relief—both immediate and long-range—are all brought together. "I turn to look back at the people who have been changed but not broken by hunger."

A word of appreciation is in order for the publisher's perceptivity in giving Patinkin's observations a wider audience, and in realizing the book's potential to that audience. Patinkin is not a Christian—and this is not a "Christian book." There are brief references to the presence of Christian relief organizations, and there is a short quote from a Christian flyer. Patinkin, however, focuses on the secular relief organizations and their people. Not with the air of one who is discounting the work of Christian agencies, but simply as one who is more comfortable, more at home, with the non-religious groups. But Christians, especially those with hearts for the need in Africa, will find *African Journey* informative, illuminating and thought-provoking.

### *Please pray . . .*

- **for the hunger-wracked** people in Sudan, Ethiopia and other famine-stricken African countries.
- **for the relief/development teams** bringing food, medical care and self-help opportunities to the needy.
- **for the war-weary** residents of Beirut, Lebanon.
- **for those who bring Christ** and practical help to Beirut's homeless, bereaved and injured ones.
- **for Latin America's** struggling urban people.
- **for Latin Christians** who share the Word of Life with urban Latins.
- **for Mexican families** who have little access to medical care.
- **for the providers** of physical and spiritual health care in Mexico.
- **for Haitian children** growing up without adequate food or education.
- **for Haitian childcare workers.**
- **for your own church's outreach** to the lost and the needy.
- **for your personal involvement** in Christ-honoring outreach to the needy.

# Questions people ask

## **Why are there so many aid agencies trying to help the poor in the Two-Thirds World? With fewer organizations, would there not be less duplication and administration?**

On a recent journey to Ethiopia, I discovered that a variety of agencies allows for a diversity of services, skills and labor. Because of this diversity, there is a wider appeal to the community of potential donors.

In countries such as Ethiopia, there is clearly a *need* for a number of agencies. I was impressed to see the sense of cooperation that existed between them. None was a threat to the other.

For example, in Ethiopia, one of the projects that World Vision operates is a life-saving intensive feeding and medical center at Lalibela. About 10,000 people are alive today only because of this program. However, for a while lack of fresh water prevented the program from expanding. Oxfam heard about the situation in Lalibela and sent in a couple of water and sanitation engineers. Before long they had tapped water and arranged for a pipe to go directly into the World Vision center.

Road transport in Ethiopia is slow and often dangerous. In fact, there are *no* roads to isolated villages. So World Vision operates two 18-seat Twin Otter aircraft that can carry aid personnel and light supplies. Frequently the Twin Otters fly medical personnel and equipment for Catholic Relief Services, Save the Children Fund and other agencies. It would be too expensive for each agency to provide its own planes, pilots and mechanics.

At the huge Alamata nutrition-health

center in northern Ethiopia, there is a beautiful cooperative. World Vision runs a nutrition program there for the critically malnourished, plus a small outpatient clinic. On the same compound the Sisters of the Missionaries of Charity (Mother Theresa's order) staff a hospital for the dying. While World Vision has special skills in nutrition programs, nobody can provide love and care for the dying like Mother Theresa's Sisters.

Cooperation extends even to small things. One Sunday I was with a World Vision driver visiting a Save the Children Fund feeding center. The driver, an evangelical Protestant, reminded me that he wanted to be back in Alamata by 10 a.m. so he could drive the Sisters of the Missionaries of Charity to mass, as they had no car.

*Peter Philip  
World Vision Australia*

## **Where can I get visual aids for our missions class on the status of religion in all the countries of the world?**

World Vision's MARC Division has announced the availability of an overhead transparency series that provides a brief, but thorough, overview of the world's religious, political and lingual distributions. The set of 32 transparencies contains maps and diagrams (in color) with an accompanying explanatory text providing background data and additional statistics for each.

Besides showing the status of Christianity throughout the world, the material identifies factors helping and hindering missionary efforts. It has been prepared by Dr. Patrick Johnstone of World Wide Evangelism Crusade in England, and is now available from MARC, 919 W. Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016. (Prepaid \$65.00. California residents add 6½% sales tax.)

## **In reports on what's being done for the hungry in Ethiopia at World Vision's nutrition-health centers, I find various terms used for the feeding procedures. Can you explain the differences?**

We do five levels of nutrition work, based on degree of need and availability of food:

1. *General feeding* (like a "soup kitchen"). This provides displaced persons, pregnant and nursing mothers and children 5-15 years of age with a minimum of 1400 calories per person per day, from grain or flour, non-fat dried milk powder and edible cooking oil.

2. *Supplementary feeding* (for children under five years of age who are between 70% and 85% of normal weight-to-height). This provides three premixed, high protein cooked meals per day totaling about 1600 calories.

3. *Intensive feeding* (for children under five who are between 60% and 70% of normal weight-to-height). This provides three premixed, high protein cooked meals per day totaling about 2000 calories.

4. *Super-intensive feeding* (for children under five below 60% of normal weight-to-height). This provides six premixed, high protein cooked meals per day totaling about 2000 calories.

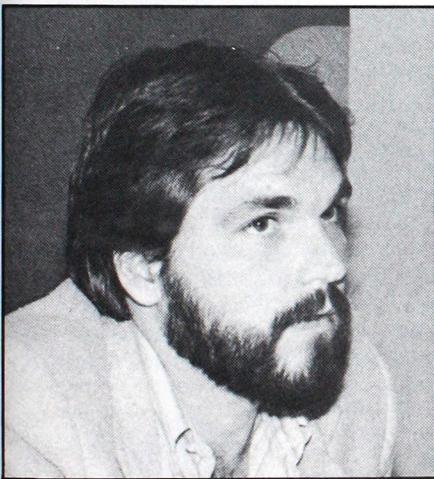
5. *Healthcare*. This provides all children in the feeding program, regardless of age, with simple curative and preventative/promotional healthcare that not only improves their health, but *teaches* them how to further improve their own health.

**What's your question** about World Vision or the Two-Thirds World or ways in which you and your church can reach out to the truly needy? Send your question to WORLD VISION Magazine, 919 W. Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016.

# OPENING EYES, HEARTS, HANDS

**O**ur vision for famine relief is that we will truly be able to look at people and say, 'We're here with you for good. You are people we love and value. And whatever we can do to enable you in your own path of development—both economically and spiritually—we want to do that.' ”

That's Kevin McFarland's nutshell description of what motivates him as director of the development assistance organization, "Manna International." While not discounting the need for emergency relief aid, the Church of Christ leader is one of a growing number of Christians who recognize that long-range development is a vital



**The work at Ansokia Valley displayed one of the best development projects we knew of anywhere.” —Kevin**

component in the struggle to provide famine victims with assistance that lasts.

During a recent visit to World Vision's Monrovia offices, Kevin handed President Ted Engstrom a check for \$67,225 to be used in an innovative agricultural development program in Ethiopia's Ansokia Valley. "Our decision to fund this project was based primarily on the impact that that project has on small farmers," Kevin explained. "The project provides intensive training for the farmers and brings the benefits of the production back to the producers."

Sharing that excitement and vision for long-range commitment is Jerry McCaghren, director of "Bread for a Hungry World." After serving as a minister in the Church of Christ for 21 years, Jerry decided to devote full energy to raising funds for famine relief and generating awareness of hunger needs among fellow Church of Christ members.

While Kevin and Jerry were in Monrovia, WORLD VISION magazine Associate Editor Randy Miller queried them about their goals, dreams and their interest in working with World Vision on certain projects.

### **Kevin, how and why did Manna International get started?**

My involvement grew out of my work with young people in Redwood City, California, and a desire to create a context where young people and others in the church could encounter God's work in a powerful way. The hunger issue has tremendous potential to awaken in us a faith in God's ability to use us and to work through us to bring about new kinds of realities.

The primary concern of Manna, outside of relief works, is a strong



**The essence of evangelism lies in capturing the Spirit of Christ.” —Jerry**

emphasis on development. We're especially interested in sub-Saharan Africa. We'd like to see some ecologically sensitive, small-scale development works implemented in those areas.

### **Jerry, what were the origins of Bread for a Hungry World?**

Bread for a Hungry World grew out of the dream of several Church of Christ brethren. It's an outlet for us to take the word *love* and really make it practical.

Bread for a Hungry World began in May 1984 out of a desire, initially, to help meet relief needs. But Kevin has helped us to understand that there is a greater need than relief, and that is to equip people so they can sustain themselves—providing for them the

tools, the seed, the education, and whatever else is essential for them to be self-sustaining.

**Kevin, what's behind Manna's desire to financially assist the Ansokia Valley agricultural development project?**

I met with John McMillin [World Vision's large-scale agricultural development specialist] about a year ago, when he'd just come back from Ethiopia with plans for development projects. John had the same kind of vision we had: a real desire to see progress in water development. And also to see certain areas of the Rift Valley become production centers. He told me about Ansokia Valley, and I was very interested. There seemed to be a lot of production potential there.

We began to discuss it here at home, and I also went to Ethiopia to visit some of the projects. The work at Ansokia Valley displayed one of the best development projects we knew of anywhere. It was right at the heart of what we wanted.

**Jerry, what is the nature of Bread for a Hungry World's involvement with World Vision?**

To me, the beauty about our relationship with World Vision is that we are able to use our own infrastructure while drawing upon World Vision's research, methodology and expertise. World Vision has a lot of people who've been involved in relief and development for many years. We're a new organization, so we're trying to draw upon what they've been able to learn.

World Vision can help a denomination or agency carry out a more effective ministry. By supplying us with goods and technical help, they enable us to be more effective, efficient and better stewards of our resources.

**Kevin, what motivates you in your work, and how do you hope people will change as a result of their contacts with Manna?**

In the purest sense, my motivation is that I seek to be submitted to the call of God in my life today. I believe God has called me to work in this area. What grows out of that is a desire to help other Christians encourage one

another toward the kind of faith that believes God can still do life-changing, beautiful things.

What we want to say to people is, "We think it's great that you cared enough to give sacrificially. But it's not enough, just to meet a crisis. You know, God didn't just meet our crises; He dwells in us and stays with us. And we've got to stay with these people—to meet their needs for production, for reclaiming their soil and helping them develop.

**Kevin, what do you see as the role of young people in meeting the hunger crisis?**

We work with youth groups to create a sense of anticipation of God's involvement, to create a sense of hope that God can actually move and do things in this world and that He is concerned. We do that with college students on about 140 campuses right now.

We've also produced family enrichment materials designed to challenge kids and to get kids to challenge their parents. There's a lot we can learn from our youth groups and our children. When kids look at hunger they say, "People die of starvation and God hates that. It really breaks God's heart. That means it shouldn't happen. And that means that if we have something, we ought to give it away."

**Jerry, what are your dreams for Bread for a Hungry World?**

My dream is really to help the Church of Christ get out of a "crisis syndrome" and into an attitude of committing ourselves to the world. It's too easy for us to sit in the lap of luxury. I'm convinced that Jesus died for a whole lot more than a Sunday morning worship service. We've got to get our people out into the community

where people are hurting. And the hurting people are not all just in Ethiopia; a lot of them are in their own neighborhoods.

I also want to help us understand what evangelism is. We've left evangelism mostly to missionaries, but the essence of evangelism lies in capturing the Spirit of Christ.

Another dream I have is to take young people overseas for summer-long cross-cultural experiences in developing countries. I'd like for kids to become involved. Let them make bricks, let them unload food, let them dig wells, let them get some dirt under their fingernails, let them hurt, let them sleep out under the stars and hear the wailing of people and the crying of mothers. When those kids come back they'll be servants until the day they die.

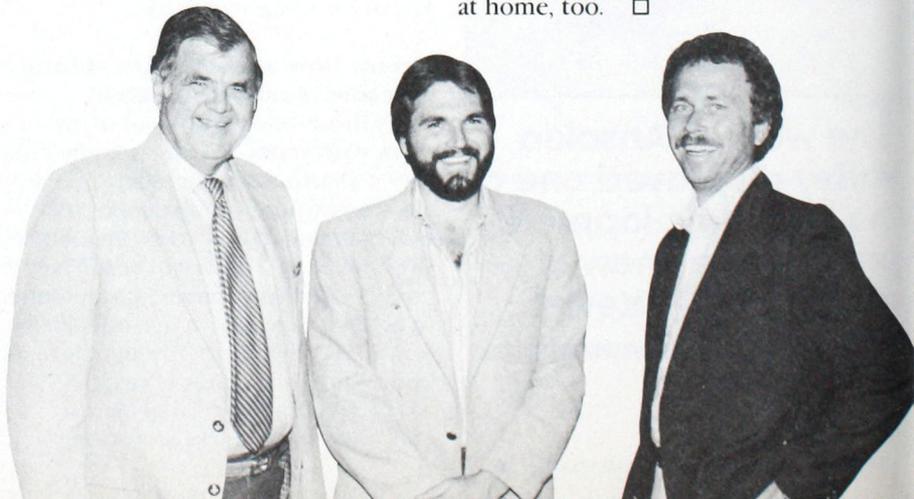
I hope we'll be able to prepare our people so that if famine is threatening a country, we can get in there before it really strikes and help to stave it off.

**Jerry, you mentioned being thankful to God for this famine. What did you mean by that?**

I don't want to be misunderstood about that. What I mean is that this famine has made us in the Church of Christ—and many other Christians worldwide—recognize that God doesn't want us to be isolationists; He wants us to pull together.

People all over the place are getting involved. After I spoke at a church last Tuesday night a youth group handed me a check for \$4500. I spoke to a group another night and a man wrote me a check for \$1000. Elderly widows are committing \$50 a month. This is pulling us together, getting our eyes off ourselves, and it is really making us free. Through this crisis, the Lord is helping us see our brothers and sisters clear around the world. And right here at home, too. □

Ted Engstrom greets Kevin McFarland and Jerry McCaghren during their visit to World Vision's Monrovia offices.



# Samaritan sampler

SOME WAYS PEOPLE ARE HELPING  
OTHERS IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

## Alternatives to the commercialization of Christmas

are appealingly presented in a filmstrip/cassette packet, *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas*. Its 17-minute length blends music and the varied voices of narrators with colorful photography. A complete script booklet with ideas for the material's use is also included. The importance of celebration and gift-giving among loved ones is not criticized, just simplified; then practical suggestions are given for ways in which families or groups can share Christmas joy with those in need. Best used in October or November, the packet may be purchased (\$20) or rented (\$6) from Alternatives, Box 429, Ellenwood, GA 30049; (404) 961-0102.

