

Helping Mexico's quake  
victims face 1986

Health and hope  
for hungry Chadians

December '85-January '86

# *World Vision*®

A camel caravan in Sudan transports desperately needed grain to villagers in the Engesina Hills.



**Beyond  
Santa's  
Route**

**SUDAN REPORT**



# Readers write

## Self-help

I was glad to learn of the long-range plans World Vision has for educating the people to help themselves in the future. That is surely what is needed over the long haul.

Lois E. Marine  
Englewood, FL

## How one church reaches out to internationals

Our church (First Covenant) agrees that we must make Christ known to internationals in our community. For two years we have conducted an outreach program to our college community which includes international students. We call it "Adopt a College Student." What happens is that a family of our congregation "adopts" a student for the school year and makes that person a part of their family life. This may include some meals, family outings, having the student cook an international dish for the family, etc. It has been highly successful for both the family and the students.

Tom Miller  
River Falls, WI

## Gratitude in Mali

As Proverbs 17:17 says (in French): "*L'ami aime de tout temps, et dans le malheur il se montre un frère.*" Literally: "The friend loves at all times, and in times of misfortune he proves to be a brother."

We Malian Christians are very grateful to our Christian brothers and sisters all over the world who have been moved by our suffering and have given their time, money and themselves to save thousands of lives from starvation and cruel suffering.

More than that, the Lord has mightily used this Christian love expression, particularly in the southern part of the country, to draw to Himself hundreds of souls that are now members of His Kingdom. Many Christian missions and organizations have contributed to that, and World Vision is certainly not behind in this achievement.

In the Beledugu area a needy non-Christian who was freely given about 50 kilograms of rice said: "If this is how Christians love those they do not even know, then this is enough to believe in their God."

Indeed, the news of the food assistance given by the churches has spread all over the country and made Christianity come almost suddenly out of the shadow of ignorance. Now many villages that were

closed to the gospel are sending delegations to the churches to ask for a messenger to go preach the gospel to them.

Last Saturday the church I attend received such an invitation from a village 80 kilometers from Bamako where there were only four Christians. Thirteen people were announced to be ready for a decision for Christ. When the evangelistic service was over, an additional 13 people had accepted the Lord. You may not realize what that means for a 90% Muslim country.

The radio and TV programs that I have the privilege of leading for the churches by His grace, contribute very much to this spiritual movement. Many pastors are overwhelmed with discipleship work.

A critic may say that there are "rice Christians" among such converts. Sure, but most of them would not give an ear to the gospel outside a crisis context. Now they know Jesus and are responsible for their decision.

In this time of sorrow you have proved to be more than friends, to be real brothers and sisters in Christ. We in turn express our gratitude to you in Christ. May the Lord continue to bless you profusely in His service.

Daniel Coulibaly  
Bamako, Mali, West Africa

## Teenager knows what it's like

Our adopted daughter Ailise, who regularly sends her contributions to World Vision, is a high school student who earns about \$50 a week in her part-time job at McDonald's. All the donations are completely her own. Alice came to us from the streets of Seoul, Korea, when she was 5½ years old, along with her twin sister who was quadriplegic from polio. Ailise was the caretaker of the two, rummaging in the trash and begging to support the two of them. Perhaps this is why she is so generous with her meager earnings.

Jayne Hoge  
Duluth, GA

## Teen volunteer

I'm writing to you about the Counter-Top volunteers story in your August/September issue. I was a contributor to World Vision but because of family problems I thought I would no longer be able to give—until I read the story about Mrs. Darlene Newton. She raises money for your work by putting Counter-Top displays in stores and restaurants. I am willing to do the same to help people of all ages who are hungry.

I'm a teen and I'm willing to fight for others so they too may live. Please send me information about how I can become a Counter-Top volunteer. Heather Hudson  
Paradise, CA

## New perspective

I just wanted to say how sorry I am for thinking you just wanted money all the time. I read, for the first time, WORLD VISION magazine all the way through. I was impressed, shocked and mostly ashamed.

God has been so kind to me and my family and I have been feeling sorry for myself, but no more.

I pledge my \$16 a month to help a child. Please forgive me. Name withheld

## Called to city ministry

A page in John Maust's book *Cities of Change* carries the following poem by George MacDonald, which expresses the experience of many missionaries and national pastors who serve in Latin America's congested cities:

I said, "Let me walk in the field."

God said, "Nay, walk in the town."

I said, "There are no flowers there."

He said, "No flowers, but a crown."

I said, "But the sky is black,

There is nothing but noise and din."

But He wept as He sent me back,

"There is more," He said, "there is sin."

I said, "But the air is thick,

And fogs are veiling the sun."

He answered, "Yet souls are sick,

And souls in the dark undone."

I said, "I shall miss the light,

And friends will miss me, they say."

He answered me, "Choose tonight

If I am to miss you, or they."

I pleaded for time to be given.

He said, "Is it hard to decide?

It will not seem hard in Heaven

To have followed the steps of your Guide."

I cast one look at the fields,

then set my face to the town.

He said, "My child, do you yield?

Will you leave the flowers for the crown?"

Then into His hand went mine,

And into my heart came He;

And I walk in a light Divine,

The path I had feared to see. □



# World Vision®



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A report on the state of Sudan's drought sufferers.



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Crops are growing again. But they need more time.



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## BEYOND SANTA'S USUAL ROUTE

**With so many big deliveries** to make on certain other continents, well-meaning Santa tends to miss most of the children in Africa.

"Oh, well," the plump old gent usually says sleepily to his reindeer when he unhitches them each year, "Grain hauling isn't really my bag anyway."

Yet in the dreams of children in Sudan and Ethiopia floats an image of neither a talking doll nor a Complete Package of the Hardware and Software Needed for New Computer Games, but of a bowl of almost anything to eat.

How fortunate, then, that within the vast region that Santa generally overlooks, a few camels now trudge faithfully across hot sand with grain,

some donkeys thread their way with seed and tools, and where the semblance of a road exists, a fleet of heavy-cargo trucks rumbles over rocky terrain with extremely precious gifts of corn, hoes, well-drilling machinery, diarrhea medicine and Good News.

To each big-hearted giver helping make such deliveries possible, *Merry Christmas to all—and to all a good night!*

*David Olson*

PHOTOS, ILLUSTRATIONS: Cover: Lloyd Ashton, photo, Gary Left, calligraphy; pp. 4-9: Bruce Brander; p. 11: Sanjay Sajwal; pp. 12, 13 (right): Jose Maria Blanch, (left): Armando Vasquez; p. 14: Katherine Walker; pp. 15-17: Mary Peterson; p. 18 (below): Peter Richards; return envelope, pp. 19, 20: Sheryl Watkins; p. 21: Ken Klippenstein; pp. 22, 23, (below): Steve Woodworth, (above): Jeff Messenger; p. 25: Jacob Akol.



Sudan's famine victims echo . . .

# THE CRY OF THE 'ELEPHANT'S TRUNK'

by Bruce Brander

**L**anding at Khartoum, I could hardly forget that I was entering a stricken country.

One thousand miles south of Cairo, roughly midway up the Nile River, the capital city of Sudan itself signaled the plight of its people. A hot, dusty haze wrapped the skyline. Gritty sand swept along the runway underfoot. Both told of the drought that long had racked the nation, and of a famine of biblical proportions spreading in its wake.

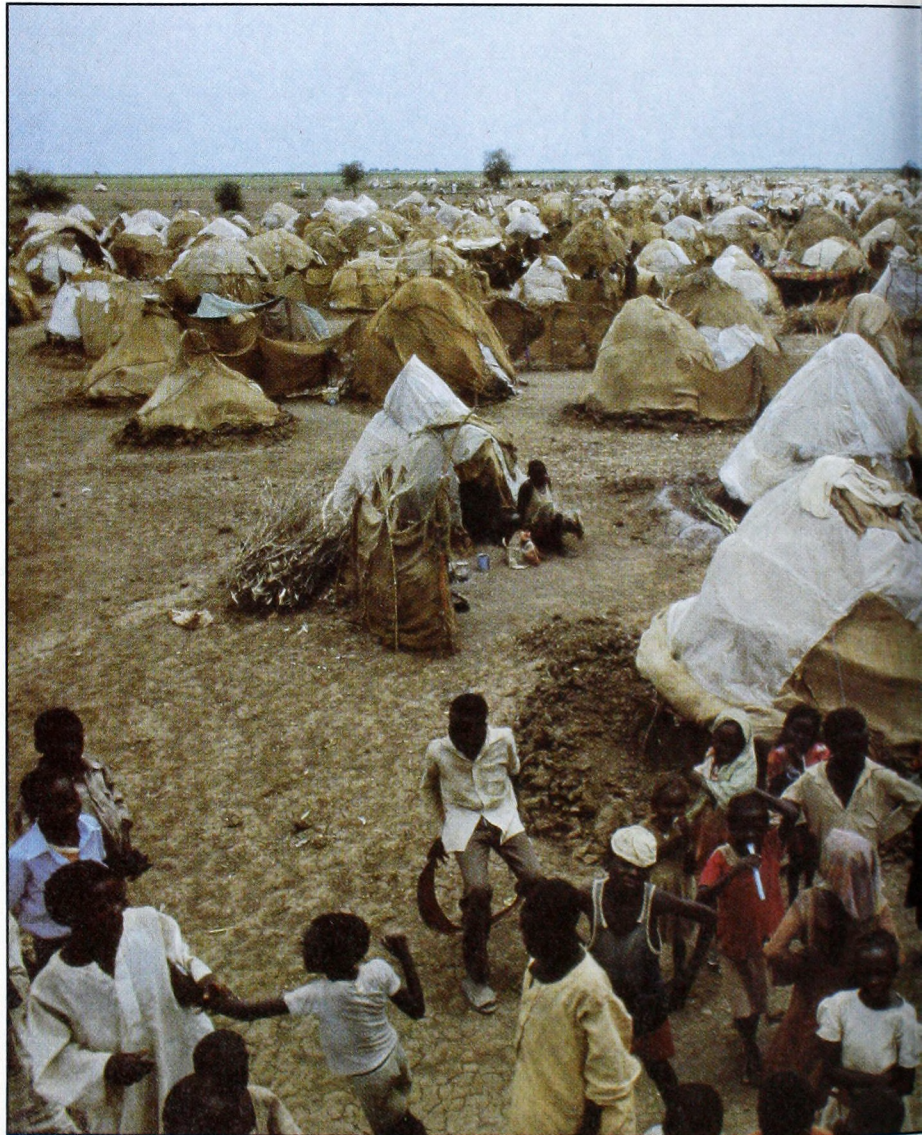
I had been reading of Sudan in scattered news reports, often overshadowed by heavier coverage from neighboring Ethiopia to the east. Africa's largest country, with an area greater than all of Western Europe, Sudan lay parched by drought for three and four and, in some places, ten years in a row. And, as it was all across the Sahel belt of semi-arid land dividing the Sahara Desert from green Africa, withering crops and dying livestock herds left farmers, villagers and nomadic tribes stripped of the barest sustenance.

No country except Ethiopia, in fact, was suffering more from the trans-continental drought. An estimated 8.4 million people—a colossal proportion of Sudan's total population of 22

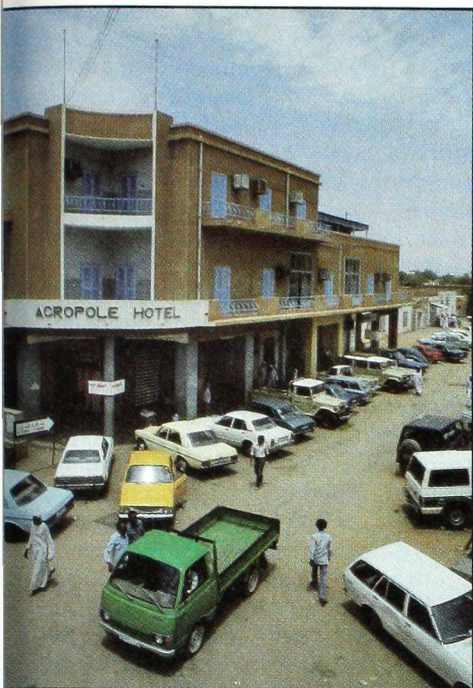
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*Bruce Brander is an editor for World Vision International Communications.*

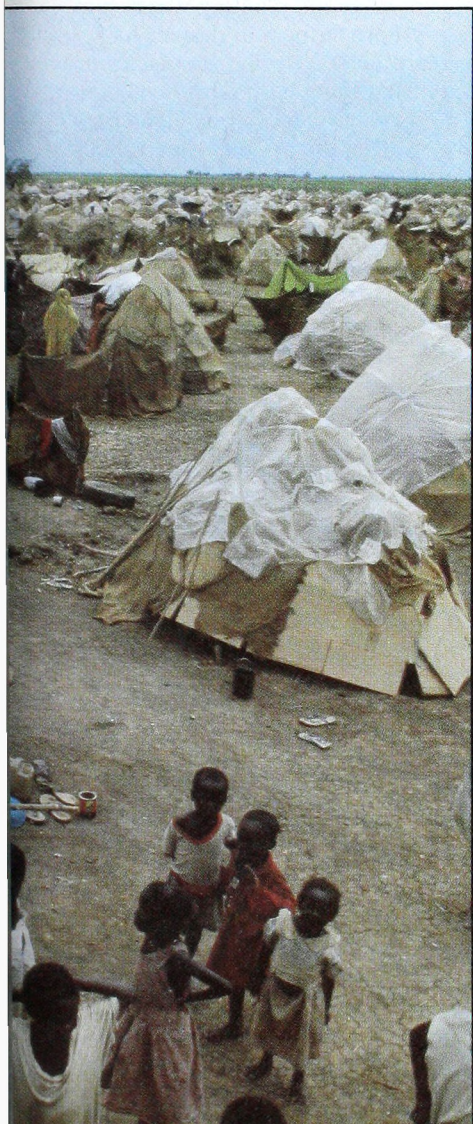
The 7000 refugees—largely Chadian—of Mabi Camp live in makeshift huts of reed matting, rags and plastic sheeting.







(left) Khartoum's Acropole Hotel with its faded empire-days style is popular with relief workers and journalists. (below) At Mobi Camp's medical tent, a Chadian woman is treated for suspected cholera before being hospitalized in Wad Medani.



million—were short of food. The need among many was desperate. Hundreds of thousands—perhaps as many as a million—were scattered throughout the vast and trackless country in various stages of starvation, sickness and dying.

The tragedy had come perilously close to mass annihilation of whole populations. But alert governments

## Young mothers sit on dusty pavements with their babies and plastic cups.

and relief agencies, including World Vision, were intervening in time to prevent that. Massive aid rushed to the anguished land was blocking the impending avalanche of death.

Khartoum looked normal for an Arabic African city. Its bleak concrete airport terminal fluttering with ceiling fans led out to a snarled traffic of hooting cars, donkeys and milling pedestrians. In the past decade alone, the city's population has doubled with a torrent of job-seekers from hundreds of miles around fleeing the drying-up countryside. It now stands at 1.4 million.

The population recently swelled much larger as farmers and herdsmen by the tens of thousands, fallen out of

the economic system, abandoned ancient homelands in the remote western provinces of Darfur and Kordofan to wander through the country in search of work and food. Khartoum became a capital of vagrants begging for their livelihood. The flood of newcomers strained urban resources and spread diseases of the destitute until the government trucked many of the people back into the hinterlands.

Yet even after the dispersion of the starving, I found signs of tragic hunger on city streets. Under the balconies that shade downtown shoppers from blast-furnace heat, young mothers sit on dusty pavements with their babies and plastic or aluminum cups. At a busy corner, an aging man dozes on a reed mat that serves as his only home. Outside my hotel, I ration out Sudanese pound notes to a silently imploring man in a ragged cotton turban, a graceful woman making hand-to-mouth gestures and a boy about 12 with the thinnest legs I've ever seen.

**The Acropole Hotel** is like a scene from a 1930s movie. A sand-colored building rising three stories on the corner of sandy streets, it serves as a hub for relief workers in Sudan.

The Acropole is no place for creature comforts. Guests climb to their rooms on twisting flights of stairs. Baths are down the hall; beds, springless cotton mattresses spread on



boards. A candle waits on each bedstand, since Khartoum sometimes goes without electricity for weeks at a time. And there is nothing to relieve midday temperatures of 115 degrees and more but lattice doors, window shutters and overhead fans reminiscent of empire days.

Khartoum's low skyline squats at the confluence of two of Africa's most storied rivers. The Blue Nile gushes down from the wild mountains of Ethiopia. The White Nile flows from the mid-African countries of Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda. The city's name means "elephant trunk," a shape

## Rain poured down in a summer-long deluge that turned much of the country into mire.

suggested as one river curls into the other for the single Nile's northward journey to Egypt.

Early last summer, as Sudan gasped through the driest of all its recent drought years, the great rivers crept past the city dark and sluggish, lower than anytime since the early 1900s, said some, and since the 1600s, claimed others. By September, both were running higher than most people could recall, flooding islands, drowning tall trees. Rain had returned to the Sahel.

It came as a curse. What everyone here was waiting for, praying for—while 20,000 Sudanese were dying from starvation every month for its lack—poured down in a summer-long deluge that turned much of the country into mire.

By July, relief food was piling up in Port Sudan on the Red Sea, the nation's single major entry point. The United States Agency for International Development, the United Nations World Food Program, World Vision Canada, and other donors from around the globe had filled warehouses and wharves with some 420,000 tons of cereal grains, milk powder, sugar, cooking oil and other commodities. Ships holding more lay offshore waiting for berthing space. Trucks and trains stood ready to carry the precious cargo to the barren and hungry interior.

But the rains paralyzed land transport. The single length of deteriorating rail line penetrating the west fell to pieces: a major bridge collapsed, plunging two locomotives off the tracks into a river, while washouts severed the route in nine other places. The whole of Sudan has only two lengths of paved road. Elsewhere, vehicles usually follow the tire prints of other vehicles, but rain turned most of these truck routes into totally impassable muck.

The European Economic Community responded with an "airbridge" of huge cargo planes from West Germany, Britain, Belgium, Denmark and Italy. But the airlifts of 20 tons per trip could not feed half a nation. Some food shipments were mobbed by desperate crowds of the starving.

Meanwhile, many tales of tragedy had yet to reach Khartoum. Most villages and tribal camps have neither telephones nor radios. Only the overfull rivers racing past the city suggested the extent of rains in distant places and how utterly cut off from help many people remained.

**The road southbound** from Khartoum is good: two lanes of fairly smooth blacktop crossing flat, tan land. In a four-wheel-drive vehicle full of World Vision workers, I sped toward the town of Wad Medani 114 miles distant to visit one of the camps where World Vision serves displaced desert people.

*Suq* lorries—Sudan's market trucks—crowded the outbound highway. The sturdy flatbed vehicles with their desert-wise drivers make up the country's major lifeline for goods and passengers. Pink and green, blue, orange and yellow, decked with curtains around the cabs, the trucks were setting out on journeys of days and weeks into remote hinterlands. At times World Vision has rented *suq* lorries when other transport for food relief was unavailable. For months many of the vehicles had been returning from the backlands full of people fleeing the dying countryside. These environmental migrants still had money for their journeys. Others, crowded on the tops of trains, rode for nothing. Still others walked.

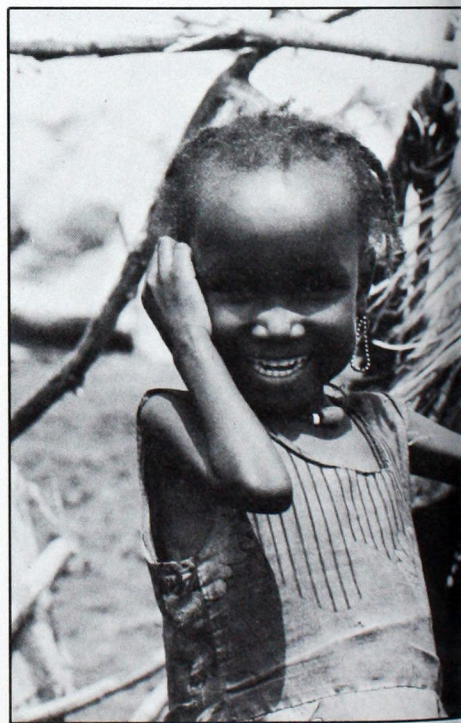
Down the road and to our right sprawled a grand illusionary lake of mirages. Out of that shimmering desert some wanderers came after walking for a thousand miles. They, among some 220,000 migrants, chose Sudan's

Central Region as their final hope.

Here, between the two great rivers, lies an irrigation scheme known as the *Gezira*—the island. Designed by British engineers in 1925, its vast lacework of canals, ditches and pumps turned the area from a barren land of nomads into a rich alluvial garden. Today, with 2.1 million acres and 96,000 tenant farmers, the Gezira is the world's largest farm. In better times, migrant workers had come from many hundreds of miles away to find seasonal employment here, and oil-rich investors had hoped to make the area a breadbasket for the Arab world. In recent times, the hungry wanderers found no work, no food, even here. The Gezira's parched harvests did not tally up to half enough to feed itself.

Farther on a farmer poked a muddy field with a *seluka* stick, his yellow-robed wife popping seeds into the holes. All over Sudan, I had heard, the land was regaining its promise from recent rains and planting was resuming. Where farmers in despair had eaten their seed, relief agencies were supplying them with more.

"You cannot fail to be moved by the spirit of the people," one relief executive said. "They are weak and debilitated after months of cumulative malnutrition, but those who can are



A Chadian refugee girl, one of thousands saved from starvation, flashes a bright smile.



out there weeding and plowing. Some are actually dying in the fields."

Like the land, its animals, too, were beginning to fare better. A boy marched a tight-ranked herd of goats beside the road to a newly green grazing spot. Farther on, we stopped as two herders led a mob of lyre-horned cattle across the highway. Our driver remarked that the beasts were getting some flesh on them again.

Early promise of the first good harvest in years also was appearing. Roadside vendors in white *galabia* robes sat beneath thatch shelters with piles of watermelons, trays of tomatoes and pyramids of guavas for sale. Yet no substantial harvest of staple grains—sorghum, millet, maize—would arrive until mid-November. Until then the entire nation was dependent upon outside aid for its continued existence.

Children at the roadside danced and waved at our truck as we neared Wad

## Out of the shimmering desert some wanderers came after walking for a thousand miles.

Medani, a low town of flat-roofed buildings on the banks of the Blue Nile. I stopped briefly at the World Vision office there. The high-ceilinged room was full of workers and wall-charts, a nerve center for nutrition programs, medical services and future development plans for all of central Sudan.

World Vision, with its Sudan budget of \$5.7 million for fiscal year 1985, is not undertaking alone to feed the many millions of hungry people in the region. The task, too enormous for any single group, is shared among many agencies who work together in a complex network of cooperation.

In one plan, for example, World Vision finds areas of need, the United States Agency for International Development provides food, the United Nations World Food Program organizes transportation and, finally, World Vision monitors deliveries to village councils that then distribute the aid to people needing it most. In another plan, World Vision supplies staff, food or funds to camps run by other agencies, including the Christian-based Africa Committee for Rehabilitation of Southern Sudan (ACROSS).

Other arrangements are less formal. When World Vision ran short of sugar

to mix with flour, milk powder, oil and salt for a supplementary nutrition program serving malnourished children, another agency freely offered a whole truckload. Meanwhile, World Vision, learning of a hospital isolated by rains and desperately short of medicines, purchased the supplies from yet another agency and arranged to fly them into the remote location. At the same time, The British Save the Children Fund needed CB radios for food trucking operations, and World Vision provided the funds to supply them. Only such a network of free cooperation saved so many people so quickly in Sudan.

**Most of the workers** in the Wad Medani office were Sudanese. Months ago, reports had warned that some early food shipments had been hampered by misappropriation, riots, even bandit raids. To avert such problems at the outset of its work in Sudan, World Vision hired local monitors, many of them graduates of local universities. Their job was to travel through Central Region villages on foot and donkeyback, measuring needs then making sure distributions proceeded as intended.

One of the monitors, Anwar El Nour, a 28-year-old graduate of Cairo University, guided me to the camp for famine migrants on the outskirts of town. Near a village called Mubi, the encampment had grown spontaneously as displaced people from western Sudan and refugees from the country of Chad arrived, fleeing drought and famine there. Though Sudan is heavily burdened by crippled agriculture, a staggering national debt and civil war in its non-Islamic, black African southern region, the notably hospitable nation has generously received 1,160,000 refugees from Chad to the west, Ethiopia to the east and Uganda and Zaire to the south. Anwar explained: "These problems are not problems of countries but of African people, and the Sudanese want to help."

In four-wheel-drive, we jounced along a deeply rutted track past files of women and children walking toward town. Then, beyond the mud-brick homes of Mubi Village, we turned onto

(above) Kosti's refugee camp is now home to this mother and her child. (left) Even in a refugee camp, a tiny suq (market) is an important part of Arabic Africa.





a flat, dusty plain. Part of the roadless field served as a local cemetery. Just beyond, the city of displaced people spread half a horizon wide, its dome-shaped huts providing refuge for 7000.

With World Vision's Mobi camp manager Hugh Hamilton, an exuberant 28-year-old Irishman from County Kildare, I toured the area, following him on his morning rounds. Striding almost at a trot through the labyrinth of shoulder-high huts made of saplings, cardboard, reed matting and cloth, he greeted people cheerfully as he ferreted out the morning's sick.

As the patients of the day were carried in for treatment, I moved on to a nutrition tent. Hundreds of seriously malnourished children formed a long line across a dusty field. A few of them—recent arrivals—clung to mothers or fathers, too weak to walk. The rest had regained enough health to happily chatter and play while they waited for meals of high-nutrition porridge. One by one they filed past a registration table, held their hands out for washing, and toddled into the long canvas shelter. Two local women ladled the food from steaming vats into orange plastic bowls while other women carried them to the rows of waiting children.

I wandered on to watch several Chadian women building a new hut.

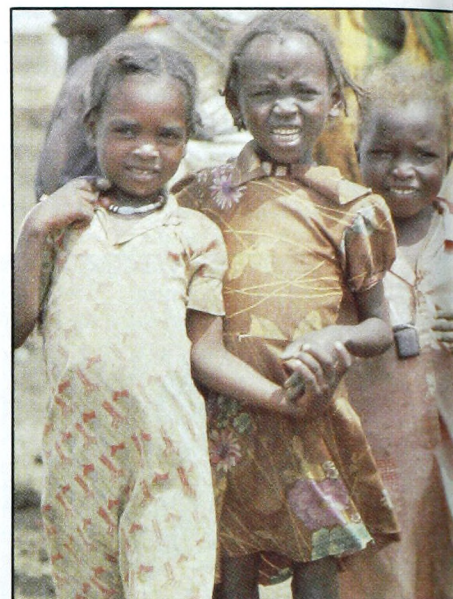
"We're starting another section of the camp," said Jan Pearce, who was taking a break from work in the medical tent. The wife of the World Vision Central Region project manager, David Pearce, a retired dairy farmer from New Zealand, Jan labored among the displaced people with neither official position nor pay. That morning her vehicle had broken down in a mud rut. She had walked to the camp. Now she waved a hand toward neat files of huts rising ahead like beige bubbles. "More people are arriving every day. The camp that grew here before we came is too crowded. The shelters are too close. Here we're trying to space them out and put streets between the rows."

**With Anwar** I returned to the older section of the camp. Winding among the shacks, we looked for someone who would give me a personal account of how he had come here. We stopped beside a group of turbaned men sitting on a large reed mat. One of them got up to find a leader.

Sheik Isaka Ali Omer, a man of 75 who looked at least 20 years younger, said he would be happy to speak with me. With Anwar acting as interpreter, Sheik Isaka told me he had led his people out of the Abeche region of eastern Chad, where people must be hardy to survive. Nomadic herders often live for months on nothing more than camel's meat and camel's milk.

**"You cannot fail to be moved by the spirit of the people."**

Sheik Isaka's people were not nomads but farmers cultivating millet. Yet their land was harsh and they were hardy too. But when herds died away and seeds refused to grow for several years in a row, they saw no people could be strong enough to endure such a



(above) Refugee children outside Sennar, in another camp where World Vision ministers.  
(right) A young Chadian mother encourages her son to wash before eating.





terrible drought. In September 1984 they left the land of their forebears.

They could only wander from place to place, the leader said, looking for food. Though a proud and independent people, they often were reduced to begging. "My wife and children also begged," the sheik said, nodding slowly. When he and his following found the once-rich Gezira region also stricken with drought, his people scattered. Where they went he did not know, nor if they were alive. He brought the ones who stayed with him, along with his family, to Mobi Camp. Soon after, World Vision relief arrived.

"We are very happy here," Sheik Isaka told me with the courtly courtesy of desert people, as we stood amidst the squalid jumble of hovels. Things were better now, he explained. The sick were treated. The death rate was low. And since the first food shipment

arrived in May—enough for only one handful a person—the quantities they received had been growing

"But there is still too little," Sheik Isaka pleaded, holding up a metal bowl. "We get this much for each person every eight days. Yet it is gone in five days."

Feeling helpless over the hunger of his people, I took his photograph to go with my report and assured him that I would bring his problem to my people.

The problem that Sheik Isaka described—a problem of some help but not yet enough—appeared everywhere as I made my way through other camps farther south and in the distant west where World Vision is working.

The medical tents I saw welcomed all comers. But always they were short of staff. Undernourished children by the thousands filed into feeding tents for health-restoring meals. Careful

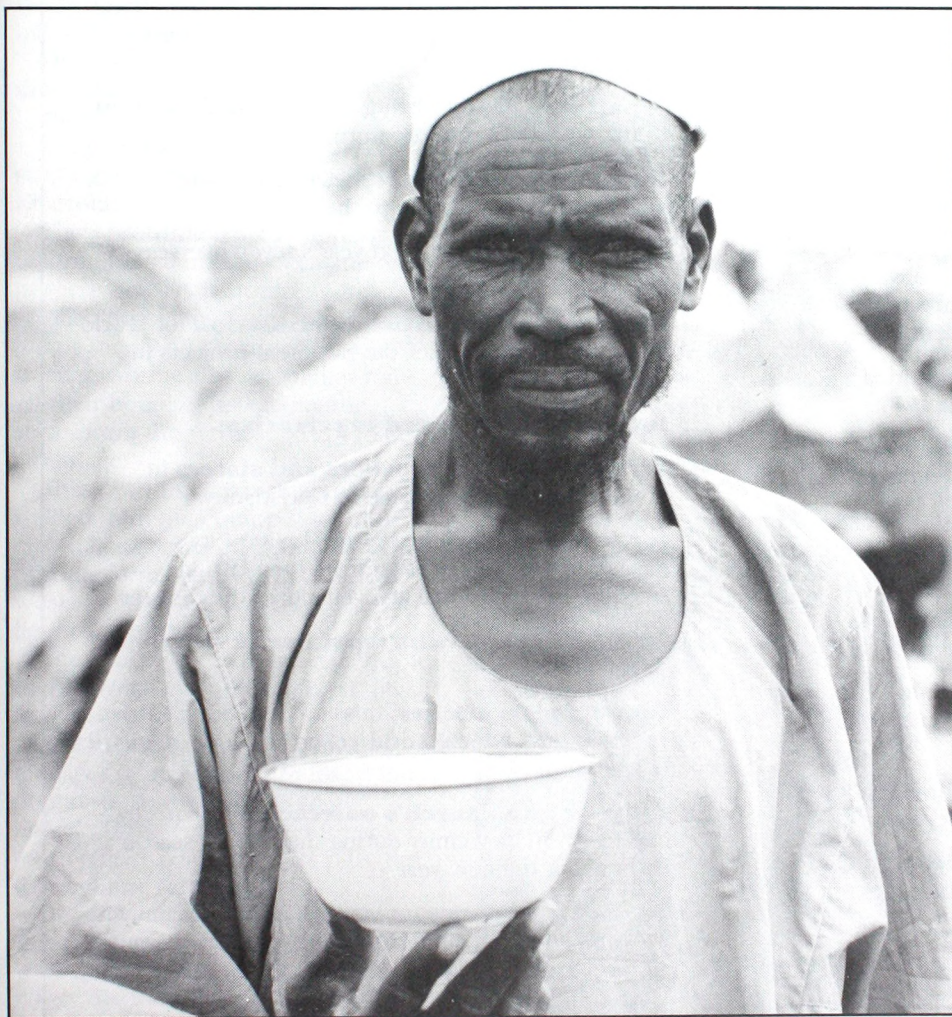
camp design was alleviating crowded, makeshift living conditions while improving hygiene and sanitation standards. But there were too few workers, often no waterproof materials to keep huts and their occupants dry during rains, too few blankets to fend off pneumonia and other illnesses resulting from chilling.