## Psychological counseling and related services

are offered specifically for missionary candidates, mission organizations and missionary families by Folcroft Evangelical Community Services. Consultation and screening of candidates are provided for mission agencies; individual, marriage and family counseling for missionaries on furlough, either directly, for those in the Philadelphia area, or via nationwide referrals to counselors in other areas. For information contact Mission Services, Folcroft Evangelical Community Services, 500 Primos Ave., Folcroft, PA 19032; (215) 461-8303.

## Arabic Sunday school curriculum

is being developed by a Christian publisher in Beirut, Lebanon, in consultation with the David C. Cook Foundation. Designated "Project ABC," the program answers frustrations of Middle East Sunday school teachers trying to use materials that are difficult to relate to Arab-world cultures. Cook Foundation editor Larry



Changing Christmas priorities gave this family time to share with others Christ came to serve.

Brook and others are training writers and editors from Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria in curriculum preparation. Test lessons will be sent to churches in 1986; publication is scheduled for 1987. For information write David C. Cook Foundation, Cook Square, Elgin, IL 60120.

## Colorful, low-cost Scriptures

in their own languages for children of Mexico, Zaire, India and Kenya are being provided through the annual American Bible Society program for vacation Bible schools. The ABS reports a renewal of interest in VBS materials and believes this offers encouragement for the success of a Scripture distribution program aimed especially at young people, which they and their international-partner Bible societies plan to launch worldwide in spring '86.

## Low Cost Farming in the Humid Tropics

is a helpful 38-page illustrated handbook on site and seed preparation, planting, water use, pest and weed control, fertilizing, harvesting and storage. For information on ordering write Island Publishing House, Sta. Mesa P.O. Box 406, Manila, Philippines.

**Music as evangelism** is the approach of Inter-Varsity staffer Stacy Riley. At Yale, Stacy helped start a Christian singing group, "Living Water," patterned after popular glee clubs. Appearing as the only such group in musical "jamborees" held several times a year among Ivy League schools, "Living Water" finds audiences receptive. Stacy has now started similar singing groups at ten schools including Tufts, Williams, M.I.T. and Harvard.

## In Brazil, a schedule of annual conferences

for the years 1985 through 1991 has been approved by the Brazilian Congress on Evangelization. The yearly conferences will focus on spiritism, spirituality, trans-cultural missions, the evangelization of northeast Brazil and of north Brazil. In addition, a World Congress of Evangelization of Portuguese-Speaking People is scheduled for the end of the decade. For information write Executive Secretary Osmar Ludovico da Silva, Rua Barao da Torre, 230 apt. 604-22411, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

**New in Manila** is Action International Ministries' program for middle- and upper-class women. A weekly tele-

vision program, The World of Women; a counseling center; group Bible studies, book club and seminars will all be used in reaching women with the gospel and discipling them in the Word. For more information contact Action International Ministries, Box 110, Greenhills, Metro Manila, 3113 Philippines.

## Believed to be the first of its kind

last spring's Conference on the Laity held in Denver, Colorado, brought together about 40 key leaders of U.S. lay affinity groups. Agencies ranged from Hard Hats for Christ to the Christian Medical Society. More than 120 such lay affinity organizations exist in America. The Denver convocation was sponsored by the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization, which contemplates further regional, national and international conferences. For information contact LCWE, Box 2308, Charlotte, NC 28211.

## The second International Conference on Oral Rehydration Therapy (ICORT II)

will be held December 10-13, 1985, in Washington, DC. It is sponsored by the Agency for International Development (AID) in cooperation with the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research/Bangladesh (ICDDR/B), The United Nations Children's Educational Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank, and the World Health Organization (WHO). The focus is on the establishing and implementing of effective ORT programs for victims of diarrheal disease. For information contact Ms. Linda Ladislaus, ICORT II Conference Staff, Creative Associates Inc., 3201 New Mexico Ave. NW, Suite 270, Washington, DC 20016; (202) 966-5804.

Because they care

## ACER: AN EMPLOYEE RESPONSE

**H**ave you ever wondered how World Vision's central office staff members—the people who are responsible for taking your gifts and getting them to hurting people—respond personally to their day-in-day-out exposure to massive need?

The answer is, they respond with a concern that goes beyond the caring attention they give to their varied job responsibilities, and beyond the individual contributions and child sponsorships in which many are involved.

Last year, as the toll of famine victims mounted in Africa, World Vision staff concern grew as well. WV people wanted to do *more* on a personal basis to meet the need in Africa. This meant organized effort. A committee launched ACER (Africa Crisis Employee Response) in September 1984, with a think-big goal of raising \$100,000 by the end of 1985.

The hard-working ACER committee came up with a program that fit a

diversity of giving patterns—everyone could participate.

Newspaper recycling became an ongoing activity; a number of employees took Love Loaf coin banks to fill, and others signed up for ACER payroll-deduction giving. ACER prayer chains were established, and the first Wednesday of each month a group meets during the lunch hour to “fast on the first” and pray for the needs of Africa.

Information and updates on ACER giving are regularly presented in the chapel services attended by all employees, and in April and August of 1985 two special ACER campaigns were conducted.

First was a 40-hour fast, beginning the evening of April 29. WV employees participated in several ways: by fasting themselves, first signing up sponsors who pledged to contribute for each hour an individual fasted; by contributing as a sponsor of someone who was fasting, and by upholding the participants in prayer. The 40 hours

ended with a breaking of the fast on May 1, when a number of the staff shared the blessings of identifying with Africa's famine-stricken people through their own hunger. More than \$20,000 was raised during the fast.

In August, an ACER T-shirt design contest was held, with the winning design then imprinted on shirts. Proceeds from shirt sales helped swell the fund which, at World Vision magazine press time, totaled \$71,000.

The indefatigable ACER committee has some new plans brewing, and ACER prayerfully expects to reach its \$100,000 goal by the end of 1985.

Are you part of a group or organization that wants to have a corporate share (on either a large or small scale) in meeting the needs of Africa's suffering children, men and women? If so, the approach taken by World Vision's Africa Crisis Employee Response could work for you too—and provide life-giving help in Africa. □



Wearing their winning-design T-shirts, World Vision's Africa Crisis Employee Response (ACER) committee members gather around the progress display which shows that the fund drive has topped \$70,000. Standing (left to right) are Audrey Rountree, Jean Afuso, Ann McKusick and Jim Brown; seated: Tonyia Bellah, artist Gary Left who designed the display, Betty Harper, Art Bedford, Ruth Heck, Kathy Gough and Nate Showalter.

# TWO-THIRDS OF ALL THE PEOPLE IN THE WORLD

**Numbers** may impress statisticians, but one gripping example of human need will do more to prompt most of us to action than a memory bank full of figures. That's why, in this magazine and in our letters and on television, we tell stories of people. When we feel the suffering of one person—a man without a job, a hungry child, a mother who lost her children—we more easily identify with the two-thirds of the world's population who live in extreme poverty.

Just the same, some statistics—infant mortality rates, per capita income, population growth, as examples—shock me and move me to a greater commitment to our ministry. The most significant of these figures is the one I mentioned above: *two out of every three people on the face of this planet subsist in stark and frightful conditions.* That means they usually go to bed hungry at night; they don't have acceptable health care (if any); they live in inadequate housing (if they have a roof at all); and most of them have not heard the good news about Jesus Christ.

That's why we've begun to use the term "Two-Thirds World" rather than the more common "Third World." For years now, "Third World" has been used loosely to refer to politically nonaligned, economically developing, and less industrialized nations. But the concept is vague and misleading, and we prefer the more descriptive expression, "Two-Thirds World."

Recently I've taken a close look at some of the figures our researchers have drawn together, and I think I can underline this idea by sharing a few of the more sobering ones with you.

For example, the average life expectancy for this two-thirds of the population is 16 years lower than the other one-third. The infant mortality rate is five times as high. Yet the population growth of these lesser-developed countries averages 2.4 percent annually, compared to 0.7

percent for the other one-third of the world.

The average per capita income (all the money one person receives for a year) for the 35 least developed countries in the world is below \$200. All of them together account for only three percent of the gross global product. On top of this, the poorer countries have borrowed more than \$100 billion from the richer countries in recent years, and simply paying the interest on these loans strains the economy of many nations.\*

## Few Americans realize that millions of people live on less than \$200 a year.

While we're looking at numbers, let's turn the proposition around and look at the one-third who enjoy 84 percent of the world's educational expenditures and 91 percent of all that's spent on public health care. On the average these countries give less than one-half of one percent of their gross national product to help the poorer nations. Two countries, Holland and Sweden, give more than one percent, but the United States gives closer to two-tenths of one percent.

If you're like me, the figures begin to blur in your mind after a while. Two-thirds, one-half of one percent, less than \$200 a year on which to exist—it all adds up to a tragedy beyond comprehension. I've had the privilege of traveling to 135 countries of the world, and I've seen every imaginable condition. Yet I can't grasp the full significance of those figures.

I can, however, grasp what I believe should be the Christian response to such basic human need, and I can put it in one word—give. I like the way Richard Foster puts it in *Freedom of Simplicity*. "God's great generosity to

us sets us free to model that generosity toward others. Because He gave, we are enabled to give."

We hear a lot today from the economists and the political scientists who warn us of the impending disaster if the gap between the "haves" and the "have nots" widens—and it is widening. They speak in purely economic or political terms in which the motivation to give is self-interest. In an increasingly interdependent world, they say, we must help the poorer nations for our own sake. This isn't charity, they emphasize; it's an investment.

As Christians, our motivation, if we let the Spirit of God work in our hearts, is none other than love. If we let Him turn those imposing statistics into individual stories of human need, we'll find ourselves compelled to reach out toward an impoverished Two-Thirds World.

Love seizes opportunities to share in ways that meet someone's deep need. Your partnership with us in meeting someone's deep need means so much to that person enabled by your sharing to cope again and hope again. We thank you on that person's behalf. God bless you.

  
Ted W. Engstrom  
President



\* Most of these statistics come from the preface to the *Encyclopedia of the Third World*.

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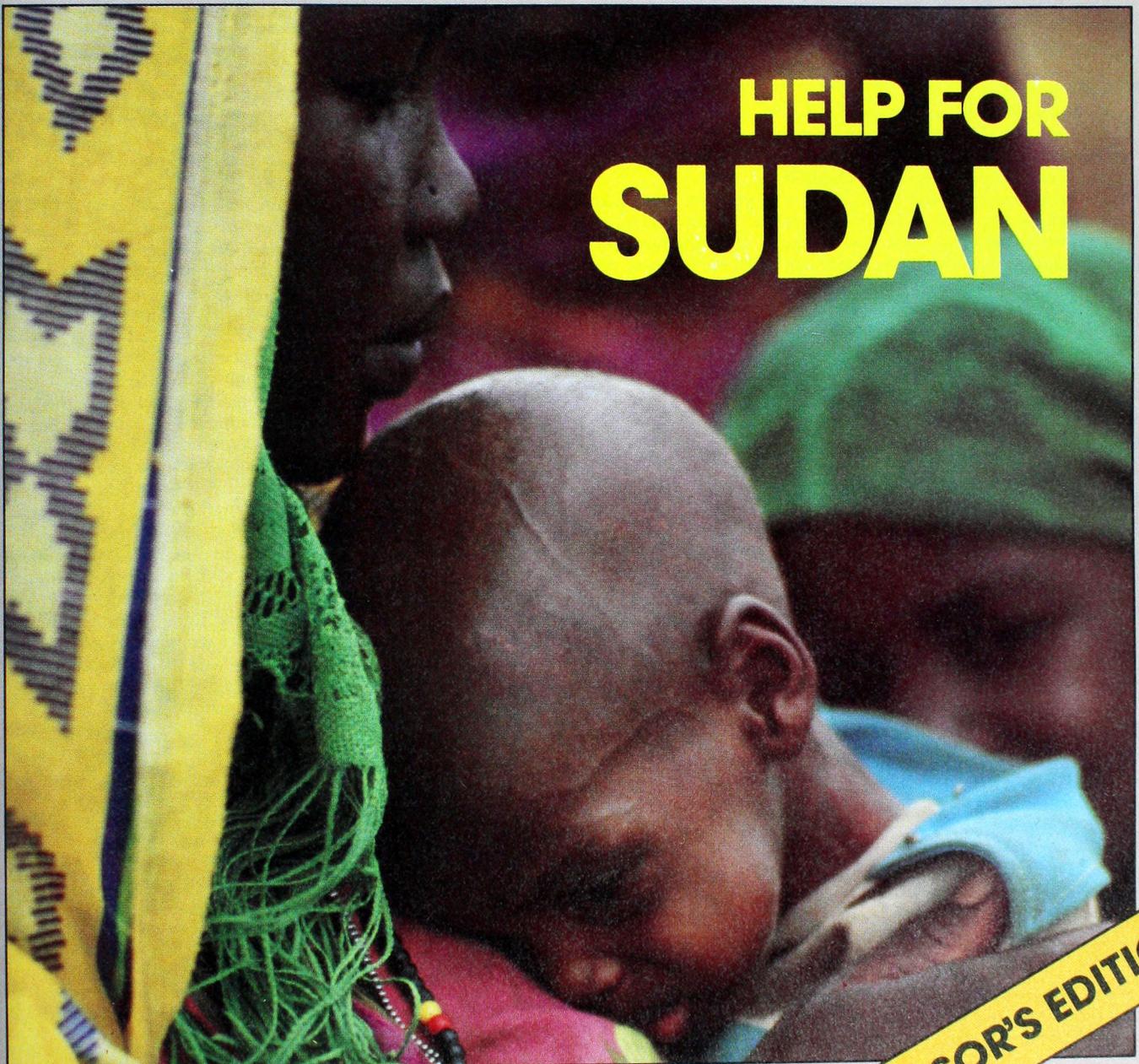
Facing Sudan's  
food crisis

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fruits of love

You can sew  
for Ethiopians

October-November 1985

# *World Vision*®



**HELP FOR  
SUDAN**

**SPONSOR'S EDITION**

# Readers write

## He knew hunger himself

As a Cambodian refugee now resettled in USA, I bear witness to the work of God carried out through World Vision. Now that my body doesn't look like a skeleton and my stomach does not growl anymore, I know what I give now will be in the stomachs of the needy.