Not only in the camps did I encounter problems of serious continued need. Everywhere I traveled in Sudan, I heard heart-wrenching tales of isolated regions yet unreached by relief supplies where food had run out weeks and even months before.

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**Though a proud and independent people, they often were reduced to begging.**

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Sheik Isaka Ali Omer, 75, uses a bowl to show how much grain each person in Mobi Camp receives for a week.

World Vision, along with other agencies, is preparing to help Sudan and its people meet many of these urgent needs. But we also mean to go beyond immediate necessities. As I spoke and traveled with our workers, I heard discussions of a five-year project to bring water supplies to remote central villages where presently women might carry water daily for miles on their heads. World Vision is mapping out ways to help farmers increase production on their lands and income for their families. Still more ambitious are plans for tree nurseries in local villages that will enable local people to anchor fragile soils and stop the annual two-to-three-mile southward advance of the desert, perhaps gaining new land as well.

So far, eminently successful relief efforts have averted the catastrophic mass starvation of a nation. But the job is far from done. More food, more workers, more funds are needed to bring the country back to its feet. Anwar once told me, "The people are very grateful for what World Vision is doing." But, like Sheik Isaka, he hoped we could stay and do more. □

*To help provide food and hope for starving Sudanese people at this time, please use the return envelope provided between pages 18 and 19.*



# When you pray

## THANK GOD . . .

- ☐ **for the spirit of prayer** that is spreading in a growing number of churches worldwide.
- ☐ **for the volunteers and donations** which have already saved thousands of lives in Africa's famine-stricken nations.
- ☐ **for the provision of trucks**, donkeys and now even camels to deliver food and hope to starving Africans.
- ☐ **for the longer-range self-help projects** which now have been launched in areas previously served only by emergency relief efforts.
- ☐ **for the spiritual response** of many who have been touched by Christians' caring ministries.
- ☐ **for the nutrition and health workers** who will continue to serve the needy throughout the Christmas holidays.
- ☐ **for all who labor to reach** heretofore unevangelized people of the world.
- ☐ **for the faithfulness of believers** who continue to represent Christ in the face of threatened or actual imprisonment and other mistreatment.
- ☐ **for the national pastors** who attended a World Vision conference in Manipur, India.
- ☐ **for the remarkably effective witness** of believers whose churches are denied the privilege of corporate worship services.
- ☐ **for the way many Americans** are helping victims of Mexico City's earthquakes.
- ☐ **for the large number of new converts** to Christ in Central American countries ravaged by civil war.
- ☐ **for childcare workers**, meeting the needs of many abused or abandoned children in South American nations.
- ☐ **for the churches** with which World Vision serves as a partner in ministries among the needy.
- ☐ **for the abundant opportunities** your church can find to express God's love in tangible ways to the needy and lonely nearby.

## PLEASE INTERCEDE . . .

- ☐ **for the still-helpless hungry** in widely scattered regions of Sudan who will never see 1986 unless they can be reached swiftly with food and medical care.
- ☐ **for a continued outpouring** of assistance that will put thousands more on their feet again in Jesus' name.
- ☐ **for the emergency workers** who are using every feasible mode of transportation to get vital supplies to starving and malnourished people.
- ☐ **for nutrition and health workers** who will work long days through the season's holidays.
- ☐ **for the recipients of seed and tools** who hope to raise successful crops again now that rain has returned.
- ☐ **for all who seek** to bring the good news of Christ to the world's heretofore unreached peoples.
- ☐ **for pastors imprisoned** because of some governments' opposition to the gospel.
- ☐ **for the planners** of next year's seven overseas pastors' conferences.
- ☐ **for governments' official permission** for World Vision to conduct relief/development projects in areas not yet entered.
- ☐ **for families subjected to terrorism.**
- ☐ **for our Christian brothers and sisters** in countries officially opposed to Christianity.
- ☐ **for those who are helping** Mexico City's earthquake victims recover from long-lasting physical and emotional after-effects of the disaster.
- ☐ **for God's people who must live in war zones** or refugee camps.
- ☐ **for partner churches**, missions and other Christian agencies with which World Vision conducts ministries to the poor.
- ☐ **for your own church's outreach** to the needy and lonely in its vicinity during the holiday season and throughout the new year.
- ☐ **for God's guidance** for yourself and your family in seeking out opportunities to minister to immigrants or foreign students with whom to share the love of Christ.



## Four teenagers in Khartoum

# A CORNER TO DIE ON

by David Beltz,  
with help from his wife Rhoda

**O**n the corner outside my hotel, I see four teens. As a parent of a teen, I am aware that most of them are taken up with conversation about their peers: who said what, who was doing what, and so on. But these four teens aren't laughing, comparing notes or even talking. They are dying.

Dying not from violence, nor from drugs, but from nothing.

Nothing? Nothing to eat.

Lying on the ground, they are starving to death in Sudan's capital city, Khartoum.

Their protruding bones appear deformed, as if once broken and not properly set. Their stomachs are swollen potbellies, but not from over-indulgence. And other people are stealing any meager belongings right off their bodies, dissociating themselves from the victims except to take advantage.

These youths, like many others, walked from the countryside to the city in hopes of finding nourishment of some form. Instead, they became weaker and only found the corner to lie on and to die on.

The countrysides are worse. People there haven't even the strength to walk to the city.

At home in America, my own teenager struggles daily to lose a few pounds by forcing herself to go hungry. How would these African teens react to diet pop, diet pills, lite this and low-cal that?

Looking at the four Sudanese youths, I cannot isolate my emotions. Are they anger, fear, pity? Am I doubting God's existence? Where is He? How does He feel when He looks down at these teens crumpled on the ground, looking like skeletons upholstered with a thin fabric of skin?

I see only a few at a time. God sees the millions. How does He seek solace?

I'm here to help, but I can't help. The fact that I'm here doing a job is helpful—in an impersonal kind of way—but I feel so *unhelpful* because I'm only a few feet away from dying kids. I am not underweight, I have plenty, but I cannot save them. The lump in my throat feels the size of a golf ball. Would it help if I cried?

It is so hot! Today's temperature is somewhere between 110° and 115° Fahrenheit, with humidity of 30-40 percent. Air-conditioning, of course, is

non-existent. I'm always sweaty. Are these people so dehydrated that they do not sweat?

I'm so thirsty for a tall glass of crushed ice and water—even L.A. tap water. But these people drink only from muddy puddles, with their cupped hands. What is crushed ice? What's a glass?

Before I left for Sudan on this survey trip, I saw slides—lots of slides of similar situations, mostly in Ethiopia. The mourning mothers with children half their normal size in their arms. The pictures of naked children with flies feeding on their faces. The photos were stills; surely the children would shoo the flies off their faces; isn't that a natural reaction? How can I live knowing the reality is that flies don't just make rest stops on these faces—they *live* there!

Back at the office, we could walk

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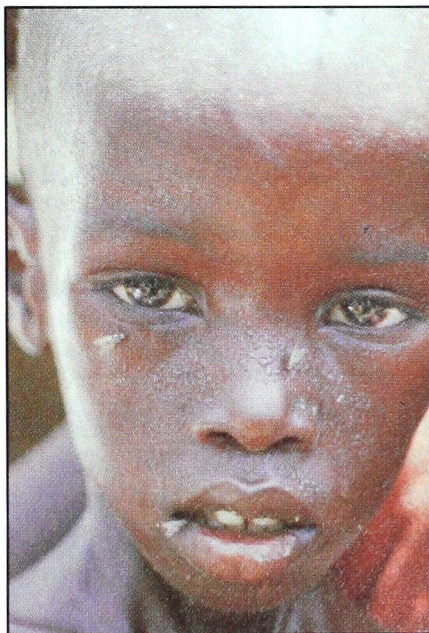
## How do I go back to my own life and justify its fullness? All I can pray for is understanding.

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away from a slide-viewing to a dinner party or our favorite restaurant. Here, I can't turn the slide show off. The people are in front of me. Someone please turn the lights back on!

Right now, I'm angry with God. I am unable to pray. What would I pray for? Peace of mind? Food? Rain? I look up through the sand-filled air toward the sky. Forgive me, Lord, but this is unbearable. How do I go back to my own life and justify its fullness? All I can pray for is understanding. Help me, Lord, to understand.

I begin remembering how much Jesus suffered. He was not exempt from pain. I begin sorting out the meaning of living this nightmare and rejoining my family and friends. It brings a measure of peace to my heart to know that my being here will in some way make a difference. I cling to this. Instead of looking at the masses I cannot help, I must turn and look at those lives I am helping to save. I'm here to give these people life; they will never know how much they have given me. □



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*Rhoda Beltz's writing is usually in the form of humorous greeting cards and poetry. She was moved to write this piece by her husband David's graphic account in a letter he wrote her while on a survey assignment in Sudan for World Vision. David and Rhoda live in Duarte, California, with their two daughters.*



Providing immediate and long-range help for quake victims

# REBUILDING IN MEXICO CITY

**M**exico City's earthquake damage no longer claims front-page headlines, but the arduous tasks of clean-up, restoration and rehabilitation still remain.

World Vision, like other relief agencies from around the world, provided emergency assistance immediately following the mid-September quakes which left more than 7500 people dead and thousands more injured and homeless. Initial assistance from World Vision was channeled mainly through the Salvation Army Rehabilitation Center, the First Baptist Church of Mina and the Sion Methodist Church, where quake victims received food, medicine, blankets and plastic sheeting.

The majority of the quake damage occurred in the central portion of Mexico City. More than 500 buildings, including hospitals, hotel and government buildings, were completely destroyed. No World Vision sponsor children were killed or hurt during either of the quakes, however.

Although most of the rescue work and removal of rubble took place in the downtown district, two lower-income neighborhoods about one mile away suffered extensive damage. In one area, colonia (neighborhood) Morelos, more than 500,000 impoverished people live in a 10-by-17-block area. Most of the residents live in "vecindads," single-family dwellings converted to accommodate as many as 30 families each. Ordinarily, a vecindad will have only one water source and toilet for all of the residents. Many of the vecindads in Morelos were destroyed during the earthquakes.

In addition to its initial emergency

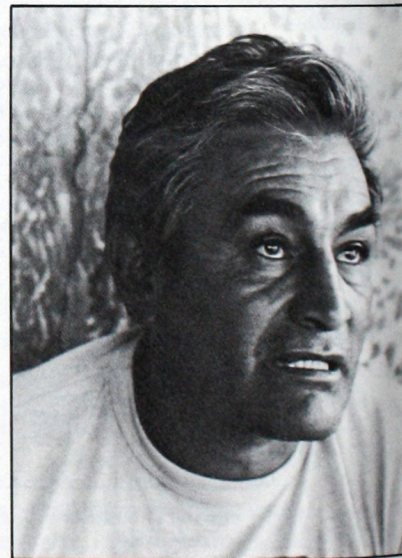
Food, tools and blankets purchased by World Vision are carried from a van into the Salvation Army Rehabilitation Center, where they were later distributed to victims immediately following the quake.



relief response, World Vision has undertaken a \$350,000 extended rehabilitation and development project slated to continue through June. The project will focus on the needs of families in colonia Morelos. Besides continuing to provide food, medical supplies and blankets, World Vision will also rebuild 100 multi-family dwellings occupied by 300 families, thus providing permanent shelter for as many as 3000 people.

Medical care is still among the greatest needs of the people living in the city. World Vision will provide

**In one stricken neighborhood, more than 500,000 impoverished people live in a 10-by-17-block area.**



"People have been very good to us," said 51-year-old Apriano Alvarez. "Volunteers pass by often. One feels like crying."





A cross and the name "Hugo" are painted on a crumbling concrete wall to mark the spot where one of the building's residents died.

Two-year-old Dulce Maria clings to her mother's hem as her family seeks temporary shelter.



- W**orld Vision will
- help rebuild 100 multi-family dwellings
  - provide artificial limbs for 200 people
  - compensate residents for reconstruction work.

World Vision's partners in its rehabilitation effort will include a Presbyterian and a Baptist church and the National Board of Voluntary Agencies. The Baptist church will sponsor an evangelistic program aimed at reaching earthquake victims. The project budget will include \$10,000 to assist less-affluent congregations repair their church buildings.

Jose-Maria Blanch, World Vision's director of communications for Latin America, toured Mexico City shortly after the earthquakes to assess the damage and help determine the nature of World Vision's response.

"The easy part of World Vision's work—the distribution of emergency relief commodities—is over," Mr. Blanch said. "The most difficult times are still ahead as we initiate rehabilitation efforts." □

artificial limbs for 200 people who were dismembered in the earthquake. The prostheses—costing \$300 each—will be provided at no cost to the victims. In addition, crisis counseling and legal advice will be available to those who experienced trauma and unusual hardship during the earthquake aftermath.

In keeping with World Vision's commitment to community involvement, colonia Morelos residents will be compensated for their participation in the recovery of their own neighborhood. For 90 days, World Vision will

pay 250 community members for their rubble-clearing efforts. This program will help offset families' loss of income that resulted when hundreds of businesses were destroyed by the quakes.

To further create employment in poor neighborhoods where the unemployment rate was high even before the earthquake, World Vision will work with partner agencies to initiate income-generating projects by January. Included will be a block/brick manufacturing program being started by the Salvation Army.

In addition to the Salvation Army,



Until Ansokia Valley's crops  
reach maturity

# GREEN FAMINE

by Mary Peterson

The new Borkena bridge keeps the road open for relief supplies.

**T**oday Ethiopia's Ansokia Valley is green, except for patches of dark plowed soil wet from last night's thunderstorm. It's hard to realize now, but this lush-looking valley in the center of the country was the site of extreme drought a few months ago. And a fact that may be even harder to comprehend is that Ansokia is just as needy now as it was during the drought. Until the next harvest, the valley has green famine.

World Vision has been here nearly a year supplying emergency food. But a





new task lies ahead: helping the people get back on their feet so they can grow their own food again.

One year ago, only a scattering of trees were green. In this flat valley edged by sharply rising mountains, everything else was brown with drought. People were digging for water where the swamp had been. The swamp had dried up for the first time in memory, says a local farmer, Kebed Makonen, 35. People were having to eat weeds.

Life had never before been so hard

here. Even Ethiopia's severe 1974 drought never touched this valley. But the most recent drought devastated families such as Kebed's who survive from harvest to harvest. Kebed's children no longer went to school. Besides not having money for books, the youngsters were too weak from hunger to make the journey or study.

Thanks to supporters of World Vision, Kebed's family has survived to see the rains. "My children are at the nutrition center. And our family is given flour," he says. "I give thanks to World Vision."

But these people need more than emergency food. Ansokia project manager Mulugeta Habte explains, "The people have no source of income or food until the harvest. Even if they gain back their weight at the nutrition center, if we do not continue to provide them with food after they leave there, they return needing super-intensive care. We have seen this

happen. They need something more—and not just a handout."

World Vision workers in Ansokia, all Ethiopians, describe the valley's people as "very clever, hard workers." What they need are the resources to start their lives over again. Mulugeta says, "These people know how to farm." He taps his forehead and adds, "Everything's already 'up there' to some extent, but it's a matter of putting things together."

Help first came to Ansokia in October 1984 when World Vision started emergency feeding. Up to 20

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## **The valley's people need more than emergency food.**

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Men in the food-for-work program hit water at 1.5 yards while digging a six-yard well for the demonstration field. A pump draws the water out as they dig.





people a day had been dying. The situation is now under control, but the needs—and help—continue.

And there have been obstacles. World Vision was able to truck food to this remote valley for distribution until the rains returned in March. Then the road, which crosses a riverbed, became impassable.

"By the end of April we had almost come to the end of our supplies," says Mulugeta. "We came up with the idea of using pack animals." And so, almost daily, a caravan of camels brought in food from nine miles away until the warehouses were full again. With World Vision's help, a bridge has now been built over the river so that food can once again be trucked into the valley.

Further help is coming to the

**L**and that was mainly used for grazing is now being broken for farming by a tractor-pulled plow.

Hussen Hassen receives his food-for-work pay—two kilos of wheat flour—for helping to hoe the World Vision demonstration field's vegetable bed. Hussen's wife and two children stay at the nutrition center while he works.



A tractor-pulled plow has broken up the land at the Ansokia demonstration farm site for the first time. Until now, much of this land was used only for grazing.



A mother and her child wait for food at Ansokia's nutrition-health center.



people. Many of them lost oxen in the drought. World Vision has given them hand tools for now and plans to help restock their herds. And every farmer in the valley—representing some 620 families—has been given seed.

One of the farmers, Aragaw Mndaye, 55, says, "Without this aid, we would have no seed to plant." World Vision has also helped three of Mndaye's six children gain back their weight at the nutrition center. Now the family is receiving World Vision rations to take to their home.

There are other dreams for the

valley besides tools and seed. World Vision is bringing the village a water system and a major agricultural project. The plan is to build an irrigation system and a 100-hectare demonstration farm to teach intensive farming and field-test a variety of crops—some new to the valley, some new to Ethiopia itself. Field workers are also considering experimenting with rice—something foreign to the area—as a possible crop for the Ansokia valley's low-lying swamplands.

Land that was used mainly for grazing is now being broken for farming

**"Without this aid, we would have no seed to plant."**

by a tractor-pulled plow. Daily, men come to the fields in a food-for-work program. They help work the land and learn farming techniques.

At 5 p.m. the workers gather in the village to collect their pay: two kilos of wheat flour each. The flour is better than money; there's no food in the marketplace.

The "food-for-work" women who spend the day clearing rocks from a

field divide up their shares of the sack of World Vision flour. The men do the same in their groups. The food has made the village quite a different sight from a year ago. A worker said, "You should come back in a year to see the difference *then*."

Sitting in his office next to the warehouse where flour is stored, Mulugeta notes that the really big changes are going to take time. "Changing people's attitudes is the hardest part of the job," he says. The tasks ahead include teaching such things as building latrines, persuading people "to stop cutting down trees as if they were enemies," and helping farmers improve their methods—such as planting corn in rows instead of scattering seeds.

Mulugeta says some important changes have already taken place.

He looks out his window to the valley floor and sees a patchwork of farms where there were only weeds a year ago. The children who used to be skinny and weak now play around the nutrition center. The death rate was more than 20 per day a year ago, but now a week passes without a death.

Thinking about the changes in Ansokia and the big plans for the future, Mulugeta looks out again across the valley, smiles, and says, "It makes me happy." □

*Mary Peterson is a freelance writer who lives in North Hollywood, California.*



A man in the World Vision food-for-work program pauses to have his picture taken.



World Vision is testing rice in Ansokia as a potential new crop in the valley's swampland.



Working amid the  
suffering in Ethiopia

## A SECOND LOOK

by Diana Stuhr

**M**y thoughts were drifting homeward, when suddenly I was jarred back to the reality of my present circumstances as Jemal vomited into the rag his father held. To my left, Asnaku was having diarrhea on her mother's skirt. And these were only two of the waiting family groups!

Pausing for a moment in my duties as a nurse and nutritionist at World Vision's nutrition-health center in Lalibela, Ethiopia, I thought, "Lord, I cannot bear this. How can I work in this place of suffering, with suffocating smells, starving children and so many flies?"

I swallowed hard and remembered what I had read that morning from His Word in Isaiah 42:3-4: "A bruised reed He will not break, and a dimly burning wick He will not extinguish. He will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not be disheartened or crushed, until He has established justice in the earth."

In my heart I cried, "Oh Lord, I feel like a bruised reed and a dimly burning wick. I feel disheartened and crushed. What is justice for these people?"

I sensed His reply and felt the promise, the reality, the comfort of His words. "I am the Lord. I have called you in righteousness. I will also hold you by the hand and watch over you" (Isaiah 42:6a).

When we say yes to God, whatever He asks, wherever He leads, there is no end to joy or strength. He has promised. I looked again at my surroundings.

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*Diana Stuhr of Portland, Oregon, is a nurse and nutritionist diagnosing and treating patients at World Vision's nutrition-health center in Lalibela, Ethiopia.*



Jemal (center) with his father and sister. The father wears a misfit coat over his tattered clothing.



Diana Stuhr

Jemal is only four years old. His mother is dead. His father has tuberculosis of the spine, walks with a limp and is unable to do heavy labor. They are dressed in rags. I held back tears as I watched this father gently wipe his son's face and slowly lower the boy's weary head to the floor. I'm learning, since coming to Ethiopia, that I often need to look a second time at my circumstances and surroundings as I feel the pressure of His hand in mine.

Glancing through my prayer book, I am struck by the number of times I've prayed over a situation completely out of my control, then waited and waited and waited. No solution. No answer. We love to hear our Savior say yes, and we accept that there are times when He must say no, but to wait . . . it is difficult to wait.

I'm learning also, to say with the psalmist, "Besides Thee, I desire nothing on earth." I am learning to

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## How can I work in this place of suffering, with suffocating smells, starving children and so many flies?

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come to the Lord not to make a request, not to discuss a problem, not to say thank you, but only to love Him.

Recently in an outpatient clinic, I met a young woman carrying an infant born the night before. She had walked three miles to come to us. Upon examination, we found the child to be healthy, but the umbilical cord had not been tied off, only cut. There was no evidence of blood loss at all.

"How can this be?" I exclaimed. My Ethiopian co-worker said without hesitation, "It is the work of God."

Last week we stitched a person's badly cut heel, having to tie off three severed arteries in the process. It was a difficult procedure and lacked greatly in sterility. We worried about infection. But as the days passed, the wound healed. We marveled: the work of God.

Since coming to Ethiopia, I'm seeing anew how great our God is. A God of miracles today? Yes, a thousand times yes. Do you believe He can do greater things than we could ask or think? He says He can. I know He does. □

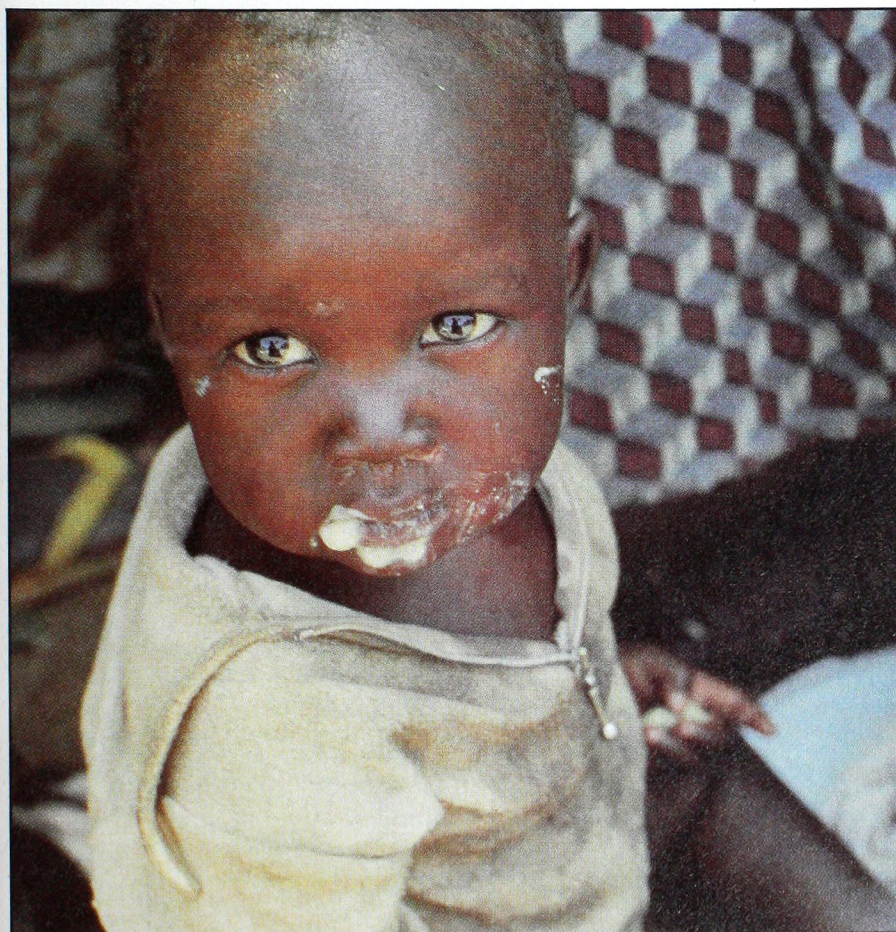


Faithful caring restores health and hope

# THE CHALLENGE OF CHAD

by Fred Messick

(right) American nutritionist Sharon Gonzales (center) helps villagers prepare "bouillie" porridge at a nutrition-health center. (below) A youngster pauses midway through a bowl of porridge.



**F**or generations, survival in Chad has been difficult. Recently, however, food and water shortages, combined with political and civil conflict, diseases, and extreme poverty have escalated the struggle between life and death.

Landlocked in north-central Africa, Chad has two geographic regions. In the north, the desert area including the Sahel is the inhospitable home of scattered groups of Arabs whose nomadic lifestyle reflects their ever-present concern with food and water.

Traditionally, Chad's greatest hope has been in the south. Fertile lands and abundant rains have made this area south of the Chari River the country's breadbasket, capable of growing enough millet, sorghum and other crops to feed most of the nation's five million people. Many of the fields are also planted in cotton, Chad's primary export crop and source of income.

In recent years, however, the landscape in the south has changed dramatically. The once-abundant rains became increasingly unreliable and infrequent. Lush vegetation disappeared,

crops withered, and lean harvests served as frustrating reminders that the margin of life was narrowing.

Fortunately, rains have returned to southern Chad, at least in the short-



Fred Messick



term. Yet food shortages continue because of a lack of seeds and tools. Many farmers "en brousse"—in the bush—have been weakened by the famine and are unable to return to work in their fields.

Government and relief organizations are trying to help. That help fails to reach many people in need, however. In the troubled south, food distribution is hampered by poor roads and security problems, including attacks by rebel groups known as "codos," some of whom are motivated by loyalty to the previous government, while others are simply bandits and thieves.

In this environment, World Vision has made a commitment to provide food for those most affected by famine: severely malnourished infants, children, mothers and the elderly.

World Vision nutrition-health

specialists Michael Finley and Sharon Gonzales are providing help in the Moundou area of southwest Chad. In their first two months of operation, Michael and Sharon have conducted nutrition-need surveys in 49 villages in the Krim-Krim region, measuring arm circumference, and checking the height/weight ratio and overall health of more than 3000 children. According to these tests, as many as one-fourth of the children are severely malnourished. Even more are suffering from malaria and other diseases.

During my recent visit to Moundou I saw the opening of the first of six nutrition-health centers. The first step in this effort—as in all of our community work in Chad—was to meet with the village chief and his elders. As they gave us a gracious welcome, people from huts throughout the villages rounded up enough chairs for our meeting. Then, as we sat together in the shade of a tree by the chief's hut, Michael and Sharon explained the goals of the project and asked for villagers' support and participation. Later that day Michael told me, "We are committed to building relationships of mutual trust wherever we go. We feel honored that village chiefs welcome us to work with them in their villages. We are not simply helping them; they are also helping us learn new lessons about friendship and community."

During the course of my visit in the south, I watched Sharon train village women to operate the center and, specifically, to prepare a high protein mixture called "bouillie"—made up of corn-soy-milk powder, cooking oil, sugar, and boiled water. That first day, approximately 100 severely malnourished infants were fed.

It was anticipated that each center, furnished with enough "bouillie"

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**"We are not simply helping them; they are also helping us."**

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mixture to last until December harvests, would eventually provide a daily meal for as many as 300 village children and others in desperate need of food. Now, as we continue our commitment to needy villagers, we are looking ahead to rehabilitation and development efforts to help move people even closer to good health.

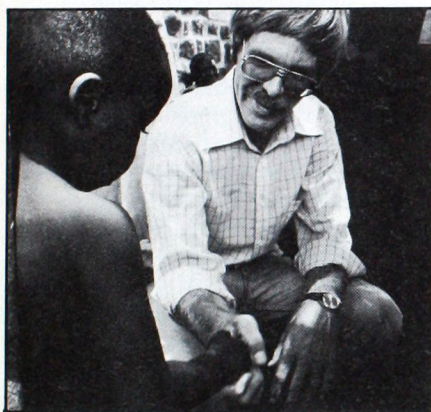
In the villages we work alongside local Christians such as Alphonse Natibe, a Chadian nurse who has lived in Krim-Krim for seven years. Alphonse, a key person in the operation of the nutrition-health centers, told me about the local needs. As the only medical worker in the area, he sees 2500 patients a week.

Many of the Krim-Krim people, says Alphonse, suffer from malaria and other effects of unhealthful water and poor sanitation. Frustratingly, he never has enough medicine to treat all those who need help. Yet he remains motivated to serve. "It's the Christian life for me to follow the word of God, to be faithful to God, to care for people physically and spiritually."

In Chad I saw a country beset by a multitude of problems. Yet I saw evidence of new rains, prospects for a better harvest, and a commitment from the World Vision partnership to care and to help. I saw in many of the villages—and in the faces of villagers themselves—hopeful signs of a healthier future. □

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*Fred Messick is a member of World Vision's communication resources staff.*



(above)  
American  
nutritionist Mike  
Finley shakes the  
hand of a young  
child he has just  
weighed and  
measured. (right)  
A mother waits  
patiently for  
food for her  
severely mal-  
nourished child.





# Samaritan sampler

SOME WAYS PEOPLE ARE HELPING  
OTHERS IN THE NAME OF CHRIST



Zambia's President Kaunda shakes hands with MCCer Ruth Thiessen at Appropriate Technology Fair in Lusaka.

**An Appropriate Technology Fair** organized by Mennonite Central Committee workers in Lusaka, Zambia, displayed low-cost items made largely of locally available materials. A reflector oven, rope and washer pump, solar food dryers, brick and mud stoves and a cooking box insulated with hay were some of the aids designed for daily-life use. Other displays included weaving, spinning and a small printing press on which a local co-op produces a magazine using block printing. For information write Mennonite Central Committee, 21 S. 12th St., Akron, PA 17501.

**Worldwide opportunities for Christian service** are listed by the Interdenominational Foreign Mission Association (IFMA). Their roster of more than 65 member missions includes such well-known organizations as the Africa Inland Mission, Far East Broadcasting Company, Overseas Missionary Fellowship and U.S. Center for World Mission. For information write Interdenominational Foreign Mission Association, Box 395, Wheaton, IL 60189-0395.

**A new publication from the Navigators** is designed to help people become effective small group leaders. *The Small Group Letter* speaks to those

who want to conduct lively, thought-provoking, spiritually dynamic small group meetings; to lead others in applying more of God's Word to their lives, and to understand and help those who are hurting. Charter subscriptions (10 issues a year) are \$17. Write *The Small Group Letter*, Subscription Services, P.O. Box 1164, Dover, NJ 07801.

**Maintaining a positive Christian influence** on the nation's public schools is a central purpose of Christian Educators Association International. CEAI offers educators the opportunity to support each other in prayer and fellowship, to better inform churches of specific needs and to share helpful insights. Christians who are public educators are invited both to become part of CEAI and to register for Holiday '85, a year end conference and celebration combined, in Pasadena, California. For information contact CEAI, Box 50025, Pasadena, CA 91105; (818) 798-1124.