Thanks, God! Thanks to everybody who gives.  
*Hong Ly Khuy  
Honolulu, HI*

## Giving in hope

My husband and I have a daughter seven months old. When we saw your program on television a few months ago, it was the children and the parents of those children that especially touched our hearts.

We imagined how we would feel watching our own child die of starvation or some terrible disease. We saw children suffering in their so-short lives, who had never had the chance to enjoy life in even the most simple way—for how can they when they are constantly hungry?

What must it be like to hold in your arms a child that is screaming in pain and hunger—or whimpering softly, too weak to cry out?

I know our contribution is not much, but it's what we can give and is given with much love in our hearts. And hope! We pray that we can stop just one child from dying, that we can save one family from that pain, that we can bring joy to just one child's eyes and heart. If we can do that, then perhaps at least one child will live and grow with God's love and peace and joy.

*Mrs. David Schafer  
Rockford, IL*

## True peace and freedom

Thank you for the Mini-message, "Do You Know the Peace Giver?" This morning when I read it I was so encouraged and set free. Our family prays together every night for those starving in Ethiopia and other parts of Africa. We need to pray not only for these people's physical needs but also for God's peace in their hearts, a peace that truly passes all understanding.

*Hope Gilmore  
Blue Springs, MO*

## Self-help commended

I appreciated the last issue because of your telling us in detail of your efforts to

aid needy people to help themselves as well as just being helped, and of trying to get folks back to their home places. I also trust you do give out the saving gospel wherever you can.

*Pastor C.A. White  
New Richmond, OH*

## Development most important

The article, "Ethiopia's Long Walk . . ." stated: "It is not so much a lack of water that is devastating Ethiopia, as a lack of access to water." Development activities should be the most important type of effort to engage in and publicize.

*Barbara Susan Ash  
St. Petersburg, FL*

## "And I complain?"

Thank you for your informative and touching June-July magazine. My heart aches for these people. The articles by Thea Chitambar, "What I Learned from an Ethiopian Boy," and "An Ethiopian Widow's Mite," were especially moving. And I complain about not having enough at times? Outrageous!

*Ann Wolf  
Fair Oaks, CA*

## Lest we forget

I hope and pray that people everywhere who are aware (And who is not?) of the suffering and tragedy of countless others in this world, and who have responded with their hearts, will not let time or the lack of future media reminders diminish their commitment to help.

*Margie Sanford  
Boston, MA*

## Help at home first?

In a discussion with two relatives, the subject of helping those overseas came up. Both said they thought we should help the poor of our country first and then others. I would like them to read the wonderful articles on Ethiopia in your June-July issue. Could you send them each a copy?

We contribute regularly to World Vision as well as sponsoring a child. If only all of us in our country could realize what is going on in the world through *your* eyes, so much more could be done.

*Mrs. Haydon Spidell  
Sutter Creek, CA*

*World Vision is also mindful of the needs of people here at home. Through our U.S. Ministries division, working in partnership with churches and other agencies, we meet a broad range of needs in holistic minis-*

*tries to ethnic minorities, refugees and other needy people.*

## Sorrow becomes joy

I became aware of the Ethiopian crisis by accident one night. Drowning in my personal sorrow, I flipped through the channels in search of diversion. I couldn't find a comedy program that could make me laugh; rather, I found myself watching World Vision's plea for help for desperately needy people.

Now my tears were for others. When I picked up the phone to become a contributor, I felt a burst of inner happiness and knew that what I sent would reach and help people in Ethiopia.

*C. Perez  
Haverhill, MA*

## Not just to Ethiopians

I understand Ted Engstrom's concern in his article "When the TV Image Flickers Away." I want World Vision to know that my commitment is not just to those Ethiopians in need but to the world in need. My commitment to help feed and clothe the hungry only ends when there are no more hungry to be fed and no more naked to be clothed. I came from a large family of ten with a modest income. We were always made aware of others in greater need than ourselves. Every month we sent a check through World Vision to our sponsored child in some other underdeveloped part of the world. We wrote letters, sent gifts, and included our sponsored child in our home activities if only in thoughts. Now, as a mother myself, my compassion for other mothers who want their children to grow up healthy and strong is even greater.

*Clarinda White  
Beaverton, OR*

## Sewing to share

I've just finished the June-July magazine and read it from cover to cover. How well off we all are in comparison to those destitute people in Ethiopia.

I pray every day for them and contribute each month to your work. I'm 78 years old and still pretty active. I do custom sewing, so I can still help those in need.

*Jane Youngblood  
Ennis, TX*

# World Vision®



## 4 Fighting flood and famine in Sudan

Rains bring harvest hopes for fall—but frustration now.

## 12 Christian love made the difference

From Cambodia to California—one man's journey.

## 18 Project Mercy

Ethiopia's first woman senator shares her project of hope.

### Also

2 Readers write

9 These are your hands

10 A lasting radiance

15 Questions sponsors ask

16 A treasured possession

17 Eat the bread of life

21 Samaritan sampler

22 The plastic security blanket

23 Two-thirds of the world

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## ON THIS DISASTER-PRONE PLANET

On one side of the globe a pair of earthquakes shatter the lives of thousands in the world's largest city. On the opposite side a prolonged famine saps the lives of thousands in widespread countryside. Meanwhile, warfare traumatizes thousands in other nations east and west, north and south.

How can a few million Christians bring the healing touch of Jesus Christ to so many suffering people in such diverse places? The answer is that God, who keeps His eyes on everyone everywhere, calls certain of His people to be His hands in certain places, and He calls many others of us to equip and support them in their mercy work.

At His behest a contingent is at

work for Him in Mexico City; another in Ethiopia; another in Sudan; yet others in Lebanon, El Salvador and other disaster areas. And the more faithfully we—His fingers—make ourselves and our means wholly available to Him, the sooner all the peoples on this whole disaster-prone planet will be able to feel His touch and hear His voice calling them to take eternal refuge at His side. *David Olson*

PHOTOS, ILLUSTRATIONS Cover, pp. 4, 5, 6 (left), 7, 8: Jacob Akol; p. 6 (right): Pat Fisher; p. 9: Bill Gary; pp. 12, 13 (left) Khmer Humanitarian Organization; p. 13 (right): Board of Supervisors, County of Los Angeles; p. 14: Jon Kubly; p. 15: Terry Madison; p. 16: Lisa Hindsley; pp. 18, 20 (right) Deborah Greenburg; pp. 19, 22: Doug Kelly; p. 20 (left) Project Mercy; p. 21: Alternatives.

In Africa's largest nation

# FIGHTING FLOOD AND FAMINE IN SUDAN

**R**ains are falling in Sudan and a harvest is being reaped—but the scythe is being swung by the angel of death, and the harvest is grim. Malnutrition has been rampant for many months and an estimated 150,000 people, mostly children, have perished of starvation since January. Most relief workers agree that the toll will climb significantly higher by the end of the year.

National surveys show unprecedented malnutrition, and aid experts estimate that the death toll among children has increased by at least 20,000 a month. Bradford Morse, director of the United Nations Office of Emergency Operations for Africa, says, "Hundreds of thousands of lives are at stake in Sudan." In a plea for assistance to government and relief organizations throughout the world, Morse said, "Health conditions in all regions of Sudan are extremely serious and deteriorating rapidly."

Severe flooding occurring in the southern half of Sudan is a consequence of heavy rainfall that began early in July. Now, with more than two months of rainfall, many mud-brick villages in the country's agricultural central region—between the White and Blue Nile Rivers—lie under several feet of water. Encampments of thousands of famine-stricken migrants from western Sudan and refugees from the neighboring western country of Chad, who have come to the irrigated central

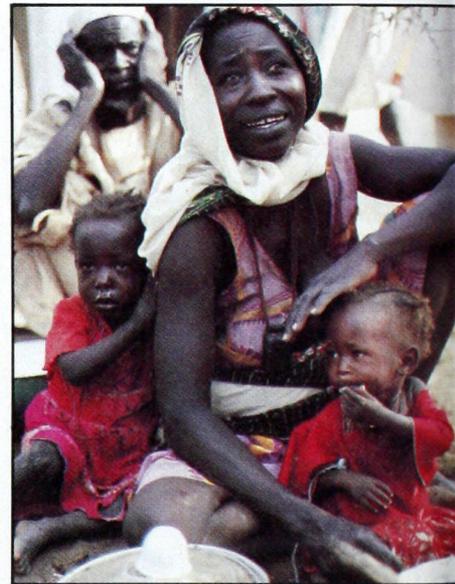
**M**any of the central region's 7500 villages lie under a foot or two of water.

region hoping to find food, also have been hard hit by the summer rains.

Makeshift shelters of reed matting, cloth and plastic sheeting thrown up by camp dwellers prove insufficient to protect them from the downpours. The camp areas have turned several times into seas of mud. One camp near the town of Wad Medani, 120 miles south of Sudan's capital of Khartoum, was isolated from motor vehicles for a week. During that period, while the camp continued to grow toward its present population of 7000, trucks delivered relief shipments of grain to the edge of the impassable area and men from the camp carried the sacks on their backs over the remaining hour's distance.

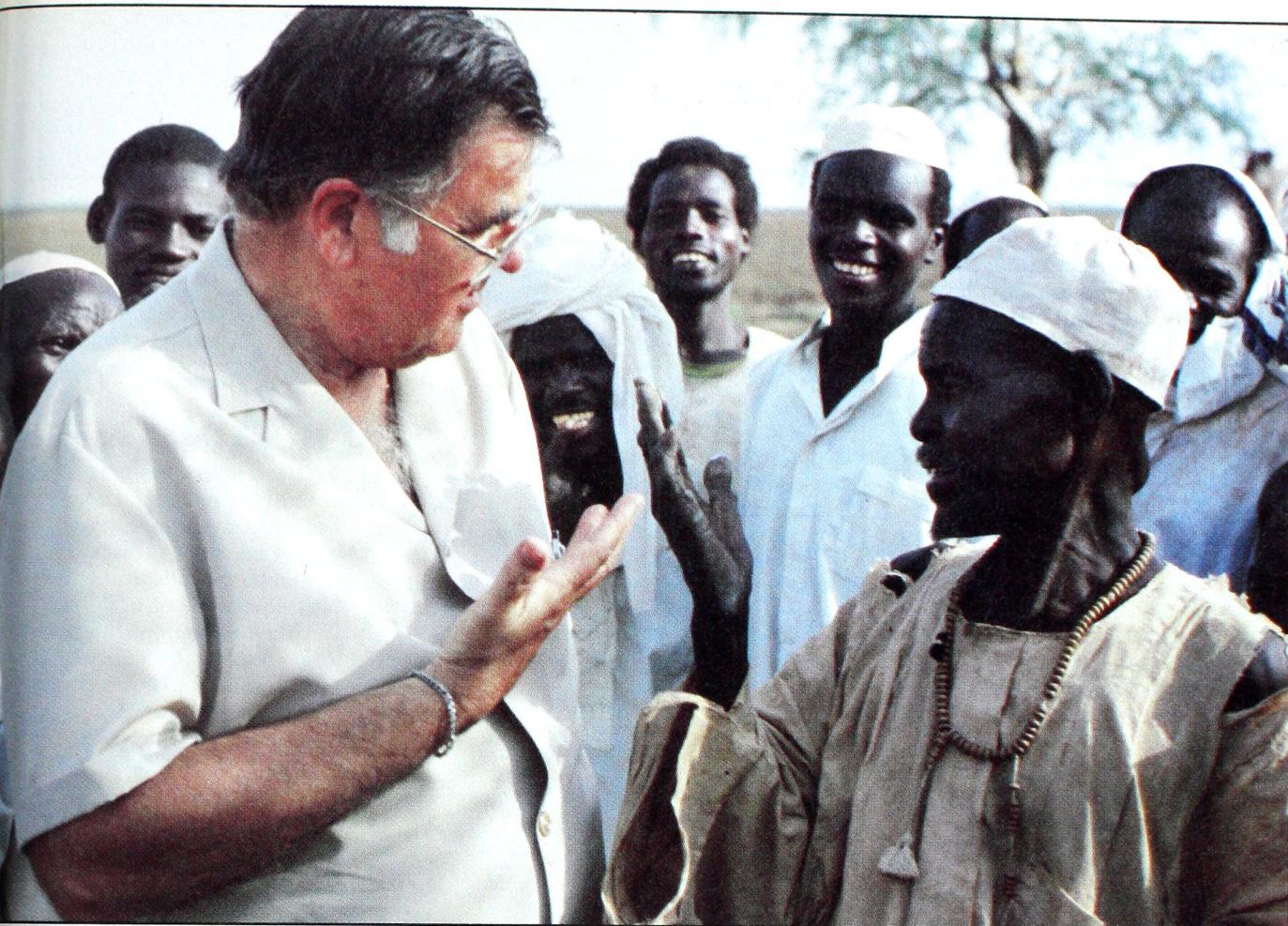
**Thanks to massive aid** from world governments and 49 voluntary relief agencies, catastrophic nationwide starvation has been averted. Yet some 8.4 million people out of a total population of 22 million in the continent's largest country will continue to depend almost wholly upon international food assistance at least until mid-November.

Scared by widespread African drought that has lasted from three to ten years

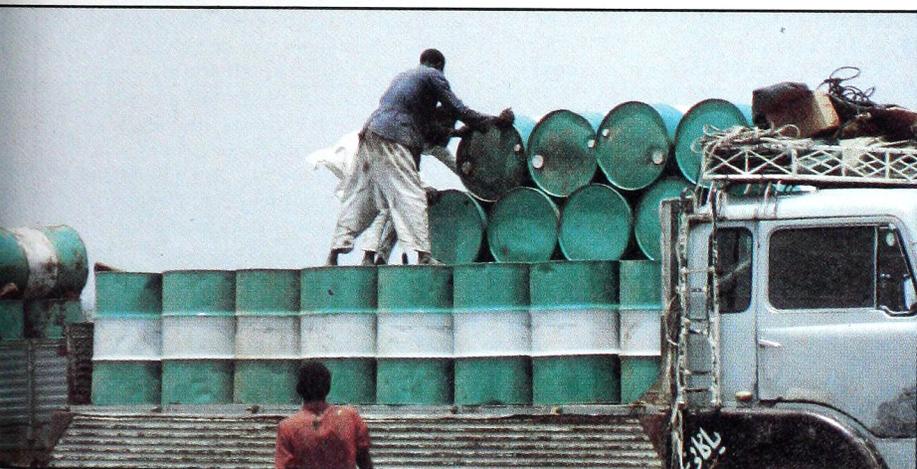


in various parts of Sudan, farmers and nomadic pastoralists in the largely agricultural country have been stricken by total crop failure and annihilation of livestock herds. The response of many destitute families over the past year and more was to abandon traditional homelands and villages and go wandering through the barren countryside in search of work and food.