**Solo, a magazine for singles**, has been phased out and replaced by *Spirit!*, a new magazine aimed at young Christian adults. *Spirit!* does not focus on marital status, but on an age group and lifestyle. For information write Jerry Jones, Box 1231, Sisters, OR 97759.

**Reaching street kids** in an area that is a magnet for runaways is a primary focus for Centrum of Hollywood, a ministry of Youth With a Mission (YWAM). Now in its ninth year, Centrum is seeking to expand its ministry with a Scripture distribution campaign, an annual evangelism sweep ("S.O.S. Hollywood"), and an increased emphasis on year-round "friendship evangelism" that includes taking the initiative in offering practical help to street people. Two current needs are crucial: first, a large home to provide crisis shelter for more than eight individuals (the present housing capacity); second, funding, establishing and staffing a crisis pregnancy center for young girls who now see abortion as their only option. For information contact Centrum of Hollywood, P.O. Box 29069, Hollywood, CA 90029; (213) 463-5576.

**Lively, well-told accounts** of what some "grass roots Christians seeking social justice" are accomplishing, make encouraging, idea-generating reading in *Salt* magazine. Approaching problems from an individual perspective, *Salt* "offers suggestions for small, incremental changes . . . in readers' way of life." Visiting prisoners, tutoring inner-city kids—and being a family peacemaker—are some of the challenges undertaken, Published by the Claretian Fathers and Brothers at \$10/yr. Write: *Salt* 221 W. Madison, Chicago, IL 60606.

**A multicultural ministry** of a different kind keeps InterVarsity staff worker Meri McLeod constantly working with new groups of students.

The American Graduate School of International Management (AGSIM) near Phoenix, Arizona, offers a high-intensity one-year program in international management. One-third of the students are from foreign countries and most of the American students have already either studied or worked overseas and are largely bi- or trilingual. Members of the I-V chapter at AGSIM are strongly involved in evangelism and in applying Christian faith and lifestyle to their chosen careers. One of the most exciting aspects of working with AGSIM students, says Meri, is their potential for influencing people in many parts of the world.

**Southeast Asian refugees** have received a warm welcome from the Church of the Nazarene. The denomination now has 111 churches involved in ministry to these new residents and a full-time national consultant for Southeast Asians, Mrs. Nancy Clark. In addition to the usual helping services provided for Asian refugees, an active church-planting ministry is carried on. Newly established is a Cambodian church in Columbus, Ohio, home of an estimated 4000 Cambodians. Many of those on the church-planting team were Cambodians themselves, some from churches planted as recently as two years ago. The Columbus church was the 27th Southeast Asian church that Nancy Clark and her team have been instrumental in planting.



"Trying to hold the camera, I just started crying."

## BEHIND THE LENS WITH WORLD VISION'S FILM CREW

by Steve Woodworth

**H**ow do we capture on television the desperate plight of famine victims in Ethiopia? I was about to find out, as I arrived in Ethiopia for my first tour with the World Vision film crew. My assignment was to assist them by arranging transportation, obtaining the necessary government permits, and taking care of general logistics arrangements.

Having been to Ethiopia before, I knew how difficult it would be to get all the filming accomplished in just one week. I knew I had to shake off the foggiest of jet lag and jump right in to arduous 12-hour days of work.

The day after I arrived, the crew came in, looking dead tired. They had flown straight from Los Angeles to Rome, slept a few hours and boarded a plane to Ethiopia—a 36-hour trip. "These guys all have jobs in Hollywood," I thought. "Why do they do this?"

Heading up the World Vision film crew are Richard Davies and Rick Robertson, who have filmed all of World Vision's television programs for the past eight years. Both are freelance professionals who have shot everything from PBS documentaries to the Olympics.

It didn't take long to find out why they commit several months a year from their busy schedules. "I recently did a rock video," said cameraman Rick Robertson. "It was interesting creatively, but it's ultimately meaningless. This is worthwhile. As a Christian, I want to do something meaningful with my talents."

Richard Davies, the director of the specials, said, "I don't know why I was

always drawn to do the World Vision specials. I guess it was as though God was using World Vision—pointing to World Vision staff and telling me, 'Watch these people.' I developed some close friendships with World Vision people around the world and found out later they were all praying for me. I know World Vision was instrumental in my coming to the Lord. Now I have a deeper reason to work on these specials. Now it's something I do because of my Christian commitment."

I asked them whether they had ever had particularly trying or anxious times on previous trips. Richard immediately remembered a time in Kenya. "We heard shooting up the road as we drove into a village, then saw bodies by the roadside. A group of bandits had just raided the villagers' cattle, gunning down the owners. It was an awful sight."



Director Richard Davies makes friends during a break in the shooting of "Tears of Famine" at Ajibar.



Rick remembered a time in El Salvador when they heard gunfire, and later, a bomb exploding across the street from their hotel. "It was so tense," Richard said, "that the press were all wearing T-shirts saying 'Don't shoot me, I'm a newsman.'"

"I've never really felt in danger, though," he added. "I've always felt the Lord's hand protecting us. I've felt more nervous filming in downtown Los Angeles!"

I accompanied the crew to the World Vision nutrition-health center in Ajibar. We were up before 5:30 so we could film outside the center as the sun rose. Hundreds of severely malnourished children and their parents were huddled together on the ground, in the open, trying to stay alive in the 40-degree temperatures. That morning, as one family woke up next to where we were filming, they discovered one of their children had died during the night. The mother began to wail.

Later, I asked, "How do you guys handle things like that? How can you keep on coming back?"

"The first time I went overseas," Richard replied, "I was shocked. No one had ever told me there were places in the world like this. I was angry. Now I know they are real. And the misery and death won't go away

*Steve Woodworth is director of television and pledge programs for World Vision.*





The crew poses for a shot in front of one of World Vision's Twin Otters at the Addis Ababa airport. They are, from left to right: photographer Rick Robertson; logistics manager Steve Green; author Steve Woodworth; director Richard Davies; WVUS staff member Tricia Woodworth, and producer Maura Rountree.

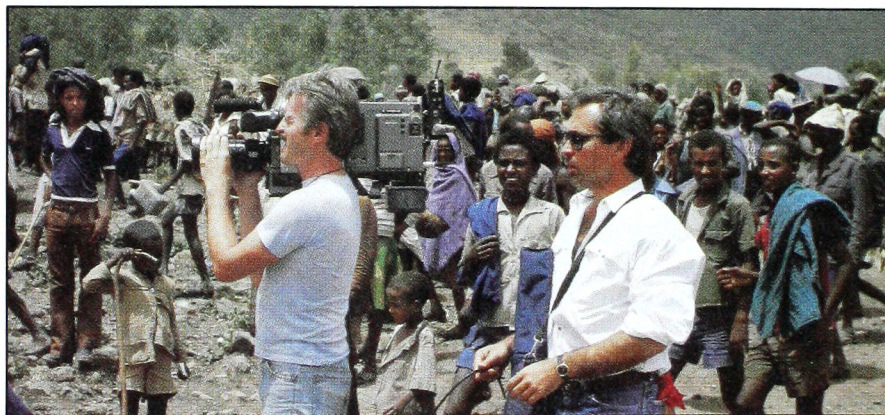
**"I am always striving to do a better job of showing what the situation is like."**

unless people back home do something. My job is to try to document the realities in a way that will make people want to give. I am always striving to do a better job of showing what the situation is like, and I get great satisfaction when a show raises a lot of money."

Rick's feelings were similar. "A few years ago, I hadn't seen anyone die," he said. "I had only seen poverty. But last fall, when we were in Ethiopia, death was everywhere. In one camp we were in, 25 to 50 people were dying every night. The first morning, we walked into the camp at dawn. Thirty corpses were laid out in a tent, being washed and wrapped in grain sacks. Most were children."

"A mother came into the tent while we were filming and saw her baby lying dead. She was so grieved, she began to pull her own hair out. I was trying to hold the camera, but I just started crying. I couldn't stop."

"This time, I'm encouraged. People are still dying, but nowhere near so many. We're seeing the trucks rolling in. The food is getting here. Our last TV special raised a lot of money, and I'm seeing now that the money has gotten here to help the people. And on this trip, I've met two nurses in the World Vision camps who said they



Rick Robertson and Steve Green film the early-morning line-up outside World Vision's nutrition-health center at Ajibar.

were here because they saw one of our TV specials. That makes it all worthwhile."

Today, back home in California, I spoke to Richard on the phone. It was the first time we had spoken since the trip. After the Ethiopia filming I had come home to California, and the crew had gone to Sudan to continue filming there. "I heard you had some problems in Sudan," I said.

"We were stranded for five days!" he chuckled. "We had heavy rains, dust storms and a strike at the main airport. For the first three days we had no idea what was happening. Day after day we waited but no plane came."

"We heard there was a town about seven hours away by truck, and that it had a better airstrip. After driving there and waiting another two days, a plane finally came. We got within five minutes of Khartoum and there was a huge dust storm, so we had to fly back to a nearby sugar plantation. When we finally got into town, there was talk of another strike, so we got right on the next flight to Europe—after almost a week with no shower."

By the tone of Richard's laughter as he told the story, I could tell it had not been funny at the time. "Are you still going to go on the next film trip?" I asked.

"Of course!" he said. □



## Mini-message

### THE GREAT GIFT EXCHANGE

**Not only at His birth** but throughout all 33 years of His life on earth, Jesus Christ was more than sinless; He was—and is—The Righteous One. Yet He demonstrated unmistakably that His birth, His life on earth, His death, His resurrection, His ascension—all were for the sake of sinners.

Months before His birth, an angel told Joseph that His name was to be *Jesus because He was to save His people from their sins.*

Before He began His public ministry, His cousin John referred to Him as one "the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie." Then, when Jesus came walking toward him and his listeners, John exclaimed, "Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29).

Although Jesus, like John, warned that sin spells death and that sincere repentance is required, He bore the best of news to penitent believers. "God so loved the world," He declared,



In the film *Jesus*, listeners contemplate our Lord's words.

"that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

That message, meant for all humankind in every generation, is clearly meant for you and me today. The Son born in Bethlehem, who grew up in Nazareth, walked and taught in Judea, Samaria and Galilee, then died at Golgotha just outside Jerusalem but rose again, appeared to many and ascended to the Father in heaven, now continues to offer Himself to you, contingent only on your opening your heart to receive Him through repentance and the kind of faith that says sincerely, "I give myself to You, Lord Jesus."

If you've experienced that gift exchange with Him, you know the delight of complete forgiveness and fellowship with the Son. If you've *not* experienced that gift exchange, today is not too soon. Read, openheartedly, the Gospel of John. Respond to the One of whom it tells. For, as its author says, "These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (John 20:31). □

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

## Is God calling you...

to work where your efforts will be directly related to saving lives and spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ? Consider these opportunities for service. If you think you may qualify for one of these positions, send your resume to World Vision International, Human Resources, 919 W. Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016.

### Latin America Field Development Office Facilitators

Six facilitators needed with technical expertise in health care, agriculture, non-formal education, evangelism or development. Requires M.A. or equivalent experience in one of the technical fields listed; five years experience doing development projects, preferably in the Two-Thirds World; good verbal and written skills; written and spoken fluency in Spanish. Involves 40% travel. *Contact: Mel Loucks, Overseas Employment Coordinator.*

### Facilities Manager

To support the work within the World Vision International office in California

by supplying to the staff effective, well-maintained work environments, furniture, equipment and communication tools. Will develop five-year plan for facilities management, prepare and monitor department and facilities services budget, forecast and plan for short-term space requirements, and act as primary communicator to WVI employees regarding facilities issues. Requires knowledge of systems furniture products, construction practices, planning, scheduling and project management techniques as well as familiarity with accounting and purchasing methods and procedures. *Contact: Kent Stock, Employment Supervisor.*

### Africa Short-Term Contract Positions

Positions in West Africa, Chad, Sudan and Ethiopia require appropriate qualifications and experience including previous Two-Thirds World experience. French language required for Chad/West Africa positions. Must be flexible and adaptable to a variety of living conditions. Six month minimum contract required.

Logisticians  
Project managers  
Nutritionists  
Public health nurses

Agriculturalists  
Mechanics  
Medical doctors  
Water sanitation engineers

*Contact: Karin Hubby, World Vision U.S.*



## I MUST TELL WHAT I SEE

**Try to feel it** as you read.

A just-opened nutrition center sits on a piece of almost barren ground in Sudan. In three weeks, 3000 people have crowded in; hundreds more arrive each day.

A few scraggly bushes dot the plain but offer no relief from the 105-degree heat. The overpowering odor of sickness permeates the atmosphere; flies constantly light on everything.

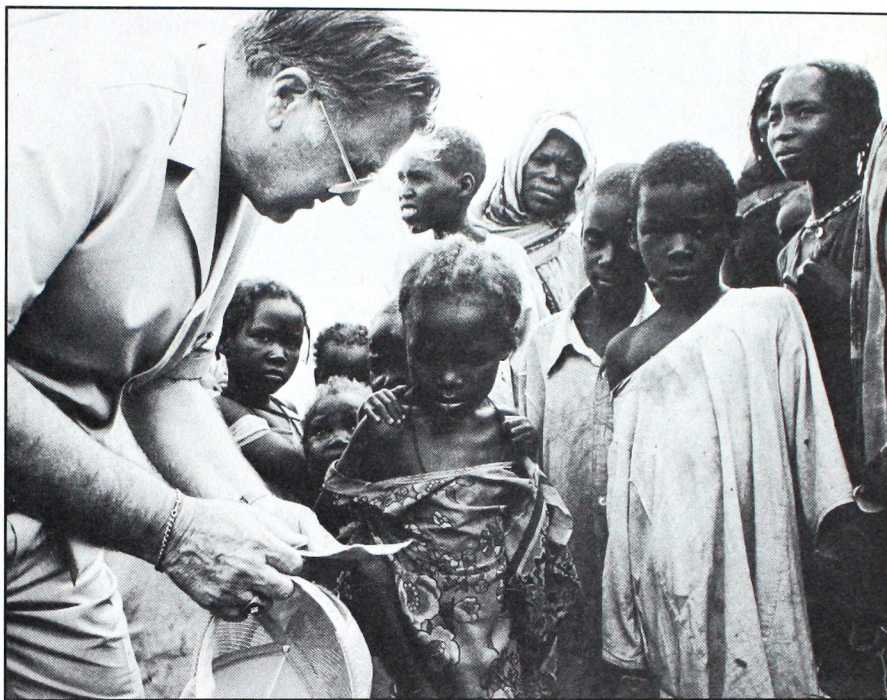
I stop to talk to a family of nine that has just arrived. They have no money, no bedding, no pots or pans or suitcases or tent. Nothing! Only the ragged clothes they wear.

I learn this as I talk to the grandfather who has five grandchildren. I tell him that I'm also a grandfather with five grandchildren. I want him to know that I hurt for him, but I recognize that I can't even begin to feel the pain he feels. Nor, I suppose, can he imagine the frustration I feel because I can't do more for him.

It's true, of course, that his family might have died had World Vision workers not been there. The old man and his family had walked all the way from Chad—who knows how many miles—looking for food. Word of nutrition centers spreads quickly throughout drought-stricken nations.

My senses soak it all up; I don't want to lose this sense of urgency when I get back home. I rehearse these painful images to fix them in my own mind, as well as to impress them on the minds and hearts of others. I have to do that.

When I see the workers in the nutrition centers—doctors, nurses, technicians, truck drivers and others—I



Dr. Engstrom in Sudan last summer

**"Faith is only real when there is obedience."**

think, God has called them to their tasks; He'll give them the strength to do them. And God has called me to witness such grim disasters in Sudan, Ethiopia, Lebanon and elsewhere. He has told me to tell what I see as forcefully and effectively as I can.

Similarly, I believe, He has called others—perhaps you—to respond in

certain ways: to pray, to support, to spread the word, perhaps even to serve more directly.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, "Faith is only real when there is obedience, never without it, and faith only becomes faith in the act of obedience." He's right about that. And that's why I write so much about what I've experienced. I hope you can feel it!

*Ted W. Engstrom*  
Ted W. Engstrom  
President



# HOW HELPING A POOR CHILD WILL ENRICH YOUR LIFE



You feel many things when a child suffers in desperate poverty.