Neither was available anywhere, and camps ranging in size from dozens to many thousands of displaced people spontaneously sprang up along the Nile River and on the outskirts of mud-brick towns and the city of Khartoum.



(far left) Recently arrived Chadian refugees at the Movy nutrition center (above) A Chadian elder at Movy thanks Ted Engstrom for World Vision's assistance to his people. (left) Workers load barrels of rapeseed oil from WV Canada.



has the potential to be the breadbasket of northeast Africa, but that has not prevented 1.3 million of the region's 4.2 million population from being affected by the drought.

Meanwhile, some 1.2 million refugees were pouring into Sudan seeking to escape drought, famine and political strife in the neighboring countries of Ethiopia to the east, Chad to the west, and Uganda and Zaire to the south. The refugees set up squalid camps of their own. Though desperately burdened by the plight of its own people, Sudan, a notably hospitable country, permitted the masses of refugees to remain within its borders. World Vision President Ted Engstrom, upon returning from a recent tour of

Under crowded conditions, with sanitation nonexistent, whole families huddled in tiny makeshift huts, suffering severe hunger and disease.

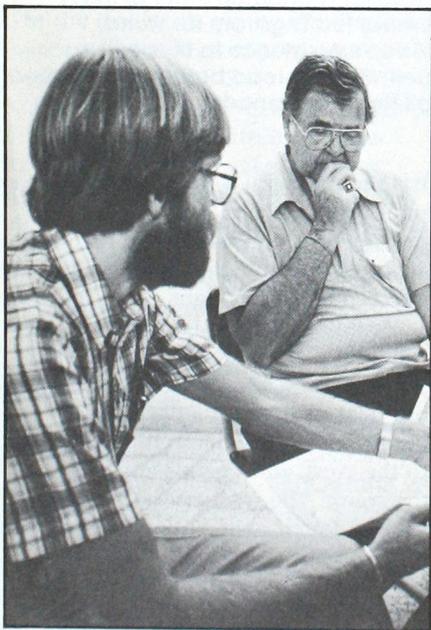
The country's central region is currently bearing the brunt of the crisis. Migrants from the west have traditionally moved there in search of seasonal labor picking cotton, which represents 65 percent of the country's exports. Agriculturalists say this area

**Sudan has only one major road—from Port Sudan to Khartoum—which was opened in 1980.**

famine-stricken areas in Sudan, said, "Sudan has to be one of our major emphases for World Vision concern. However, despite evidence of suffering at nearly every turn, we have made and are making a difference in needy areas such as the central region among Sudanese as well as famine refugees from Chad.

"More than 5000 of these Chadians are now sheltering outside the town of Sennar, some four hours' drive south of Khartoum. They lead a depressing life: a family of five, for example, has nothing more than a circular straw or sack hut about six feet in diameter and not much higher than that. They, like the other 3000 Chadians near the town of Wad Medani, depend on World Vision now and for the foreseeable future."

**Through spring** of 1985, many people in Sudan subsisted by foraging for "famine foods," often no more than withered leaves, grasses, bark and berries that provide little or no nutrition and cause severe digestive problems. Meanwhile, the world community, already alerted to Africa's continent-wide killer-drought, was pouring food into the country's single major entry point, Port Sudan on the Red Sea. By mid-July, 420,000 tons of grain jammed warehouses and dock-sides in the port, while more ships



Ted Engstrom confers with Sudan Survey Team Leader Arne Bergstrom.

## FACTS ABOUT SUDAN

**Population:** 21.8 million (mid-1985 estimate). Only 41 percent live in urban areas. Sudan contains the most heterogeneous society in Africa, with divisions along ethnic, tribal, geographic, linguistic and sectarian lines.

**Geography:** 967,500 square miles. Sudan is geographically the largest nation in Africa. The Sahara Desert spreads across the northern sector. Semi-arid plains make up the region near Khartoum. This gently rolling territory is succeeded in the south by tropical plains with more abundant rainfall. In the extreme south, the land is choked by dense jungle growth. The Nile River is the main route of north-south communication and travel.

**Languages:** More than 140 languages are spoken. Most of northern Sudan uses Arabic, the nation's official language. Other principal tongues: English, dialects of the southern Nilotic people, dialects of the Hamitic and Semitic people, and in the southern provinces Bantu dialects.

**Education:** 32 percent literacy. One teacher for every 155 school-age children.

**Health:** One doctor for every 8800 Sudanese. Life expectancy is 48 years. Infant mortality rate is about 12 percent.

**Religion:** Northern Sudan is predominantly Muslim (73 percent). Southern Sudan is ten percent Christian. Most southerners are animists who worship many gods, especially their ancestral spirits.

**Economy:** Average annual income is \$400 (1983 estimate). Main crops: cotton, gum arabic, peanuts, sesame. Main industries: cotton ginning, textiles and apparel, food processing, agricultural processing, light manufacturing. The influx of 1.2 million refugees from Ethiopia, Chad, Zaire and Uganda has heavily burdened the weak national infrastructure.



**History and government:** The ancient history of Sudan (the Cush of antiquity), one of the oldest civilizations in the world, revolved around the Pharaohs of Egypt and the Nubian people in central Sudan. After the reign of Egyptian Pharaohs, the Sudan split into a collection of small independent states. Christianity was introduced in the sixth century. Much of the country adopted Islam by the end of the 13th century. British colonial rule began in 1899 and was replaced in 1956 by a coalition government. After a period of military rule, Colonel Gaafar Nemeiry took control in 1969. In early 1985 General Abdul Rahman Suwar al Dahab, former defense minister, led a bloodless coup and formed the Transitional Military Council, promising a return to civilian rule.



laden with food waited offshore for berthing space.

But the rains also crippled relief efforts. Sudan's rail link from the Red Sea to the west amounts to a single length of track spanning an area nearly one-third the size of the contiguous United States. Downpours collapsed a major bridge along the route and washed out the line in nine other places. Roads threading over the country's vast stretches of desert, savanna and forest are few and difficult in the best of times. Sudan has only one major road, which is an 850-mile route from Port Sudan to Khartoum opened in 1980. Elsewhere, one drives following not a road but a compass, the sun or stars or previous wheel tracks running across the desert. But these tracks are wiped away with every sand storm and turned into impassable mud when seasonal rains fall between June and September.

World Vision tried to push food shipments through an area of starving people in the country's southeast by hooking tractors to trailers loaded with grain. Most of the tractors stalled

## The rains have increased food shortages.

in mire. Undaunted, the project coordinator, American Episcopalian Priest Peter Larom of White Plains, New York, rented camels and organized a caravan that successfully crossed a 50 mile barrier of mud in three days.

Nearer to Khartoum, displaced people uncertain about returning to their homelands wait for nothing in sodden huts and wallow through clinging mud to nutrition centers and medical facilities. Relief agencies struggle to alleviate malnutrition throughout the region. At the same time, they do what they can to help the hunger-weakened people who contract malaria, measles, dysentery, typhoid and acute gastroenteritis.

Outbreaks of acute gastroenteritis are threatening large numbers of migrants, refugees and urban squatters in Sudan. Sporadic outbreaks of the cholera-like disease are occurring around the three sister towns of Khartoum, Khartoum North and Omdurman, where 858 cases (with 69 deaths) have been reported.

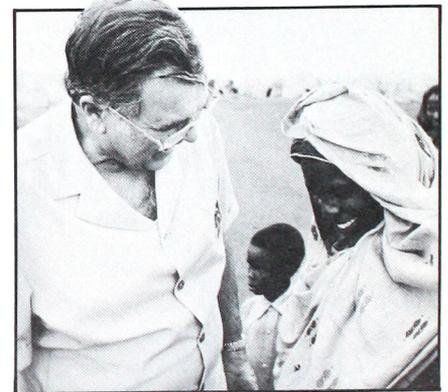
A UNICEF specialist in diarrheal diseases, Dr. D. Patte, told aid agency leaders meeting in Khartoum in August that more than 60 people a day in the capital are being admitted to hospitals with the disease. He said that UNICEF personnel believe that admissions in the capital will rise to 100 a day in the near future.

## Agricultural experts are hoping that the mid-November harvest will yield at least average crops.

World Vision's relationship with the country's new government has been positive since World Vision began its work in the country last May. In August, World Vision International Vice President Cliff Benzel and Project Coordinator Peter Larom met with Major General Fadalla Burma, a senior member of Sudan's ruling transitional military council.

During their 30-minute meeting, Mr. Benzel outlined the scope of World Vision's programs in Sudan and expressed World Vision's desire to increase its commitment over the next 12 months. He also voiced World Vision's interest in establishing major long-term development projects when the present famine crisis is alleviated.

Gen. Burma expressed gratitude and appreciation for World Vision's cooperation with the Sudanese government,



Ted Engstrom shares a laugh with children at the Sennar nutrition center.

Children cluster around makeshift huts at the Sennar nutrition center.

and offered to establish a formal protocol recognizing World Vision's work in Sudan. The general gave World Vision direct access to himself, and indicated willingness for the military to assist in relief efforts.

World Vision now has a well-established distribution system in the central region. It has 40 full-time local employees at the village level and 120 monitors, mostly graduates of the local university at Gizira.

More than 17,000 tons of food has come through and is being distributed by World Vision staff. Most of this food is from World Vision Canada. The rest is from World Food Program and USAID.

**Meanwhile**, the remote far west of Sudan continues to hold pockets of calamitous famine. At the Angi Koti camp near Nyala, which is maintained for refugees from Chad by the Africa Committee for Rehabilitation of Southern Sudan (ACROSS) and World Vision, conditions among the staff and more than 20,000 camp residents are improving. At one stage a swollen river isolated staff members from the refugees. As soon as the flood abated, staff workers went to live among camp residents. Now two doctors and 13 nurses

**"I am convinced that long-term development programs in poverty-stricken areas are the answer to Sudan's famine problems."**

are working there and three nutrition centers are in operation. Meanwhile, staff members are replacing tent quarters with permanent mud-brick huts.

Although the rains have intensified food shortages among half of Sudan's population, the needed moisture has also turned the formerly drought-ravaged countryside green with fresh crops. Agricultural experts are hoping that a harvest due in mid-November will yield at least average quantities of sorghum, millet, sesame, peanuts and other crops. But, as with so many factors in the huge, remote and crippled African country, yields remain unpredictable.

At the close of his Sudan tour, Ted Engstrom stated, "I am more than convinced that long-term development programs in poverty-stricken areas are the answer to Sudan's famine problems. While food-growing is of

supreme importance now and later, it is projects such as reforestation and a steady supply of water which will roll back the advancing desert and give the Sudanese a chance for a settled life. We intend to give our maximum support to these efforts here in Sudan and in the Sahelian countries where we are already heavily involved."

Though mass starvation has been averted thus far in Sudan, this historic land where Arabic Africa meets black Africa is certain to remain heavily in need of relief assistance for the rest of the year, and in continued need as normal stores of food and herds of livestock are rebuilt in the two or three years that follow. □

*Edited by Randy Miller from reports by World Vision International Communicator Bruce Brander, World Vision New Zealand Communicator Lloyd Ashton, and World Vision Communications Manager for Africa Jacob Akol.*

**To help** World Vision's emergency teams bring food, medicine and a Christian witness to the victims of Sudan's widespread famine, please use the return envelope provided between pages 16 and 17. Thank You!



This Chadian family at the nutrition center near Wad Medani has no shelter yet, but they are glad that they at least have something to eat.

## In Ethiopia

# THESE ARE YOUR HANDS

By Karin Hubby

**I'll do anything.** Please just let me go to Africa and help those hungry children."

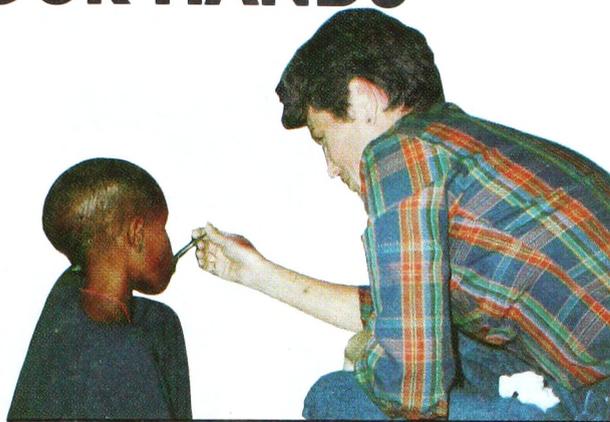
These are words I hear often while performing my responsibility in the recruitment of overseas contract personnel for World Vision Relief Organization. Because of the necessarily stringent qualifications for overseas positions, many people who have a desire to help the needy in Africa are not able to go.

What about those who do go? How do they survive the anguish they become a part of?

Recently, during a visit to some of World Vision's ministry locations in Africa, I was able to get answers to this question by observing and talking with several of our medical personnel in Ethiopia.

One of World Vision's largest nutrition-health centers in Ethiopia, feeding approximately 31,480 people daily, is at Ajibar. This mountainous site (9000 feet) is where I spent two days meeting with our staff and helping to feed the children in the super-intensive section of the nutrition-health center, where the most seriously malnourished and sick children receive care. The suffering in Ajibar is far worse than what I had seen on film and read in the newspapers. During six years spent previously in West Africa and Indonesia, I had seen more human misery than most people ever see, but nothing compared to the devastation I saw and felt in Ethiopia during my recent few days there.

So how did I get through our visit without breaking down? I'm sure it



Karin gently coaxes a severely malnourished girl to swallow a few spoonfuls of Faffa porridge in the intensive feeding unit of the Ajibar nutrition-health center.

was the prayers of my friends and family back home that helped me survive emotionally.