Pity. Compassion. Frustration. Sadness.

But perhaps you've never considered how helping one poor girl or boy through World Vision's sponsorship program can enrich your life.

**It's beautifully simple.**

You see a child's poverty. You help him or her rise above it. Then you feel that child's love... and you sense a new gratitude for the abundance God has given you.

**This refreshing alternative to today's growing materialism** is an experience that has been shared by thousands of compassionate people since World Vision began Childcare Sponsorship thirty-five years ago.

And now you can become a sponsor, too.

Your monthly gifts will give one child an opportunity to know the love of Christ—as well as regular nutritious meals and medical care, carefully administered by dedicated Christian workers.

You will receive a photo and background information on your child. You will also receive progress reports so you can be assured that your gifts are making a difference.

**And, best of all, you don't have to be materially rich** to sponsor a child through World Vision.

Only 65 cents a day—\$20 a month—gives a child perhaps the only hope he or she will ever have of escaping a life of deprivation and poverty.

To become a World Vision Childcare Sponsor, simply complete and mail the coupon below.

There's no need to send any money now. Instead, you'll receive a packet of information about the child who needs your love and care.

Then, if you decide to become a sponsor, keep the packet and mail your first sponsorship payment of \$20. If not, return the material within ten days and owe nothing.

Please act today. Thousands of poor children are waiting.

**By helping one, you'll enrich two lives.**



## WORLD VISION

Helping People Care

☐ Please send me information and a photograph today of a child who needs my help.

(I understand that if I decide to become a World Vision Childcare Sponsor, I'll send my first \$20 payment within ten days. If not, I'll return the materials so someone else can help.)

SII

☐ I prefer to make my first payment immediately. I enclose \$20.

☐ I can't sponsor a child right now, but would like to contribute \$\_\_\_\_\_

1000

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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December '85-January '86

# World Vision®

A camel caravan in Sudan transports desperately needed grain to villagers in the Engesina Hills.



**Beyond  
Santa's  
Route**

**SUDAN REPORT**



# Readers write

## Self-help

I was glad to learn of the long-range plans World Vision has for educating the people to help themselves in the future. That is surely what is needed over the long haul.

Lois E. Marine  
Englewood, FL

## How one church reaches out to internationals

Our church (First Covenant) agrees that we must make Christ known to internationals in our community. For two years we have conducted an outreach program to our college community which includes international students. We call it "Adopt a College Student." What happens is that a family of our congregation "adopts" a student for the school year and makes that person a part of their family life. This may include some meals, family outings, having the student cook an international dish for the family, etc. It has been highly successful for both the family and the students.

Tom Miller  
River Falls, WI

## Gratitude in Mali

As Proverbs 17:17 says (in French): "*L'ami aime de tout temps, et dans le malheur il se montre un frère.*" Literally: "The friend loves at all times, and in times of misfortune he proves to be a brother."

We Malian Christians are very grateful to our Christian brothers and sisters all over the world who have been moved by our suffering and have given their time, money and themselves to save thousands of lives from starvation and cruel suffering.

More than that, the Lord has mightily used this Christian love expression, particularly in the southern part of the country, to draw to Himself hundreds of souls that are now members of His Kingdom. Many Christian missions and organizations have contributed to that, and World Vision is certainly not behind in this achievement.

In the Beledugu area a needy non-Christian who was freely given about 50 kilograms of rice said: "If this is how Christians love those they do not even know, then this is enough to believe in their God."

Indeed, the news of the food assistance given by the churches has spread all over the country and made Christianity come almost suddenly out of the shadow of ignorance. Now many villages that were

closed to the gospel are sending delegations to the churches to ask for a messenger to go preach the gospel to them.

Last Saturday the church I attend received such an invitation from a village 80 kilometers from Bamako where there were only four Christians. Thirteen people were announced to be ready for a decision for Christ. When the evangelistic service was over, an additional 13 people had accepted the Lord. You may not realize what that means for a 90% Muslim country.

The radio and TV programs that I have the privilege of leading for the churches by His grace, contribute very much to this spiritual movement. Many pastors are overwhelmed with discipleship work.

A critic may say that there are "rice Christians" among such converts. Sure, but most of them would not give an ear to the gospel outside a crisis context. Now they know Jesus and are responsible for their decision.

In this time of sorrow you have proved to be more than friends, to be real brothers and sisters in Christ. We in turn express our gratitude to you in Christ. May the Lord continue to bless you profusely in His service.

Daniel Coulibaly  
Bamako, Mali, West Africa

## Teenager knows what it's like

Our adopted daughter Ailise, who regularly sends her contributions to World Vision, is a high school student who earns about \$50 a week in her part-time job at McDonald's. All the donations are completely her own. Alice came to us from the streets of Seoul, Korea, when she was 5½ years old, along with her twin sister who was quadriplegic from polio. Ailise was the caretaker of the two, rummaging in the trash and begging to support the two of them. Perhaps this is why she is so generous with her meager earnings.

Jayne Hoge  
Duluth, GA

## Teen volunteer

I'm writing to you about the Counter-Top volunteers story in your August/September issue. I was a contributor to World Vision but because of family problems I thought I would no longer be able to give—until I read the story about Mrs. Darlene Newton. She raises money for your work by putting Counter-Top displays in stores and restaurants. I am willing to do the same to help people of all ages who are hungry.

I'm a teen and I'm willing to fight for others so they too may live. Please send me information about how I can become a Counter-Top volunteer.

Heather Hudson  
Paradise, CA

## New perspective

I just wanted to say how sorry I am for thinking you just wanted money all the time. I read, for the first time, WORLD VISION magazine all the way through. I was impressed, shocked and mostly ashamed.

God has been so kind to me and my family and I have been feeling sorry for myself, but no more.

I pledge my \$16 a month to help a child. Please forgive me.

Name withheld

## Called to city ministry

A page in John Maust's book *Cities of Change* carries the following poem by George MacDonald, which expresses the experience of many missionaries and national pastors who serve in Latin America's congested cities:

I said, "Let me walk in the field."

God said, "Nay, walk in the town."

I said, "There are no flowers there."

He said, "No flowers, but a crown."

I said, "But the sky is black,

There is nothing but noise and din."

But He wept as He sent me back,

"There is more," He said, "there is sin."

I said, "But the air is thick,

And fogs are veiling the sun."

He answered, "Yet souls are sick,

And souls in the dark undone."

I said, "I shall miss the light,

And friends will miss me, they say."

He answered me, "Choose tonight

If I am to miss you, or they."

I pleaded for time to be given.

He said, "Is it hard to decide?

It will not seem hard in Heaven

To have followed the steps of your Guide."

I cast one look at the fields,

then set my face to the town.

He said, "My child, do you yield?

Will you leave the flowers for the crown?"

Then into His hand went mine,

And into my heart came He;

And I walk in a light Divine,

The path I had feared to see. □



# World Vision®



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## BEYOND SANTA'S USUAL ROUTE

**With so many big deliveries** to make on certain other continents, well-meaning Santa tends to miss most of the children in Africa.

"Oh, well," the plump old gent usually says sleepily to his reindeer when he unhitches them each year, "Grain hauling isn't really my bag anyway."

Yet in the dreams of children in Sudan and Ethiopia floats an image of neither a talking doll nor a Complete Package of the Hardware and Software Needed for New Computer Games, but of a bowl of almost anything to eat.

How fortunate, then, that within the vast region that Santa generally overlooks, a few camels now trudge faithfully across hot sand with grain,

some donkeys thread their way with seed and tools, and where the semblance of a road exists, a fleet of heavy-cargo trucks rumbles over rocky terrain with extremely precious gifts of corn, hoes, well-drilling machinery, diarrhea medicine and Good News.

To each big-hearted giver helping make such deliveries possible, *Merry Christmas to all—and to all a good night!*

David Olson

PHOTOS, ILLUSTRATIONS: Cover: Lloyd Ashton, photo, Gary Lett, calligraphy; pp. 4-9: Bruce Brander; p. 11: Sanjay Solwal; pp. 12, 13 (right): Jose Maria Blanch, (left): Armando Vasquez; p. 14: Katherine Walker; pp. 15-17: Mary Peterson; return envelope, pp. 19, 20: Sheryl Walkins; p. 21: Ken Klippenstein; p. 23: Vince Puccio; p. 25: Jacob Akol.



Sudan's famine victims echo . . .

# THE CRY OF THE 'ELEPHANT'S TRUNK'

by Bruce Brander

**L**anding at Khartoum, I could hardly forget that I was entering a stricken country.

One thousand miles south of Cairo, roughly midway up the Nile River, the capital city of Sudan itself signaled the plight of its people. A hot, dusty haze wrapped the skyline. Gritty sand swept along the runway underfoot. Both told of the drought that long had racked the nation, and of a famine of biblical proportions spreading in its wake.

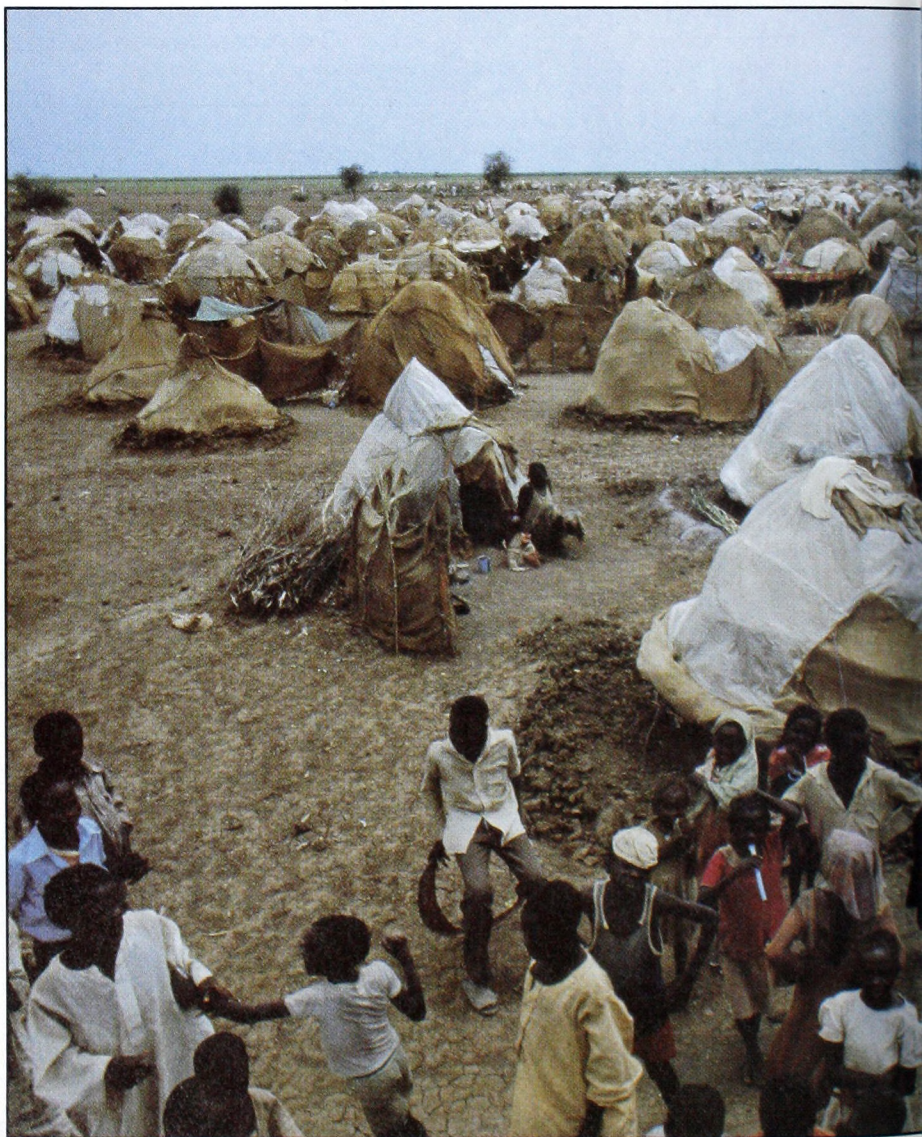
I had been reading of Sudan in scattered news reports, often overshadowed by heavier coverage from neighboring Ethiopia to the east. Africa's largest country, with an area greater than all of Western Europe, Sudan lay parched by drought for three and four and, in some places, ten years in a row. And, as it was all across the Sahel belt of semi-arid land dividing the Sahara Desert from green Africa, withering crops and dying livestock herds left farmers, villagers and nomadic tribes stripped of the barest sustenance.

No country except Ethiopia, in fact, was suffering more from the trans-continental drought. An estimated 8.4 million people—a colossal proportion of Sudan's total population of 22

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*Bruce Brander is an editor for World Vision International Communications.*

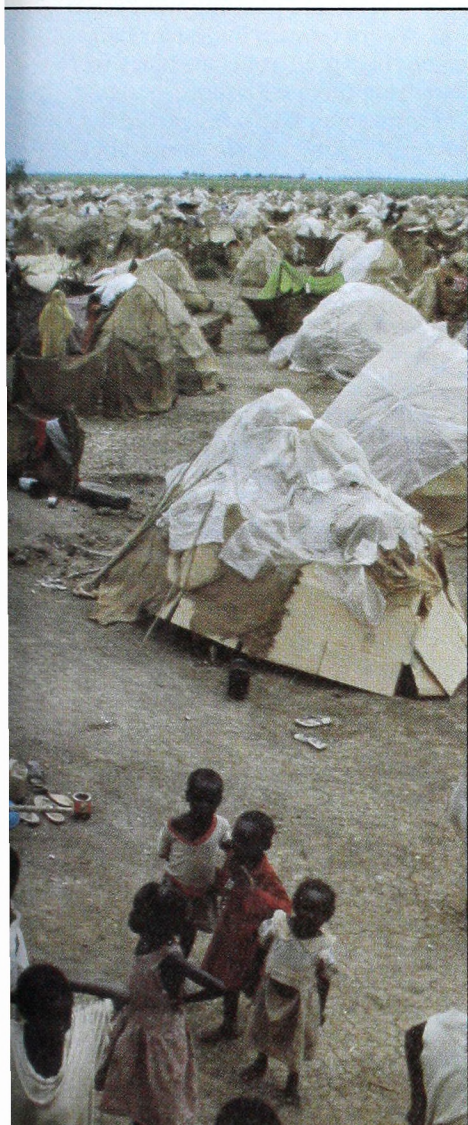
The 7000 refugees—largely Chadian—of Mabi Camp live in makeshift huts of reed matting, rags and plastic sheeting.







(left) Khartoum's Acropole Hotel with its faded empire-days style is popular with relief workers and journalists. (below) At Mobi Camp's medical tent, a Chadian woman is treated for suspected cholera before being hospitalized in Wad Medani.



million—were short of food. The need among many was desperate. Hundreds of thousands—perhaps as many as a million—were scattered throughout the vast and trackless country in various stages of starvation, sickness and dying.

The tragedy had come perilously close to mass annihilation of whole populations. But alert governments

## Young mothers sit on dusty pavements with their babies and plastic cups.

and relief agencies, including World Vision, were intervening in time to prevent that. Massive aid rushed to the anguished land was blocking the impending avalanche of death.

Khartoum looked normal for an Arabic African city. Its bleak concrete airport terminal fluttering with ceiling fans led out to a snarled traffic of hooting cars, donkeys and milling pedestrians. In the past decade alone, the city's population has doubled with a torrent of job-seekers from hundreds of miles around fleeing the drying-up countryside. It now stands at 1.4 million.

The population recently swelled much larger as farmers and herdsmen by the tens of thousands, fallen out of

the economic system, abandoned ancient homelands in the remote western provinces of Darfur and Kordofan to wander through the country in search of work and food. Khartoum became a capital of vagrants begging for their livelihood. The flood of newcomers strained urban resources and spread diseases of the destitute until the government trucked many of the people back into the hinterlands.