How, then, does the staff cope for six months and longer while working in the nutrition-health centers? I asked this question of Theresa Obwaya, public health nurse working with World Vision, as we walked through what was called "the gauntlet" by Dr. George Horst, directing physician of Ajibar at that time. The "gauntlet" of Ajibar is a maze of hundreds of sick, cold, hungry, dying people camped outside the nutrition-health center, waiting for admittance into the program. Each day the staff has to make their way from staff facilities to the center through this mass of destitute humanity. I soon discovered how it got its name. As I worked my way through the crowd, people cried at me, grabbed me and begged me for help.

I asked Theresa, "How do you do this every day?" Her reply: "I put my hands in my pockets and don't look into their eyes."

Cold indifference? No. It was the only way to reach the camp with enough emotional control left to minister effectively.

At the camp, Theresa's skilled hands went to work as she let her eyes meet those of the desperate people she was able to help.

From Ajibar, I then went to another World Vision nutrition-health center—this one in Ansokia, Ethiopia. The hands of Dr. Bob Gibson reached for mine as he helped me out of the World

Vision Twin Otter aircraft which had just landed on the rough airstrip in Ansokia. "There's the lady who got me into this mess," were the first words Bob said to me. Those joking words of welcome seriously describe how most of us would feel about living in Ansokia. Bob had taken temporary leave of his family and a busy medical practice in Portland, Oregon. Yet as he showed me around camp, Bob spoke of how blessed he was in being there in Ansokia to "hang up his shingle in diarrhea village."

Both George Horst, who worked in Ajibar, and Bob Gibson, here, had worked with World Vision in refugee camps in Thailand. So had Dr. Donald Cheever who recently returned from another nutrition-health center in Ethiopia at Sanka. These words from the diary he kept there best describe our workers—who are *your hands* in Ethiopia:

"I'm more than ready to leave. This is a very stressful situation—I can't harden myself to death. Lord, from start to finish, I have felt Your presence, protection and guidance. I know it was part of Your plan for me to do this, and through this experience, I feel so much closer to You, and much more aware of my constant need for You in my life, and Your constant, perfect care for me. May I never lose sight of this. And if another, similar situation develops, may I echo Isaiah and say, 'Here am I, send me.'" □

*Karin Hubby is overseas recruitment administrator for World Vision U.S.*

“God has appointed those . . . able to help others”

(1 Cor. 12:28, NIV).

# A LASTING RADIANCE

by Lillian Dickson

**T**here is no one man in the world who has done as much for foreign missions as Dr. Bob Pierce,” my husband Jim once said. I suppose it was through his radio hour he made foreign mission work seem very near, terrifically important, and always interesting—something everybody should have a share in. There was always that note of urgency, of immediacy that made listeners restless until they helped in some way. It was not only the gospel but human need also that he presented in passionate terms.

It is, in retrospect, that warm, instant response to the human needs of each person he encountered, whether it was an abandoned orphan child or a group of overburdened missionaries, that continues to warm the hearts of those who were privileged to know Dr. Pierce.

We met for the first time in Shanghai, but I really didn't know him then. My husband Jim became friends with him and evidently invited him to Formosa (as Taiwan was then known). The next time I heard of him was through a note that came from Jim, while he was teaching at our theological college. “Lil, go to the airport and meet Dr. Pierce!” That's all it said, but I knew Jim; he meant that he had invited Dr. Pierce to stay with us. I was a little shaky, for another missionary wife and I had been down the East Coast and been caught in a typhoon and marooned, and then had to walk 60 miles home. I was just back, but household hospitality and other duties allowed no time out.

The airport at that time was just a strip of green grass, and a little shack to shelter under if the sun was hot or if it rained. As I went to the airport, I



Dr. Bob Pierce with a young leprosy patient—a typical moment of warm, personal concern.

wondered how I would recognize Dr. Pierce; I hadn't really noticed him closely enough before so that I could pick him out again. Then I thought, “Dr.” He must be a Ph. D., and they always look cross as if they had studied too long.

When the plane came in I went to the landing steps and noticed the first foreigner, a man, descending. He had his hat pulled low over his eyes, and he looked very surly. “Are you Dr. Pierce?” I asked. “No!” he spat out. Behind him came a bareheaded man

with red-gold curls, a freckled face and blue, friendly eyes. “I'm Bob Pierce,” he said. This was Dr. Bob's first trip to Formosa, but he was to come many times in the years ahead.

**We introduced Dr. Bob** to as many missionaries and nationals as we could, but Jim was always overworked and had little time. They would talk at meal-times, and make plans, and often I was delegated to take Dr. Bob places.

When he spoke in the Chinese

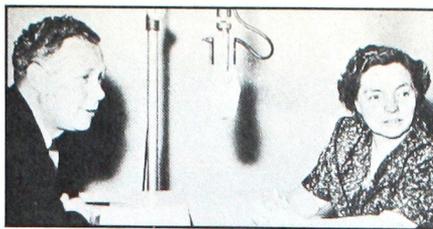
churches, his charisma came through even via an interpreter, and the people loved him. They loved him because he loved them, it was as simple as that.

Once when he came, it was in the midst of a typhoon. The pilots were daring. I remember meeting the plane, the wind and the rain swirling around us, and above the roar of the elements Dr. Bob shouting to me, "Are they waiting in the Church of the Lepers?" I nodded, and he said, "Then we'll go." He had meant to speak there that Sunday morning, but the typhoon developed and made the plane late. Rather than disappoint the leprosarium patients, he would forego the comfort of going right to a hotel and go with us to the Church of the Lepers.

He was always especially kind to the patients there and knew many of them personally. I had happened to tell him, "We have more suicides just at the Chinese New Year's when the patient realizes that he cannot go back to the family homecoming." So Dr. Bob would leave money for all the Christians and others who wanted to come, to have a Chinese New Year's feast on that evening, ameliorating the anguish of lonely, aching hearts. Sometimes, later on, he would leave money so they could feast together, just to raise their morale. They knew somebody loved them and somebody cared, even though they weren't celebrating a special holiday.

Right after the end of the war there were very few missionaries in Taiwan, comparatively speaking. Dr. Bob would telephone to me from Japan or Korea, and say, "Invite all those we know to a dinner at the Grand Hotel," and he would arrive just in time to greet them all. It was good for the morale of the missionaries too, to dress up and go to a nice hotel. Once after the dinner was over, Dr. Bob said, "Now I would like you one by one to stand up and tell us your greatest need at the moment and why you need it." So one by one we told what we needed, and just the telling of it made hearts lighter. Then Dr. Bob said, "I have no money to give you, but I will promise to pray with you for this help you so earnestly desire, and I believe God will send it."

**On one of his first trips** here I took Dr. Bob with me to the children's prison. We visited there regularly, but I was determined to get the boys there out of prison, and I needed help. I had tried several organizations but no one was interested. Dr. Bob was staying at



Lillian Dickson, founder of The Mustard Seed, participates in a broadcast with Dr. Pierce.

our home, so it was hard for him to elude me. When he saw the prison, his heart was touched, and he stopped right there in the prison and prayed, "If you help me, Jesus, I will do something about it." And to me, "You will have your boys' home."

Dr. Bob did not forget, for he raised money for the boys' home and we got the boys out one by one until we had forty-five boys. Then we needed a boys' home annex, and he helped with that too, until we had almost 200 boys out of prison and growing up in Christian boys' homes. Every time he came he would go to see the boys we had rescued, and even if he could not stay for a meal, he would leave money for a turkey dinner for them. They loved Dr. Bob.

He began to have pastors' conferences, two at the theological college where Jim was principal, and one at Puli up in the center of the Island. I had wanted Dr. Bob to see Puli, for we had a clinic for the mountain people there, and Dr. Bob, (then President of World Vision) was paying the doctors' salaries. But when Dr. Bob saw our clinic, he was impatient and dissatisfied. "We should have a big hospital here," he said, "Buy that whole plateau above the town for it," and he gave me a blank signed check. We bought the

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## Dr. Bob's caring concern was balm to weary workers.

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plateau, but I heard that World Vision employees didn't get their salaries until the middle of the month that time. A big, beautiful hospital was built there and it served tens of thousands and is still serving them today.

When the Mustard Seed was incorporated in 1952, I asked Dr. Bob to be on the board. My older brother, Harold

LeVesconte, was a lawyer and had done the incorporation. "But Harold will always look on me as just his little sister," I told Dr. Bob, "You'll have to be on the board to protect me." So he accepted and was immediately chosen chairman of the board. As Taiwan became more prosperous and beyond the stage of needing relief, Mustard Seed had gone to other islands in the South Seas where help was needed more urgently. We had vocational schools in Papua New Guinea and I wasn't quite sure how I could explain this to our board. So I invited Dr. Bob to come out at my expense and see the work, the people, and the need.

"If Bob is converted to the idea that it is all right for Mustard Seed to work in Papua New Guinea, then he will convert the board," was my reasoning. And it happened just that way. He was surprised to see how primitive the 700 tribes in the Highlands of Papua New Guinea were, and he felt that Mustard Seed was right to work there.

Later on, he and a group were traveling to Irian Jaya. He asked me to go with them and he introduced us to the tribes there who were even more primitive than those in Papua New Guinea. So now we have schools for the tribes there too, and a Memorial Chapel to Dr. Bob Pierce who first brought us there.

**To the missionaries** working in lonely places, facing impossible tasks, Dr. Bob's coming was always a thrill, like a glimpse of radiance from afar. He helped when he could with World Vision's backing, but even when he couldn't provide funds, his sympathy, his understanding, his complete unselfishness were balm to weary workers. Sometime in heaven we can tell him so. □

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*The late Lillian Dickson began relief, education and childcare work in Taiwan to meet massive post-World War II needs. Incorporated in 1954 as The Mustard Seed, the agency continues to minister there and among tribal peoples in several Southeast Asian countries. Its North American office is at 1377 E. Colorado St., Glendale, CA 91209. Mrs. Dickson was the wife of Dr. James Dickson, Presbyterian Church in Canada missionary and former principal of Taiwan Theological College.*

*It was after Mrs. Dickson's death (in 1984) that a colleague discovered the manuscript for this article and sent it to the magazine for use at the time of World Vision's 35th anniversary.*

# CHRISTIAN LOVE MADE THE DIFFERENCE

by Elizabeth Wilson

**M**ore than 15 years ago in Phnom Penh, ancient capital of Cambodia (now Kampuchea), a teenage boy began to study English in school. Hay Yang, from a well-off family, found that some of his classmates were Christians. They invited him to church. "I was so scared at first," Hay Yang says today. "But I loved to sing the songs, so they soon put me in the choir."

Hay Yang was impressed with the effects of Christianity he saw in the lives of Christians. "The pastor tried to encourage people to help each other," he remembers, "and I noticed that the people in the church were trying to live that way. Also, in my heart I sensed that the message of Jesus in the Bible was right and true. Christ became my Savior."

Several years passed. As a Christian, Hay Yang was attracted to the work of an organization that had recently established an office near his church. The agency was in Phnom Penh to demonstrate God's love and concern for the Cambodian people. It was called WORLD VISION and it was providing emergency medical treatment, other health care, child care and

evangelism for thousands of needy people.

Even as a teenager, Hay Yang wanted to help his own people. He began working for World Vision as war conditions worsened in his small Indochinese nation.

By 1975, the Khmer Rouge (a revolutionary communist force), under the ruthless leadership of Pol Pot, was moving inexorably toward total control of Cambodia. All outside agencies and personnel were forced to flee. Some (World Vision among them) had hung on in the face of rocket fire and left only when the military offensive made

further relief efforts impossible. Phnom Penh fell in April 1975, and almost four years of genocidal horror ensued.

No one knows just how many Cambodians died during this period—estimates vary from two to three million. Hay Yang's experience graphically illustrates the extreme conditions that existed.

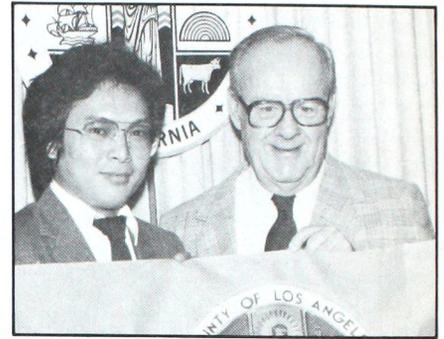
Escaping Pol Pot's wholesale slaughter of the educated by pretending he was an illiterate peasant, Hay Yang was conscripted for government labor. At the start of just one of the projects he worked on (an immense dam 60 feet



Hay Yang and Ing Taing represent the Khmer Humanitarian Organization as they bring Cambodian snack foods and assist new refugee arrivals at the Los Angeles airport.



An exchange of banners marked this civic occasion in Los Angeles. (left) Ngor Ba Lam, board chairman of the KHO makes a presentation to L.A. County supervisor Kenneth Hahn as Hay Yang comments. (below) Hay Yang and his "adoptive" father George Hahn.



high that stretched for miles), Hay Yang's work battalion, one of many, consisted of 13,000 people. Seven months later, at the project's end, Hay Yang and 169 others were the only survivors—and he himself had been near death more than once. The thousands who died had been buried as they fell, in the dam itself. "If Cambodia is truly at peace someday," says Hay Yang somberly, "that dam should become a national monument to those people."

**Early in 1979**, Vietnamese and Heng Samrin forces took over most of Cambodia. No longer under the eye of Pol Pot's murderous overseers, new waves of Cambodian refugees fled to Thailand, wary of staying under the control of any communist regime.

Hay Yang, by then 24, and his young wife Heang were among a group that crossed the border to Non Chang refugee camp in September of that year. (They were robbed and assaulted nine times on the way.) Hay Yang had a desperate prayer: to be permitted to go to America. Perhaps, he hoped, God would answer it as He had answered prayers for deliverance during the nightmare years just ended.

Interviewed by Richard Kocher, then director of the U.S. Refugee Section for that area, Hay Yang told of his desire for true freedom and of his former work for World Vision. He expressed his fear of being rejected for

immigration because he had no relatives in the United States. "World Vision has been working with the refugees and has an office near here," Kocher reassured him. "I'll tell them you're here."

Recounting events, Hay Yang recalls, "A day or two later, the U.S. Refugee Section moved us to Lumpini Transit Center. The next day, Dr. Mooneyham, who was then World Vision president, came to see me. It was like a dream. He put his arm around my shoulders and told me how glad he was that I had escaped.

They still hadn't had any word from some of their former employees in Phnom Penh. "Dr. Mooneyham told me not to worry, that World Vision would sponsor us and we could come to the United States."

Within days, Hay Yang and his wife were on their way to California. The end of the story? No, just the beginning—for them and for thousands of others. With nothing to bring but the clothes they were wearing, they reached a strange land and an unknown culture. And they carried with them the dark burden of loved ones murdered, of hunger, assault, betrayal and despair.

Healing for Hay Yang and his wife began when they were immediately taken under the genial and compassionate care of World Vision's George Hahn and his wife Blanche. (Director of hospitality, George has now been with World Vision for more than 25 years, directly assisting its president.)

As George Hahn followed up on Dr. Mooneyham's request that he provide transitional support and orientation for the young couple, he was meeting needs that all such new arrivals have. Hay Yang and his wife were often in the Hahns' home and George was with Hay Yang constantly, helping him to take care of various legalities and introducing him to local "survival skills."

A crucial need for all refugees is basic competence in the English language, a skill Hay Yang already possessed. This enabled him to communicate more freely with George from the start, and to establish a lasting relationship with the Hahns. "Hay Yang literally adopted us," George smiled, "soon beginning to call us 'Father' and 'Mother.'"

**Like so many refugees**, Hay Yang and Heang simply wanted an opportunity to work, to become self-sustaining. The Arcadia Union Church

**Of a work battalion of 13,000, Hay Yang and 169 others were the only survivors.**

## Healing for Hay Yang began when he met George and Blanche Hahn.

(Arcadia is one of Los Angeles' many suburban communities) undertook the local sponsorship of Hay Yang and his wife, hiring them to do custodial and maintenance work for their church and school. It was typical of the attitude of such refugees that although Hay Yang speaks five languages and dialects and is an exceptionally gifted young man, he worked with energy and commitment as he mowed lawns, vacuumed, scrubbed and dusted.

At the same time, Hay Yang was looking toward the future, both for himself and his wife and in relation to his steadfast purpose to try to help other Cambodians. Within a few months, the young couple were established in a small apartment in Los Angeles' Chinatown, commuting daily

by bus to their custodial work for the next four years.

Almost at once, Hay Yang made himself available to the International Institute, a volunteer agency that was helping to resettle Indochinese refugees in the Los Angeles area. With his fluency in English, Hay Yang soon filled all his off-job hours acting as a liaison person between refugees and government agencies, counseling refugee families with problems, and helping with interpreting and translating needs.

Government funding for the Institute dried up at the end of 1981, but refugee needs remained. In 1982 Hay Yang undertook two separate but related activities which now occupy him full time. One is a business, Southeast Asian Immigrants Service, which fills the gap left by the ending of the Institute program. (SAIS fees are based on the client's ability to pay.) The other is Hay Yang's role as executive director of the Khmer Humanitarian Organization. The KHO's purpose is to aid Cambodian refugees still living in distressing conditions in overseas refugee camps, to welcome and assist arriving refugees here and to plead with

government agencies and the American public for more entry permissions for these Cambodian people who have suffered so much.\*

A young Cambodian boy's life is invaded by Christian love; Christian love later brings him to a place where he and his wife can live and serve in freedom; Christian love motivates him to remember the desperate needs of his people. And it is Christian love that will motivate more churches and families to reach out to yet others with such needs. □

*\*The Khmer Humanitarian Organization is a volunteer agency headed by board chairman, Ngor Ba Lam. The KHO's office in Bangkok deals directly with refugee camps, Thai officials and international support agency representatives. In the United States, Hay Yang and other KHO members frequently meet with government officials on behalf of fellow Cambodians. Often, letters from American citizens to their Washington representatives are needed. For further information, write the Khmer Humanitarian Organization, 1299A Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90026.*

## CHILD LABOR IN THE TWO-THIRDS WORLD

**The International Labor Organization in Geneva** estimates that there are 50 million child laborers in the developing nations of the world. (The United Nations suggests the number may be twice that.) Whatever the exact numbers, such children are robbed of childhood and forced prematurely into adult existence.

The children work, according to the ILO, so that their families can survive in countries with depressed economies and high birth rates. They are underpaid, overworked and ignorant of their rights, and their plight is not given a high priority by most governments.

In Egypt, a nine-year-old boy, Hassan Farid, bends double under a basket-load of bricks—one of an endless succession of such loads he carries to a construction site 20 yards away. He doesn't know that Egyptian law forbids employment of children under 16 and requires them to attend school for six years.

Child laborers in Cairo and other large Arab cities, from Morocco to Yemen, are so common that they hardly draw a second glance. They collect garbage on donkey-drawn carts, wash



car windows during traffic jams, shine shoes, serve as apprentices in shops and provide cheap labor for agriculture.

Domestic service also provides a major market for child labor, and to increase their income, many rural families lease their daughters to illegal agencies in Cairo that recruit children for such work. A nine-year-old girl in Cairo who sleeps on her employer's kitchen floor and has been a maid for two years says, "I'm glad I'm in the city." She feels fortunate to be away from previous homes in which first a step-father, then an uncle, beat and starved her. Now she only has to see the uncle when he comes to collect the money she earns.

The low educational and skill content of child labor jobs means that almost all of these children find themselves trapped for life in unskilled, low-paying, unpleasant and unsafe work situations.

International relief specialists believe it is unrealistic to expect the abolition of child labor until development brings increased economic security and decreased birth rates to the countries involved.

# Questions sponsors ask

## **What is World Vision's sponsorship program all about?**

Your sponsorship provides needed support for a child in a developing country. Your child faces an uncertain future because of poverty, illiteracy, physical handicap or other adverse circumstances. As a sponsor you provide him or her with a new future through programs of education, health care and spiritual nurture and by helping his family and community develop.

## **In general terms, what does my child receive?**

Your child receives help in the area of the most pressing needs. World Vision's child and family sponsorship program is flexible; we respond to each child according to the circumstances of his or her village or community. If the child lives in an orphanage, for example, he or she receives food, clothing, school supplies, education, medical and nutritional help, and any other assistance necessary. If the child lives at home, he or she may receive help with tuition, school supplies, health care, vocational training and have the opportunity to attend Sunday school or a summer Bible camp. In some instances, a child can achieve self-fulfillment more effectively when the parents are also improving physically, mentally and spiritually. Thus a child's parents might receive vocational training, health care education, a small business loan or other aid.

## **Do you have any guidelines to help you design these flexible programs?**

Yes. The three basic components of World Vision's child sponsorship program are appropriate education, nutrition and health care attention, and evangelism or Christian nurture. We believe that to help a child assume his or her full God-given potential, we



must meet all aspects of need—mind, body and soul. We call this a "holistic" approach.

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

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

## **May I visit my child?**

Yes! Sponsor visits can be an important ministry for both you and the child you sponsor. Visits personalize your relationship and enable you to see firsthand the accomplishments being made through your faithful stewardship.

Prior to planning your visit, please write to our Personal Services Department in Pasadena as far in advance as possible. This month is not too early for next summer if you can

determine the approximate dates you will be in your child's country. World Vision staff people accompany sponsors and arrange for each sponsor's visit. A minimum of 60 to 90 days is required just to process the necessary forms and arrange in the field office for your visit.

When you write, we will send you a booklet that will help you in your planning. We will also send a "request for visit" application which should be filled out and returned to us. We will let you know whether we are able to arrange a visit with your child during the time you wish to travel.

We will make every effort to ensure a successful visit with your child. Sometimes, however, political or family circumstances prevent a visit. Your child's well-being is our primary concern in all of our sponsorship efforts.

## **I'd like to send Christmas and birthday packages to my child. May I do this?**

No, we're sorry this isn't feasible. It would be nice if sponsors could send packages to their sponsored children. However, World Vision has a firm policy against accepting any packages for the following reasons:

1. complex foreign postal regulations
2. high import taxes in many countries
3. slow mail delivery
4. non-arrival of packages due to theft or damage
5. final-stage delivery problems: many of our overseas staff walk or bicycle great distances to pick up mail.

Packages received in our California office or overseas will, therefore, be returned to the sender.

If you want to remember your child in a special way, you may enclose flat, inexpensive little treats in letters to your child. (See the next page for suggested items.)

From someone special

# A TREASURED POSSESSION

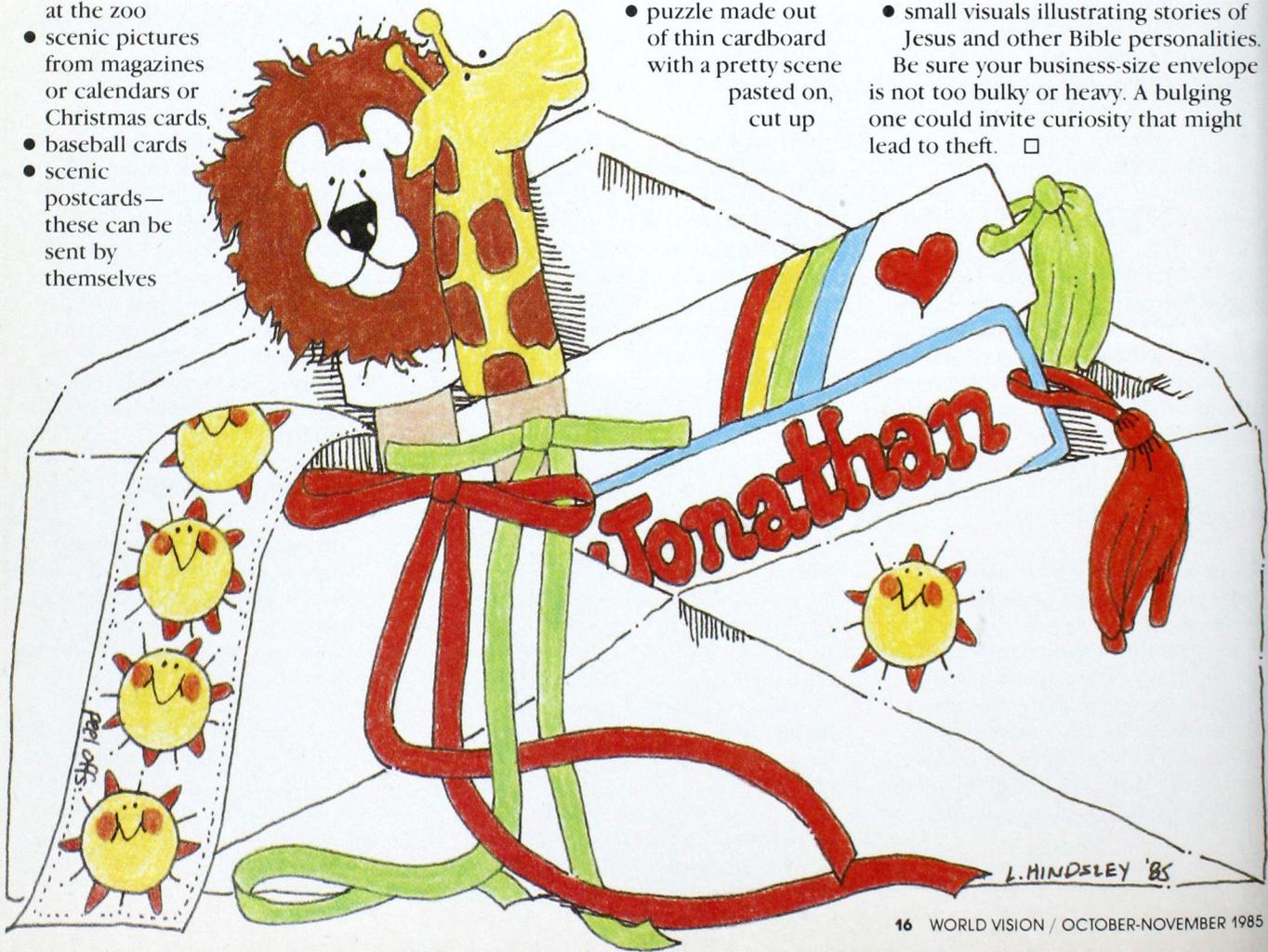
**Y**ou can brighten your sponsored child's day. How? By sending a treat in an envelope. What would delight a sponsored child miles away? There are many brightly colored items you could send to your child, along with a note or letter, that would become treasured possessions. Use your imagination. You'll come up with lots of good ideas!

Here are a few thoughts to help you get started:

- pictures of yourself and your family; your pets; animals at the zoo
- scenic pictures from magazines or calendars or Christmas cards
- baseball cards
- scenic postcards—these can be sent by themselves

- small three-dimensional cards of nature scenes or animals
- sticks of chewing gum
- balloons
- small rulers
- bookmarks
- hair ribbons or pieces of brightly-colored yarn
- cloth badge
- peel-off stickers
- comb
- colored rubber bands
- handkerchief
- puzzle made out of thin cardboard with a pretty scene pasted on, cut up

- for your child to put together
  - dried leaves and flowers pressed and ironed between pieces of waxed paper
  - your child's name sewn on a piece of cloth
  - a paper-thin book made with pictures from magazines or drawings of your own
  - finger puppets with brief, simple instructions for use
  - paper creations—strings of paper dolls, snowflakes . . .
  - small visuals illustrating stories of Jesus and other Bible personalities.
- Be sure your business-size envelope is not too bulky or heavy. A bulging one could invite curiosity that might lead to theft. □



## Mini-message

### EAT THE BREAD OF LIFE!

On a Galilean hillside Jesus fed thousands of hungry people. But the very next day He spoke of a more

important kind of bread. He declared, "I am the bread of life." And He promised, "If a man eats of this bread, he will live forever" (John 6:35, 51).

His hearers that day failed to understand what Jesus meant. But at other times and places, spiritually hungry

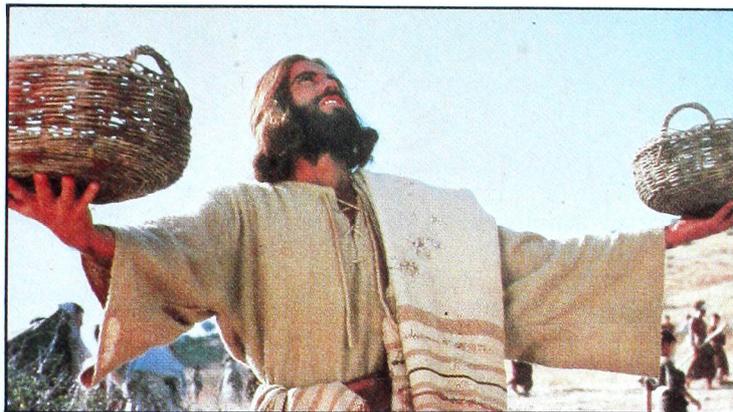
people took Him at His word, received Him into their very beings, and found His promise true.