Yet even after the dispersion of the starving, I found signs of tragic hunger on city streets. Under the balconies that shade downtown shoppers from blast-furnace heat, young mothers sit on dusty pavements with their babies and plastic or aluminum cups. At a busy corner, an aging man dozes on a reed mat that serves as his only home. Outside my hotel, I ration out Sudanese pound notes to a silently imploring man in a ragged cotton turban, a graceful woman making hand-to-mouth gestures and a boy about 12 with the thinnest legs I've ever seen.

**The Acropole Hotel** is like a scene from a 1930s movie. A sand-colored building rising three stories on the corner of sandy streets, it serves as a hub for relief workers in Sudan.

The Acropole is no place for creature comforts. Guests climb to their rooms on twisting flights of stairs. Baths are down the hall; beds, springless cotton mattresses spread on



boards. A candle waits on each bedstand, since Khartoum sometimes goes without electricity for weeks at a time. And there is nothing to relieve midday temperatures of 115 degrees and more but lattice doors, window shutters and overhead fans reminiscent of empire days.

Khartoum's low skyline squats at the confluence of two of Africa's most storied rivers. The Blue Nile gushes down from the wild mountains of Ethiopia. The White Nile flows from the mid-African countries of Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda. The city's name means "elephant trunk," a shape

## Rain poured down in a summer-long deluge that turned much of the country into mire.

suggested as one river curls into the other for the single Nile's northward journey to Egypt.

Early last summer, as Sudan gasped through the driest of all its recent drought years, the great rivers crept past the city dark and sluggish, lower than anytime since the early 1900s, said some, and since the 1600s, claimed others. By September, both were running higher than most people could recall, flooding islands, drowning tall trees. Rain had returned to the Sahel.

It came as a curse. What everyone here was waiting for, praying for—while 20,000 Sudanese were dying from starvation every month for its lack—poured down in a summer-long deluge that turned much of the country into mire.

By July, relief food was piling up in Port Sudan on the Red Sea, the nation's single major entry point. The United States Agency for International Development, the United Nations World Food Program, World Vision Canada, and other donors from around the globe had filled warehouses and wharves with some 420,000 tons of cereal grains, milk powder, sugar, cooking oil and other commodities. Ships holding more lay offshore waiting for berthing space. Trucks and trains stood ready to carry the precious cargo to the barren and hungry interior.

But the rains paralyzed land transport. The single length of deteriorating rail line penetrating the west fell to pieces: a major bridge collapsed, plunging two locomotives off the tracks into a river, while washouts severed the route in nine other places. The whole of Sudan has only two lengths of paved road. Elsewhere, vehicles usually follow the tire prints of other vehicles, but rain turned most of these truck routes into totally impassable muck.

The European Economic Community responded with an "airbridge" of huge cargo planes from West Germany, Britain, Belgium, Denmark and Italy. But the airlifts of 20 tons per trip could not feed half a nation. Some food shipments were mobbed by desperate crowds of the starving.

Meanwhile, many tales of tragedy had yet to reach Khartoum. Most villages and tribal camps have neither telephones nor radios. Only the overfull rivers racing past the city suggested the extent of rains in distant places and how utterly cut off from help many people remained.

**The road southbound** from Khartoum is good: two lanes of fairly smooth blacktop crossing flat, tan land. In a four-wheel-drive vehicle full of World Vision workers, I sped toward the town of Wad Medani 114 miles distant to visit one of the camps where World Vision serves displaced desert people.

*Sug* lorries—Sudan's market trucks—crowded the outbound highway. The sturdy flatbed vehicles with their desert-wise drivers make up the country's major lifeline for goods and passengers. Pink and green, blue, orange and yellow, decked with curtains around the cabs, the trucks were setting out on journeys of days and weeks into remote hinterlands. At times World Vision has rented *sug* lorries when other transport for food relief was unavailable. For months many of the vehicles had been returning from the backlands full of people fleeing the dying countryside. These environmental migrants still had money for their journeys. Others, crowded on the tops of trains, rode for nothing. Still others walked.

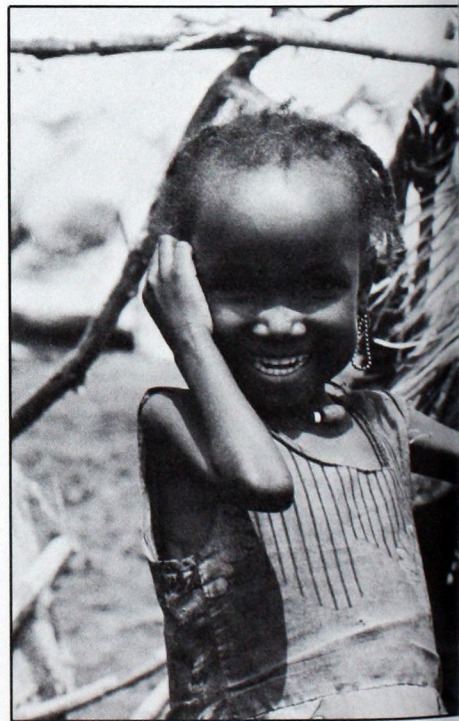
Down the road and to our right sprawled a grand illusionary lake of mirages. Out of that shimmering desert some wanderers came after walking for a thousand miles. They, among some 220,000 migrants, chose Sudan's

Central Region as their final hope.

Here, between the two great rivers, lies an irrigation scheme known as the *Gezira*—the island. Designed by British engineers in 1925, its vast lace-work of canals, ditches and pumps turned the area from a barren land of nomads into a rich alluvial garden. Today, with 2.1 million acres and 96,000 tenant farmers, the Gezira is the world's largest farm. In better times, migrant workers had come from many hundreds of miles away to find seasonal employment here, and oil-rich investors had hoped to make the area a breadbasket for the Arab world. In recent times, the hungry wanderers found no work, no food, even here. The Gezira's parched harvests did not tally up to half enough to feed itself.

Farther on a farmer poked a muddy field with a *seluka* stick, his yellow-robed wife popping seeds into the holes. All over Sudan, I had heard, the land was regaining its promise from recent rains and planting was resuming. Where farmers in despair had eaten their seed, relief agencies were supplying them with more.

"You cannot fail to be moved by the spirit of the people," one relief executive said. "They are weak and debilitated after months of cumulative malnutrition, but those who can are



A Chadian refugee girl, one of thousands saved from starvation, flashes a bright smile.



out there weeding and plowing. Some are actually dying in the fields."

Like the land, its animals, too, were beginning to fare better. A boy marched a tight-ranked herd of goats beside the road to a newly green grazing spot. Farther on, we stopped as two herders led a mob of lyre-horned cattle across the highway. Our driver remarked that the beasts were getting some flesh on them again.

Early promise of the first good harvest in years also was appearing. Roadside vendors in white *galabia* robes sat beneath thatch shelters with piles of watermelons, trays of tomatoes and pyramids of guavas for sale. Yet no substantial harvest of staple grains—sorghum, millet, maize—would arrive until mid-November. Until then the entire nation was dependent upon outside aid for its continued existence.

Children at the roadside danced and waved at our truck as we neared Wad

## Out of the shimmering desert some wanderers came after walking for a thousand miles.

Medani, a low town of flat-roofed buildings on the banks of the Blue Nile. I stopped briefly at the World Vision office there. The high-ceilinged room was full of workers and wall-charts, a nerve center for nutrition programs, medical services and future development plans for all of central Sudan.

World Vision, with its Sudan budget of \$5.7 million for fiscal year 1985, is not undertaking alone to feed the many millions of hungry people in the region. The task, too enormous for any single group, is shared among many agencies who work together in a complex network of cooperation.

In one plan, for example, World Vision finds areas of need, the United States Agency for International Development provides food, the United Nations World Food Program organizes transportation and, finally, World Vision monitors deliveries to village councils that then distribute the aid to people needing it most. In another plan, World Vision supplies staff, food or funds to camps run by other agencies, including the Christian-based Africa Committee for Rehabilitation of Southern Sudan (ACROSS).

Other arrangements are less formal. When World Vision ran short of sugar

to mix with flour, milk powder, oil and salt for a supplementary nutrition program serving malnourished children, another agency freely offered a whole truckload. Meanwhile, World Vision, learning of a hospital isolated by rains and desperately short of medicines, purchased the supplies from yet another agency and arranged to fly them into the remote location. At the same time, The British Save the Children Fund needed CB radios for food trucking operations, and World Vision provided the funds to supply them. Only such a network of free cooperation saved so many people so quickly in Sudan.

**Most of the workers** in the Wad Medani office were Sudanese. Months ago, reports had warned that some early food shipments had been hampered by misappropriation, riots, even bandit raids. To avert such problems at the outset of its work in Sudan, World Vision hired local monitors, many of them graduates of local universities. Their job was to travel through Central Region villages on foot and donkeyback, measuring needs then making sure distributions proceeded as intended.

One of the monitors, Anwar El Nour, a 28-year-old graduate of Cairo University, guided me to the camp for famine migrants on the outskirts of town. Near a village called Mobi, the encampment had grown spontaneously as displaced people from western Sudan and refugees from the country of Chad arrived, fleeing drought and famine there. Though Sudan is heavily burdened by crippled agriculture, a staggering national debt and civil war in its non-Islamic, black African southern region, the notably hospitable nation has generously received 1,160,000 refugees from Chad to the west, Ethiopia to the east and Uganda and Zaire to the south. Anwar explained: "These problems are not problems of countries but of African people, and the Sudanese want to help."

In four-wheel-drive, we jounced along a deeply rutted track past files of women and children walking toward town. Then, beyond the mud-brick homes of Mobi Village, we turned onto

(above) Kosti's refugee camp is now home to this mother and her child. (left) Even in a refugee camp, a tiny suq (market) is an important part of Arabic Africa.





a flat, dusty plain. Part of the roadless field served as a local cemetery. Just beyond, the city of displaced people spread half a horizon wide, its dome-shaped huts providing refuge for 7000.

With World Vision's Mobi camp manager Hugh Hamilton, an exuberant 28-year-old Irishman from County Kildare, I toured the area, following him on his morning rounds. Striding almost at a trot through the labyrinth of shoulder-high huts made of saplings, cardboard, reed matting and cloth, he greeted people cheerfully as he ferreted out the morning's sick.

As the patients of the day were carried in for treatment, I moved on to a nutrition tent. Hundreds of seriously malnourished children formed a long line across a dusty field. A few of them—recent arrivals—clung to mothers or fathers, too weak to walk. The rest had regained enough health to happily chatter and play while they waited for meals of high-nutrition porridge. One by one they filed past a registration table, held their hands out for washing, and toddled into the long canvas shelter. Two local women ladled the food from steaming vats into orange plastic bowls while other women carried them to the rows of waiting children.

I wandered on to watch several Chadian women building a new hut.

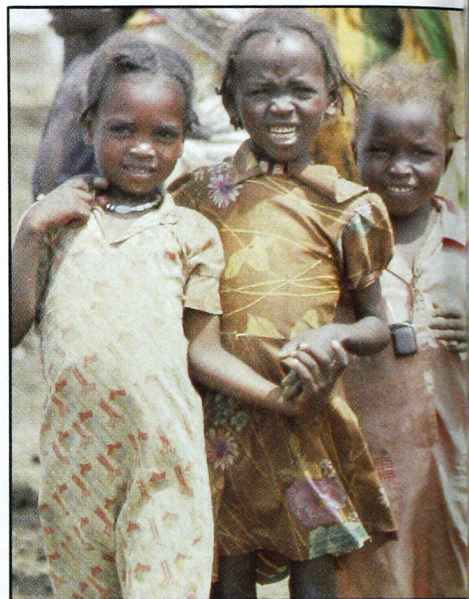
"We're starting another section of the camp," said Jan Pearce, who was taking a break from work in the medical tent. The wife of the World Vision Central Region project manager, David Pearce, a retired dairy farmer from New Zealand, Jan labored among the displaced people with neither official position nor pay. That morning her vehicle had broken down in a mud rut. She had walked to the camp. Now she waved a hand toward neat files of huts rising ahead like beige bubbles. "More people are arriving every day. The camp that grew here before we came is too crowded. The shelters are too close. Here we're trying to space them out and put streets between the rows."

**With Anwar** I returned to the older section of the camp. Winding among the shacks, we looked for someone who would give me a personal account of how he had come here. We stopped beside a group of turbaned men sitting on a large reed mat. One of them got up to find a leader.

Sheik Isaka Ali Omer, a man of 75 who looked at least 20 years younger, said he would be happy to speak with me. With Anwar acting as interpreter, Sheik Isaka told me he had led his people out of the Abeche region of eastern Chad, where people must be hardy to survive. Nomadic herders often live for months on nothing more than camel's meat and camel's milk.

**"You cannot fail to be moved by the spirit of the people."**

Sheik Isaka's people were not nomads but farmers cultivating millet. Yet their land was harsh and they were hardy too. But when herds died away and seeds refused to grow for several years in a row, they saw no people could be strong enough to endure such a



(above) Refugee children outside Sennar, in another camp where World Vision ministers.  
(right) A young Chadian mother encourages her son to wash before eating.





terrible drought. In September 1984 they left the land of their forebears.

They could only wander from place to place, the leader said, looking for food. Though a proud and independent people, they often were reduced to begging. "My wife and children also begged," the sheik said, nodding slowly. When he and his following found the once-rich Gezira region also stricken with drought, his people scattered. Where they went he did not know, nor if they were alive. He brought the ones who stayed with him, along with his family, to Mobi Camp. Soon after, World Vision relief arrived.

"We are very happy here," Sheik Isaka told me with the courtly courtesy of desert people, as we stood amidst the squalid jumble of hovels. Things were better now, he explained. The sick were treated. The death rate was low. And since the first food shipment

arrived in May—enough for only one handful a person—the quantities they received had been growing

"But there is still too little," Sheik Isaka pleaded, holding up a metal bowl. "We get this much for each person every eight days. Yet it is gone in five days."

Feeling helpless over the hunger of his people, I took his photograph to go with my report and assured him that I would bring his problem to my people.

The problem that Sheik Isaka described—a problem of some help but not yet enough—appeared everywhere as I made my way through other camps farther south and in the distant west where World Vision is working.

The medical tents I saw welcomed all comers. But always they were short of staff. Undernourished children by the thousands filed into feeding tents for health-restoring meals. Careful

camp design was alleviating crowded, makeshift living conditions while improving hygiene and sanitation standards. But there were too few workers, often no waterproof materials to keep huts and their occupants dry during rains, too few blankets to fend off pneumonia and other illnesses resulting from chilling.

Not only in the camps did I encounter problems of serious continued need. Everywhere I traveled in Sudan, I heard heart-wrenching tales of isolated regions yet unreached by relief supplies where food had run out weeks and even months before.