Today it still is true. While the metaphor remains a mystery to many, it's a great reality to all who truly trust in Him as Lord and Savior.

Reader, are *you* eating the bread of life? If so, you've more to rejoice about than did the people on that Galilean hillside. But if not, *why not?*

If this makes little sense to you, please read the Gospel of John searchingly, talk with a pastor or other committed Christian, learn what saving faith is—and *eat* the bread of life!

For a free copy of a booklet called "Becoming a Christian," simply write the Editor, WORLD VISION Magazine, 919 W. Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016.



As portrayed in the film Jesus

## THROUGH A PERCEPTIVE JOURNALIST'S EYES

**An African Journey** by Mark Patinkin (Eerdmans, 1985). Reviewed by Elizabeth Wilson.

*"Even more than the scenes of pain, I will hold onto this scene of hope: the chief, pouring water into the desert, trying to begin anew."*

Late last year, Mark Patinkin, a 32-year-old writer for the Providence Journal in Rhode Island, spent a month in Africa. From Ethiopia, to Sudan, to Kenya; across the continent to Burkina Faso and Mali, Patinkin looked at, and wrote about, drought and famine—and the people whose lives had been engulfed by disaster.

First appearing as columns telexed from Africa back to his home paper, Patinkin's comments and personal interviews evoked an understandably impressive response. Scenes and settings are sharply etched; the writing is crisp, concretely descriptive; aware of ironies, even humor, in the midst of crisis; often deeply moving—without a trace of sentimentality or hype. The people come alive: government officials, children, relief workers, a nomad Touareg chief whose shattered way of life had followed centuries-old patterns.

Accompanying photographs, taken by the author, amplify the restrained intensity of the text.

Africa's famine lands, the patient, dignified, starving people, the magnitude of the need and the spirit of those who are trying to bring relief—both immediate and long-range—are all brought together. "I turn to look back at the people who have been changed but not broken by hunger."

A word of appreciation is in order for the publisher's perceptivity in giving Patinkin's observations a wider audience, and in realizing the book's potential to that audience. Patinkin is not a Christian—and this is not a "Christian book." There are brief references to the presence of Christian relief organizations, and there is a short quote from a Christian flyer. Patinkin, however, focuses on the secular relief organizations and their people. Not with the air of one who is discounting the work of Christian agencies, but simply as one who is more comfortable, more at home, with the non-religious groups. But Christians, especially those with hearts for the need in Africa, will find *African Journey* informative, illuminating and thought-provoking.

### Please pray . . .

- **for the hunger-wracked** people in Sudan, Ethiopia and other famine-stricken African countries.
- **for the relief/development teams** bringing food, medical care and self-help opportunities to the needy.
- **for the war-weary** residents of Beirut, Lebanon.
- **for those who bring Christ** and practical help to Beirut's homeless, bereaved and injured ones.
- **for Latin America's** struggling urban people.
- **for Latin Christians** who share the Word of Life with urban Latins.
- **for Mexican families** who have little access to medical care.
- **for the providers** of physical and spiritual health care in Mexico.
- **for Haitian children** growing up without adequate food or education.
- **for Haitian childcare workers.**
- **for your own church's outreach** to the lost and the needy.
- **for your personal involvement** in Christ-honoring outreach to the needy.

A "what if" that became a reality

# PROJECT MERCY

**O**ne of the first things we wanted to do after our uprooted lives had become more stable was to help our own Ethiopian people," said Marta Gabre-Tsadick. Tall and slender, Marta's aquiline features are softened by a gentle, gracious dignity, and it's not difficult to visualize her in her former role as Ethiopia's first woman senator.\*

It is not politics or matters of state, however, that are priority issues for Marta today. Instead, she is spreading the word about what Project Mercy, a Christian relief organization of which she is co-founder, wants to do for destitute Ethiopians in that famine-stricken land. Coming to the United States in 1976 when the present regime overthrew Emperor Haile Selassie's government, Marta and her husband Deme, both committed Christians, have not forgotten their homeland.

"The people's two most immediate needs," says Marta, "are food and clothing, and we are concerned about both." In partnership with World Vision, Project Mercy is already shipping quantities of Atmit (a high-nutrition food powder), which is now in use in nutrition-health centers. But Atmit is another story in itself, and today Marta particularly wants to discuss PM's clothing project, a new WV/PM partnership endeavor which has already been started in a small way, with plans for rapid expansion.

*\*Marta has told the suspenseful story of her life, including her departure with her family from Ethiopia, in her book, Sheltered by the King (Chosen, 1983), \$9.30 including postage. May be ordered from the Project Mercy address given at the end of this article.*

Although life-sustaining nutrients must be top priority in famine-crisis relief, Marta is sensitive to the demoralizing effect it has on innately dignified, self-respecting people to have to face each difficult day clothed only in tattered rags.

Some time ago, Project Mercy had tried to meet immediate needs by shipping quantities of carefully sorted used clothing to Ethiopia (and to refugee camps of Ethiopians in other African nations). Unfortunately, although such garments did afford needed covering, they were culturally—and often climatically—

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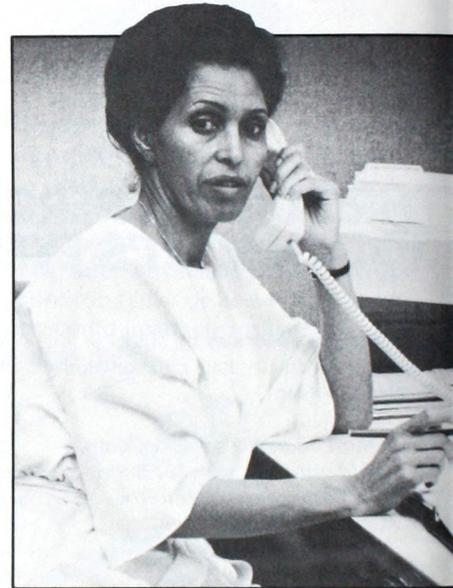
**Here's something your church group can do with their hands to clothe Ethiopia's needy.**

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unsuitable. Of most significance, however, was the fact that the several African governments involved soon prohibited the entry of any used clothing shipments to their countries.

**Undaunted**, and with the picture of inadequately clothed men, women and children sharply etched in her mind, Marta began to analyze possible ways to supply the Ethiopian famine victims with brand-new garments. The clothing, reasoned Marta, should be appropriate to the people's own culture, must be of strong, durable fabric compatible with the warmth of sunny days and the chill of unsheltered nights, and which would dry rapidly if rain *did* chance to fall on the drought-

Once the first woman senator in Emperor Haile Selassie's government, now an active partner with her husband in their own business, Marta also uses her executive expertise at the helm of Project Mercy.



stricken wearers. It would also, of course, need to be as low-cost as possible so that clothing could be supplied in large quantities.

After much searching, the ideal dress fabric turned out to be an ivory-colored light-weight flannel sheeting, a blend of 60 percent cotton and 40 percent synthetic. (The off-white color was chosen because it is the color of everyday Ethiopian clothing.)

The remaining question was how thousands of garments could be made and sent without incurring prohibitively high costs. As Marta prayed and planned, she thought of Christian groups to whom she had told the story of the Ethiopian people's desperate



Marta Gabre-Tsadick shares her concerns for the people of her Ethiopian homeland at a World Vision chapel in Monrovia, California.

needs, and of how many people had expressed a desire to do something personal to help—something with their own hands—in addition to giving money.

What if . . . she thought; what if Project Mercy could design simple patterns, use the cost-effective fabric, and prepare thousands of garments in a cut-out-ready-to-sew form? These

could be sent in boxes of 50 or 100 garments each, complete with sewing instructions, to church groups, clubs and other interested organizations. There the garments would be sewn quickly and returned to Project Mercy for shipping to Ethiopia where they would be distributed by World Vision at nutrition-health centers.

“What if” turned into reality. Simply designed patterns for men’s, women’s and children’s garments in three sizes

each were developed. The full-skirted dress, for example, has a minimum of seams and is similar to those normally worn by Ethiopian women. For men, the shirt design is also compatible with their traditional clothing: a loose-

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## **G**arments can be sewn quickly and returned for shipment to Ethiopia.

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fitting pullover with one button at the neck placket.

A pilot lot of 900 garments was successfully completed and shipped to Ethiopia, and a goal of 65,000 garments for fall shipment has been set. Adequate room for a large-scale cutting operation has been supplied with 7500 square feet of warehouse space in which appropriate equipment was recently installed.

**Marta is rejoicing** in the response the project is receiving. A number of Washington women, including several members of the Congressional Wives Prayer Group, are strong supporters, and increasing numbers of churches are becoming involved.

As the word spreads, exciting things are happening. A donation of 29,000 yards of Oxford cloth will become men’s shirts. Eighteen thousand yards of Pendleton fabric at a price so low as to make it a virtual donation has been obtained from an institution that had the material in storage and wanted to see it put to a worthwhile use. McCall’s Patterns has donated its

services to custom-design a men's Bermuda shorts pattern in several sizes, and inmates of the Illinois Correctional Center are donating their labor to put these together, using the Pendleton materials. (Because of the greater complexity of sewing construction, these shorts will not be sent out to be sewn by the volunteer groups making the dresses and shirts.) McCall's is also donating further research and design services for other needed patterns.

The need for clothing in areas of Ethiopia which have been experiencing long-lasting famine and the accompanying overall impoverishment is expected to continue for an extended period. Marta, Deme and Project Mercy are long-time supporters of World Vision relief in Ethiopia. Project Mercy, in turn, has been

enabled to launch this much-needed provision of clothing as it has been joined in a three-way partnership with World Vision and with churches and other supporting groups.

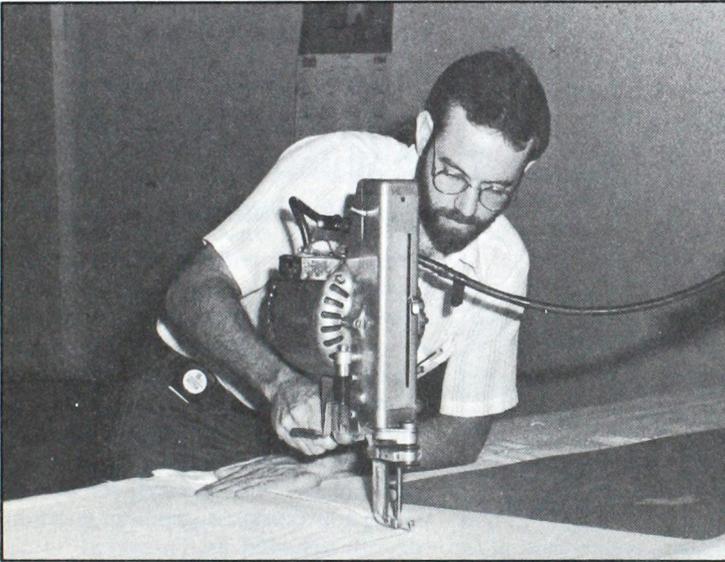
Project Mercy will be depending on a direct response from hundreds of women's groups to undertake the sewing, and from many concerned individuals who will provide the needed funds for fabric, shipping and other costs. □

***Have you felt** a desire to do something with your own hands for Ethiopia's suffering children and their*

**A goal of 65,000 garments for fall shipment has been set.**

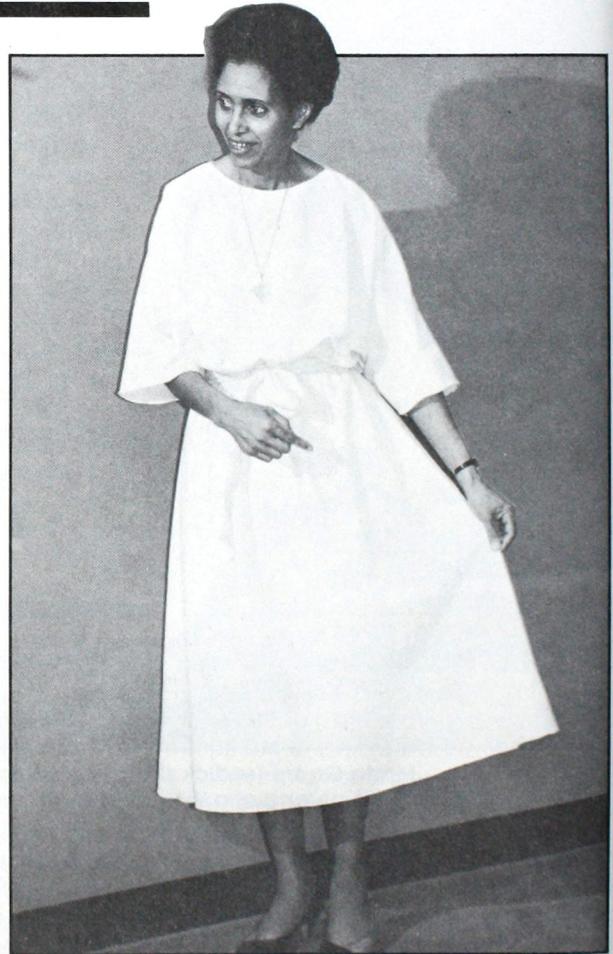
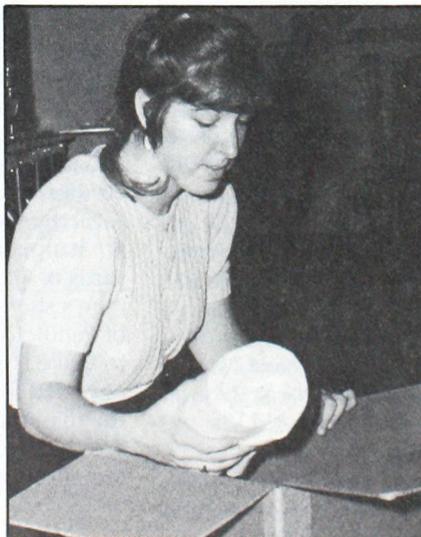
*parents? Now you can do just that, as you and other members of your church group or other organization sew pre-cut garments for some who are not only hungry, but who must also face their daily struggle for survival in tattered rags of clothing which they have no means of replacing.*

*Project Mercy will send boxes of 50 or 100 pre-cut garments (full instructions included) to your group to be sewn and returned to P.M. Large, combined shipments will then be sent to Ethiopia and distributed at World Vision nutrition-health centers. Contact Project Mercy, 7011 Ardmore Avenue, Ft. Wayne, IN 46809; (219)749-8480.*



A heavy-duty professional machine cuts pattern pieces from many layers of cloth in one operation.

This box is being filled with ready-to-sew pieces for shipment to a volunteer group who will finish the garments for distribution in Ethiopia.



Marta models one of the Project Mercy dresses being sewn by volunteer groups and distributed in Ethiopia at World Vision nutrition-health centers.

# Samaritan sampler

SOME WAYS PEOPLE ARE HELPING  
OTHERS IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

## Alternatives to the commercialization of Christmas

are appealingly presented in a filmstrip/cassette packet, *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas*. Its 17-minute length blends music and the varied voices of narrators with colorful photography. A complete script booklet with ideas for the material's use is also included. The importance of celebration and gift-giving among loved ones is not criticized, just simplified; then practical suggestions are given for ways in which families or groups can share Christmas joy with those in need. Best used in October or November, the packet may be purchased (\$20) or rented (\$6) from Alternatives, Box 429, Ellenwood, GA 30049; (404) 961-0102.

**Senders** is a new ministry of Caleb Project to equip and encourage world-missions-minded Christians who feel God leading them to be senders and who are willing to adopt a "missionary" lifestyle. For information contact Senders, 1605 Elizabeth St., Pasadena, CA 91104; (818) 794-1532.

**Academic education and vocational training** are combined in a new research project and school being aided by Food for the Hungry's Mission-By-Involvement program. Five FFH teams recently built the first section of the project in Mexico, 17 miles east of Navajoa in Sonora. In addition to traditional educational subjects, students will be able to gain experience in bookkeeping, metal work and ceramics. Also available will be horticulture labs where students can learn to maintain gardens, beehives and rabbits, and to engage in more extensive agricultural projects. For information contact Wesley Bell (602) 998-3100.



Changing Christmas priorities gave this family time to share with others. Christ came to serve.

**Voice of Calvary**, in Jackson, Mississippi, is seeking people who "have a heart for all races." VOC's ministries need carpenters, doctors, nurses, receptionists, writers, computer experts, administrators and teachers. Cooperative businesses, a health center, youth programs, education, vocational training, community development projects and a multi-racial church are some of VOC's ongoing endeavors. For information contact Career Opportunities, Voice of Calvary, 1655 St. Charles Street, Jackson, MS 39209; (601) 353-1635.

**An inexpensive hand pump** (about \$15.50) is providing help from the Mennonite Central Committee for some farmers in India. Called a "rower pump" from the motion used in its operation, it requires less energy than a conventional hand pump, while its output of water is 50-60 percent greater. Thus, a farmer may be enabled to grow two crops rather than just one, a year: both rainy-season rice and, with the pump, an irrigated dry-season crop. Widely applicable to varied needs, the rower pumps are now also used in Kampuchea. For information contact: MCC, 21 S. 12th St., Akron, PA 17501; (717) 859-1151.

**Spanish-language Bibles** and other Christian books, curriculum and hymnals are now more readily obtainable in Hispanic areas of the U.S. through Christian bookstores supplied by VIDA Publishers, 3360 N.W. 110th St., Miami, FL 33167; (305) 685-6334.

**Equipping local churches for effective missionary preparation** is the goal of the Conference on Mission Preparation (COMP) being held on the UCLA campus, Los Angeles, California, January 2-4, 1986. Co-sponsored by the California Association of Missions Pastors and the Association of Church Missions Committees, the conference is intended for missionary candidates—and prospective candidates—and for leaders from the candidates' own churches.

All candidates attending the conference are required to be accompanied by a leader. Workshops will be divided into two tracks: ten for candidates and ten for leaders. Plenary speakers are D. Stuart Briscoe, Luis Palau, Richard L. Strauss and Charles R. Swindoll.

**The Jews for Jesus organization** now offers a selection of books, albums, cassettes and teaching tapes. Christians engaged in dialogue with Jews,

or simply interested in Jewish thought and culture from an evangelical perspective will find helpful materials described in their current order form. To obtain a copy write Jews for Jesus, 60 Haight St., San Francisco, CA 94102-5895.

**Iranian Christians International** reaches expatriate Iranians with the gospel and trains them to minister to their own people. As many as three million Iranians are living outside their own country today, more than 250,000 of them in the United States. ICI coordinates a ministry that includes local ICI groups; a counseling and resource center; a Persian/English quarterly publication, *Mojdeb*; annual ICI conferences, distribution of Persian Christian literature, 24-hour prayer chain and refugee resettlement program. For information contact Iranian Christians International, Box 2415, Ann Arbor, MI 48106; (313) 769-5529.

**Retirees with time, skills and energy on their hands** are warmly received at the U.S. Center for World Mission in Pasadena, California. USCWM, a consortium of mission agencies and related organizations, is in need of volunteer services of many kinds. Library assisting, grounds maintenance, general repair work, audio-visual recording, "grandparenting" at the Extended Family Co-op, typing, bookkeeping, envelope stuffing—all of these and more, are part of USCWM's ongoing needs. The low-budget missionary lifestyle helps stretch volunteers' retirement incomes, and dorm residency for short-termers doesn't require the bringing of much "stuff." For information contact Evelyn Varney, USCWM Personnel, 1605 Elizabeth St., Pasadena, CA 91104.

Because they care

## ACER: AN EMPLOYEE RESPONSE

**H**ave you ever wondered how World Vision's central office staff members—the people who are responsible for taking your gifts and getting them to hurting people—respond personally to their day-in-day-out exposure to massive need?

The answer is, they respond with a concern that goes beyond the caring attention they give to their varied job responsibilities, and beyond the individual contributions and child sponsorships in which many are involved.

Last year, as the toll of famine victims mounted in Africa, World Vision staff concern grew as well. WV people wanted to do *more* on a personal basis to meet the need in Africa. This meant organized effort. A committee launched ACER (Africa Crisis Employee Response) in September 1984, with a think-big goal of raising \$100,000 by the end of 1985.

The hard-working ACER committee came up with a program that fit a

diversity of giving patterns—everyone could participate.

Newspaper recycling became an ongoing activity; a number of employees took Love Loaf coin banks to fill, and others signed up for ACER payroll-deduction giving. ACER prayer chains were established, and the first Wednesday of each month a group meets during the lunch hour to “fast on the first” and pray for the needs of Africa.

Information and updates on ACER giving are regularly presented in the chapel services attended by all employees, and in April and August of 1985 two special ACER campaigns were conducted.

First was a 40-hour fast, beginning the evening of April 29. WV employees participated in several ways: by fasting themselves, first signing up sponsors who pledged to contribute for each hour an individual fasted; by contributing as a sponsor of someone who was fasting, and by upholding the participants in prayer. The 40 hours

ended with a breaking of the fast on May 1, when a number of the staff shared the blessings of identifying with Africa's famine-stricken people through their own hunger. More than \$20,000 was raised during the fast.

In August, an ACER T-shirt design contest was held, with the winning design then imprinted on shirts. Proceeds from shirt sales helped swell the fund which, at World Vision magazine press time, totaled \$71,000.

The indefatigable ACER committee has some new plans brewing, and ACER prayerfully expects to reach its \$100,000 goal by the end of 1985.

Are you part of a group or organization that wants to have a corporate share (on either a large or small scale) in meeting the needs of Africa's suffering children, men and women? If so, the approach taken by World Vision's Africa Crisis Employee Response could work for you too—and provide life-giving help in Africa. □



Wearing their winning-design T-shirts, World Vision's Africa Crisis Employee Response (ACER) committee members gather around the progress display which shows that the fund drive has topped \$70,000. Standing (left to right) are Audrey Rountree, Jean Afuso, Ann McKusick and Jim Brown; seated: Tonyia Bellah, artist Gary Left who designed the display, Betty Harper, Art Bedford, Ruth Heck, Kathy Gough and Nate Showalter.

# TWO-THIRDS OF ALL THE PEOPLE IN THE WORLD

**Numbers** may impress statisticians, but one gripping example of human need will do more to prompt most of us to action than a memory bank full of figures. That's why, in this magazine and in our letters and on television, we tell stories of people. When we feel the suffering of one person—a man without a job, a hungry child, a mother who lost her children—we more easily identify with the two-thirds of the world's population who live in extreme poverty.

Just the same, some statistics—infant mortality rates, per capita income, population growth, as examples—shock me and move me to a greater commitment to our ministry. The most significant of these figures is the one I mentioned above: *two out of every three people on the face of this planet subsist in stark and frightful conditions.* That means they usually go to bed hungry at night; they don't have acceptable health care (if any); they live in inadequate housing (if they have a roof at all); and most of them have not heard the good news about Jesus Christ.

That's why we've begun to use the term "Two-Thirds World" rather than the more common "Third World." For years now, "Third World" has been used loosely to refer to politically nonaligned, economically developing, and less industrialized nations. But the concept is vague and misleading, and we prefer the more descriptive expression, "Two-Thirds World."

Recently I've taken a close look at some of the figures our researchers have drawn together, and I think I can underline this idea by sharing a few of the more sobering ones with you.

For example, the average life expectancy for this two-thirds of the population is 16 years lower than the other one-third. The infant mortality rate is five times as high. Yet the population growth of these lesser-developed countries averages 2.4 percent annually, compared to 0.7

percent for the other one-third of the world.

The average per capita income (all the money one person receives for a year) for the 35 least developed countries in the world is below \$200. All of them together account for only three percent of the gross global product. On top of this, the poorer countries have borrowed more than \$100 billion from the richer countries in recent years, and simply paying the interest on these loans strains the economy of many nations.\*

## Few Americans realize that millions of people live on less than \$200 a year.

While we're looking at numbers, let's turn the proposition around and look at the one-third who enjoy 84 percent of the world's educational expenditures and 91 percent of all that's spent on public health care. On the average these countries give less than one-half of one percent of their gross national product to help the poorer nations. Two countries, Holland and Sweden, give more than one percent, but the United States gives closer to two-tenths of one percent.

If you're like me, the figures begin to blur in your mind after a while. Two-thirds, one-half of one percent, less than \$200 a year on which to exist—it all adds up to a tragedy beyond comprehension. I've had the privilege of traveling to 135 countries of the world, and I've seen every imaginable condition. Yet I can't grasp the full significance of those figures.

I can, however, grasp what I believe should be the Christian response to such basic human need, and I can put it in one word—give. I like the way Richard Foster puts it in *Freedom of Simplicity*. "God's great generosity to

us sets us free to model that generosity toward others. Because He gave, we are enabled to give."

We hear a lot today from the economists and the political scientists who warn us of the impending disaster if the gap between the "haves" and the "have nots" widens—and it is widening. They speak in purely economic or political terms in which the motivation to give is self-interest. In an increasingly interdependent world, they say, we must help the poorer nations for our own sake. This isn't charity, they emphasize; it's an investment.

As Christians, our motivation, if we let the Spirit of God work in our hearts, is none other than love. If we let Him turn those imposing statistics into individual stories of human need, we'll find ourselves compelled to reach out toward an impoverished Two-Thirds World.

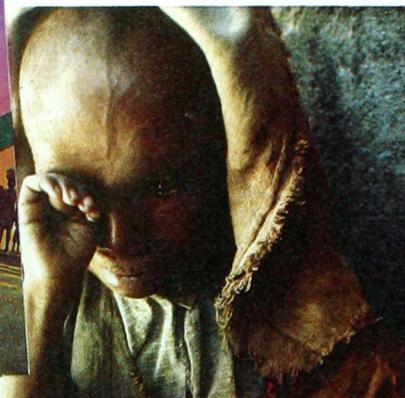
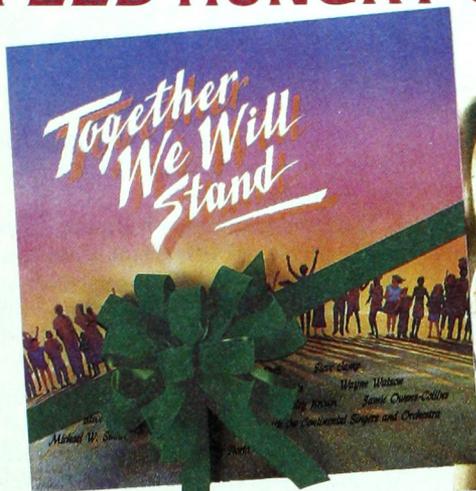
Love seizes opportunities to share in ways that meet someone's deep need. Your partnership with us in meeting someone's deep need means so much to that person enabled by your sharing to cope again and hope again. We thank you on that person's behalf. God bless you.

  
Ted W. Engstrom  
President



\* Most of these statistics come from the preface to the Encyclopedia of the Third World.

# WISH MERRY CHRISTMAS TO A FRIEND...WHEN YOU HELP FEED HUNGRY CHILDREN



For many of us, Christmas is a time of joy and sharing.

But for millions of families in drought-stricken Africa, this Christmas will be a day of struggle just like every other day... a day of crying hunger and silent death.

That's why the Continental Singers have joined with World Vision to help bring hope to starving children and their families in Africa this Christmas. They have donated their time and talent to record an inspirational album called *Together We Will Stand*.

For every suggested \$20 donation you send to help feed hungry families in Africa through World Vision, you will receive a copy of this unique album to give to a friend as a special Christmas gift. You will also receive a card for your friend explaining that the

album gift has helped to feed four hungry children in Africa for a week.

This album features the music of popular Christian recording artists Amy Grant, Sandi Patti, Steve Camp, Steve Green, The Imperials, Wayne Watson, Steve Taylor, Scott Wesley Brown, Jamie Owens-Collins, and Michael W. Smith, with the Continental Singers and Orchestra as back-up artists.

This Christmas let the Continental Singers and World Vision help you share Christ's love with hungry children. To give *Together We Will Stand* to a friend, just fill in the attached coupon and mail it today with your special gift to World Vision.



**WORLD VISION**

**YES...** I want to give hope to starving children this Christmas... and a copy of *Together We Will Stand* to my friend(s).

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

Please send me: \_\_\_\_\_ Record(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Cassette(s)  
Qty. Z71G20 /K Qty. Z71G20 /12 3007

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