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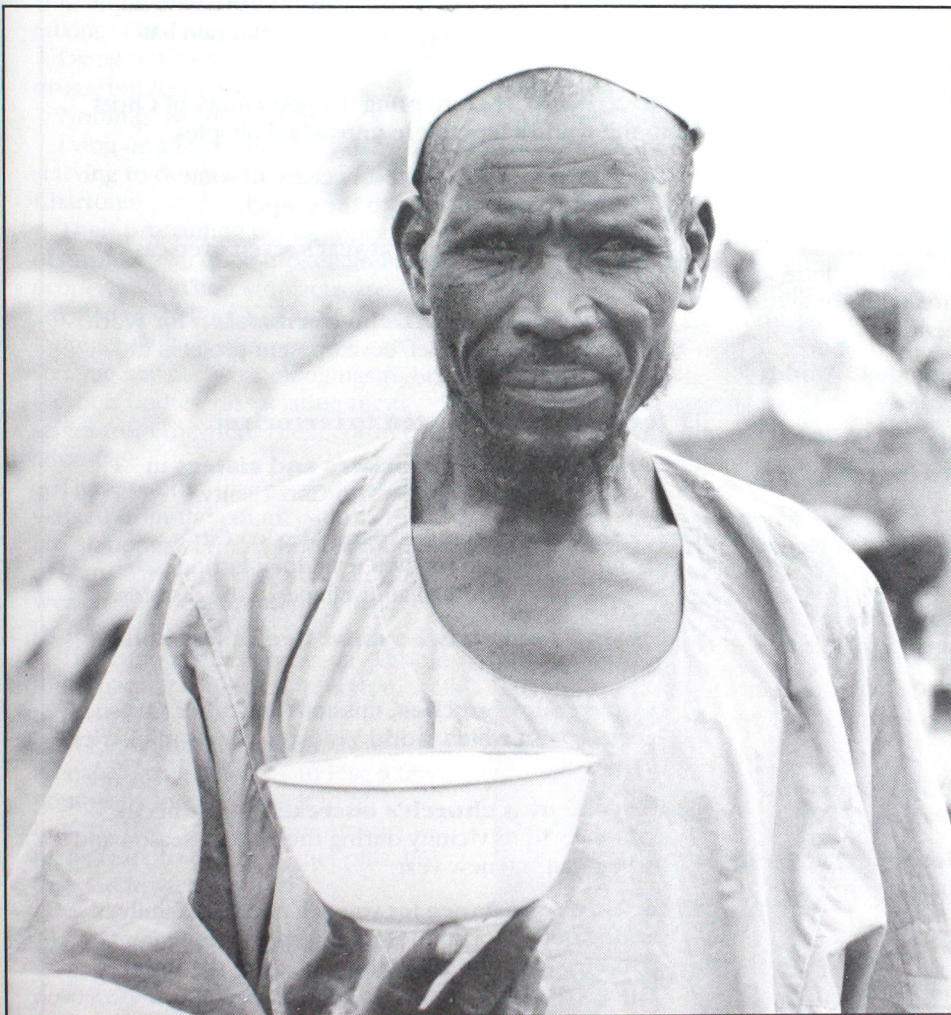
**Though a proud and independent people, they often were reduced to begging.**

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World Vision, along with other agencies, is preparing to help Sudan and its people meet many of these urgent needs. But we also mean to go beyond immediate necessities. As I spoke and traveled with our workers, I heard discussions of a five-year project to bring water supplies to remote central villages where presently women might carry water daily for miles on their heads. World Vision is mapping out ways to help farmers increase production on their lands and income for their families. Still more ambitious are plans for tree nurseries in local villages that will enable local people to anchor fragile soils and stop the annual two-to-three-mile southward advance of the desert, perhaps gaining new land as well.

So far, eminently successful relief efforts have averted the catastrophic mass starvation of a nation. But the job is far from done. More food, more workers, more funds are needed to bring the country back to its feet. Anwar once told me, "The people are very grateful for what World Vision is doing." But, like Sheik Isaka, he hoped we could stay and do more. □

*To help provide food and hope for starving Sudanese people at this time, please use the return envelope provided between pages 18 and 19.*



**Sheik Isaka Ali Omer, 75, uses a bowl to show how much grain each person in Mobi Camp receives for a week.**



# When you pray

## THANK GOD . . .

- ☐ **for the spirit of prayer** that is spreading in a growing number of churches worldwide.
- ☐ **for the volunteers and donations** which have already saved thousands of lives in Africa's famine-stricken nations.
- ☐ **for the provision of trucks**, donkeys and now even camels to deliver food and hope to starving Africans.
- ☐ **for the longer-range self-help projects** which now have been launched in areas previously served only by emergency relief efforts.
- ☐ **for the spiritual response** of many who have been touched by Christians' caring ministries.
- ☐ **for the nutrition and health workers** who will continue to serve the needy throughout the Christmas holidays.
- ☐ **for all who labor to reach** heretofore unevangelized people of the world.
- ☐ **for the faithfulness of believers** who continue to represent Christ in the face of threatened or actual imprisonment and other mistreatment.
- ☐ **for the national pastors** who attended a World Vision conference in Manipur, India.
- ☐ **for the remarkably effective witness** of believers whose churches are denied the privilege of corporate worship services.
- ☐ **for the way many Americans** are helping victims of Mexico City's earthquakes.
- ☐ **for the large number of new converts** to Christ in Central American countries ravaged by civil war.
- ☐ **for childcare workers**, meeting the needs of many abused or abandoned children in South American nations.
- ☐ **for the churches** with which World Vision serves as a partner in ministries among the needy.
- ☐ **for the abundant opportunities** your church can find to express God's love in tangible ways to the needy and lonely nearby.

## PLEASE INTERCEDE . . .

- ☐ **for the still-helpless hungry** in widely scattered regions of Sudan who will never see 1986 unless they can be reached swiftly with food and medical care.
- ☐ **for a continued outpouring** of assistance that will put thousands more on their feet again in Jesus' name.
- ☐ **for the emergency workers** who are using every feasible mode of transportation to get vital supplies to starving and malnourished people.
- ☐ **for nutrition and health workers** who will work long days through the season's holidays.
- ☐ **for the recipients of seed and tools** who hope to raise successful crops again now that rain has returned.
- ☐ **for all who seek** to bring the good news of Christ to the world's heretofore unreached peoples.
- ☐ **for pastors imprisoned** because of some governments' opposition to the gospel.
- ☐ **for the planners** of next year's seven overseas pastors' conferences.
- ☐ **for governments' official permission** for World Vision to conduct relief/development projects in areas not yet entered.
- ☐ **for families subjected to terrorism.**
- ☐ **for our Christian brothers and sisters** in countries officially opposed to Christianity.
- ☐ **for those who are helping** Mexico City's earthquake victims recover from long-lasting physical and emotional after-effects of the disaster.
- ☐ **for God's people who must live in war zones** or refugee camps.
- ☐ **for partner churches**, missions and other Christian agencies with which World Vision conducts ministries to the poor.
- ☐ **for your own church's outreach** to the needy and lonely in its vicinity during the holiday season and throughout the new year.
- ☐ **for God's guidance** for yourself and your family in seeking out opportunities to minister to immigrants or foreign students with whom to share the love of Christ.



## A CORNER TO DIE ON

by David Beltz,  
with help from his wife Rhoda

**O**n the corner outside my hotel, I see four teens. As a parent of a teen, I am aware that most of them are taken up with conversation about their peers: who said what, who was doing what, and so on. But these four teens aren't laughing, comparing notes or even talking. They are dying.

Dying not from violence, nor from drugs, but from nothing.

Nothing? Nothing to eat.

Lying on the ground, they are starving to death in Sudan's capital city, Khartoum.

Their protruding bones appear deformed, as if once broken and not properly set. Their stomachs are swollen potbellies, but not from over-indulgence. And other people are stealing any meager belongings right off their bodies, dissociating themselves from the victims except to take advantage.

These youths, like many others, walked from the countryside to the city in hopes of finding nourishment of some form. Instead, they became weaker and only found the corner to lie on and to die on.

The countryside is worse. People there haven't even the strength to walk to the city.

At home in America, my own teenager struggles daily to lose a few pounds by forcing herself to go hungry. How would these African teens react to diet pop, diet pills, lite this and low-cal that?

Looking at the four Sudanese youths, I cannot isolate my emotions. Are they anger, fear, pity? Am I doubting God's existence? Where is He? How does He feel when He looks down at these teens crumpled on the ground, looking like skeletons upholstered with a thin fabric of skin?

I see only a few at a time. God sees the millions. How does He seek solace?

I'm here to help, but I can't help. The fact that I'm here doing a job is helpful—in an impersonal kind of way—but I feel so *unhelpful* because I'm only a few feet away from dying kids. I am not underweight, I have plenty, but I cannot save them. The lump in my throat feels the size of a golf ball. Would it help if I cried?

It is so hot! Today's temperature is somewhere between 110° and 115° Fahrenheit, with humidity of 30-40 percent. Air-conditioning, of course, is

non-existent. I'm always sweaty. Are these people so dehydrated that they do not sweat?

I'm so thirsty for a tall glass of crushed ice and water—even L.A. tap water. But these people drink only from muddy puddles, with their cupped hands. What is crushed ice? What's a glass?

Before I left for Sudan on this survey trip, I saw slides—lots of slides of similar situations, mostly in Ethiopia. The mourning mothers with children half their normal size in their arms. The pictures of naked children with flies feeding on their faces. The photos were stills; surely the children would shoo the flies off their faces; isn't that a natural reaction? How can I live knowing the reality is that flies don't just make rest stops on these faces—they *live* there!

Back at the office, we could walk

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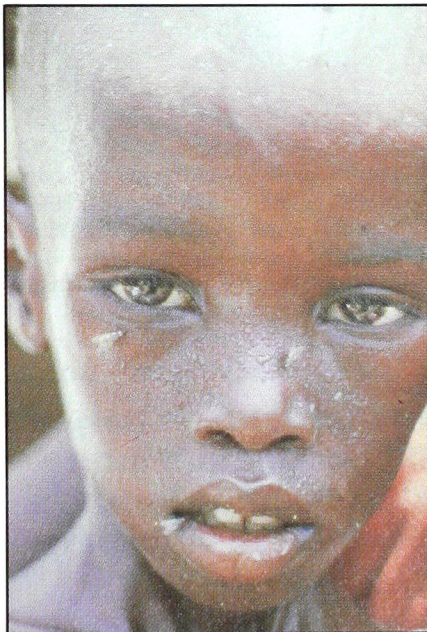
**H**ow do I go back to my own life and justify its fullness? All I can pray for is understanding.

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away from a slide-viewing to a dinner party or our favorite restaurant. Here, I can't turn the slide show off. The people are in front of me. Someone please turn the lights back on!

Right now, I'm angry with God. I am unable to pray. What would I pray for? Peace of mind? Food? Rain? I look up through the sand-filled air toward the sky. Forgive me, Lord, but this is unbearable. How do I go back to my own life and justify its fullness? All I can pray for is understanding. Help me, Lord, to understand.

I begin remembering how much Jesus suffered. He was not exempt from pain. I begin sorting out the meaning of living this nightmare and rejoining my family and friends. It brings a measure of peace to my heart to know that my being here will in some way make a difference. I cling to this. Instead of looking at the masses I cannot help, I must turn and look at those lives I am helping to save. I'm here to give these people life; they will never know how much they have given me. □



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*Rhoda Beltz's writing is usually in the form of humorous greeting cards and poetry. She was moved to write this piece by her husband David's graphic account in a letter he wrote her while on a survey assignment in Sudan for World Vision. David and Rhoda live in Duarte, California, with their two daughters.*



Providing immediate and long-range help for quake victims

# REBUILDING IN MEXICO CITY

**M**exico City's earthquake damage no longer claims front-page headlines, but the arduous tasks of clean-up, restoration and rehabilitation still remain.

World Vision, like other relief agencies from around the world, provided emergency assistance immediately following the mid-September quakes which left more than 7500 people dead and thousands more injured and homeless. Initial assistance from World Vision was channeled mainly through the Salvation Army Rehabilitation Center, the First Baptist Church of Mina and the Sion Methodist Church, where quake victims received food, medicine, blankets and plastic sheeting.

The majority of the quake damage occurred in the central portion of Mexico City. More than 500 buildings, including hospitals, hotel and government buildings, were completely destroyed. No World Vision sponsor children were killed or hurt during either of the quakes, however.

Although most of the rescue work and removal of rubble took place in the downtown district, two lower-income neighborhoods about one mile away suffered extensive damage. In one area, colonia (neighborhood) Morelos, more than 500,000 impoverished people live in a 10-by-17-block area. Most of the residents live in "vecindads," single-family dwellings converted to accommodate as many as 30 families each. Ordinarily, a vecindad will have only one water source and toilet for all of the residents. Many of the vecindads in Morelos were destroyed during the earthquakes.

In addition to its initial emergency

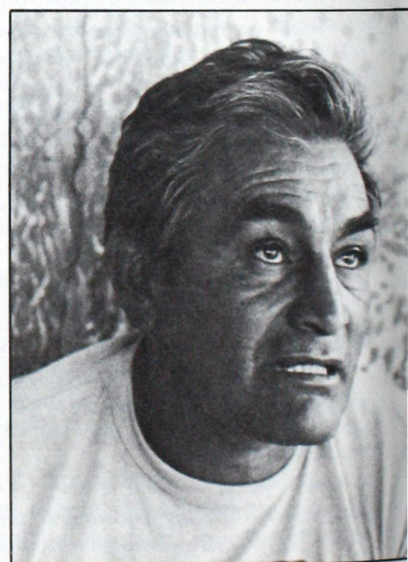
Food, tools and blankets purchased by World Vision are carried from a van into the Salvation Army Rehabilitation Center, where they were later distributed to victims immediately following the quake.



relief response, World Vision has undertaken a \$350,000 extended rehabilitation and development project slated to continue through June. The project will focus on the needs of families in colonia Morelos. Besides continuing to provide food, medical supplies and blankets, World Vision will also rebuild 100 multi-family dwellings occupied by 300 families, thus providing permanent shelter for as many as 3000 people.

Medical care is still among the greatest needs of the people living in the city. World Vision will provide

**In one stricken neighborhood, more than 500,000 impoverished people live in a 10-by-17-block area.**



"People have been very good to us," said 51-year-old Apriano Alvarez. "Volunteers pass by often. One feels like crying."





A cross and the name "Hugo" are painted on a crumbling concrete wall to mark the spot where one of the building's residents died.

Two-year-old Dulce Maria clings to her mother's hem as her family seeks temporary shelter.



**World Vision will**

- **help rebuild 100 multi-family dwellings**
- **provide artificial limbs for 200 people**
- **compensate residents for reconstruction work.**

World Vision's partners in its rehabilitation effort will include a Presbyterian and a Baptist church and the National Board of Voluntary Agencies. The Baptist church will sponsor an evangelistic program aimed at reaching earthquake victims. The project budget will include \$10,000 to assist less-affluent congregations repair their church buildings.

Jose-Maria Blanch, World Vision's director of communications for Latin America, toured Mexico City shortly after the earthquakes to assess the damage and help determine the nature of World Vision's response.

"The easy part of World Vision's work—the distribution of emergency relief commodities—is over," Mr. Blanch said. "The most difficult times are still ahead as we initiate rehabilitation efforts." □

artificial limbs for 200 people who were dismembered in the earthquake. The prostheses—costing \$300 each—will be provided at no cost to the victims. In addition, crisis counseling and legal advice will be available to those who experienced trauma and unusual hardship during the earthquake aftermath.

In keeping with World Vision's commitment to community involvement, colonia Morelos residents will be compensated for their participation in the recovery of their own neighborhood. For 90 days, World Vision will

pay 250 community members for their rubble-clearing efforts. This program will help offset families' loss of income that resulted when hundreds of businesses were destroyed by the quakes.

To further create employment in poor neighborhoods where the unemployment rate was high even before the earthquake, World Vision will work with partner agencies to initiate income-generating projects by January. Included will be a block/brick manufacturing program being started by the Salvation Army.

In addition to the Salvation Army,



Until Ansokia Valley's crops reach maturity

# GREEN FAMINE

by Mary Peterson

The new Borkena bridge keeps the road open for relief supplies.

**T**oday Ethiopia's Ansokia Valley is green, except for patches of dark plowed soil wet from last night's thunderstorm. It's hard to realize now, but this lush-looking valley in the center of the country was the site of extreme drought a few months ago. And a fact that may be even harder to comprehend is that Ansokia is just as needy now as it was during the drought. Until the next harvest, the valley has green famine.

World Vision has been here nearly a year supplying emergency food. But a





new task lies ahead: helping the people get back on their feet so they can grow their own food again.

One year ago, only a scattering of trees were green. In this flat valley edged by sharply rising mountains, everything else was brown with drought. People were digging for water where the swamp had been. The swamp had dried up for the first time in memory, says a local farmer, Kebed Makonen, 35. People were having to eat weeds.

Life had never before been so hard

here. Even Ethiopia's severe 1974 drought never touched this valley. But the most recent drought devastated families such as Kebed's who survive from harvest to harvest. Kebed's children no longer went to school. Besides not having money for books, the youngsters were too weak from hunger to make the journey or study.

Thanks to supporters of World Vision, Kebed's family has survived to see the rains. "My children are at the nutrition center. And our family is given flour," he says. "I give thanks to World Vision."

But these people need more than emergency food. Ansokia project manager Mulugeta Habte explains, "The people have no source of income or food until the harvest. Even if they gain back their weight at the nutrition center, if we do not continue to provide them with food after they leave there, they return needing super-intensive care. We have seen this

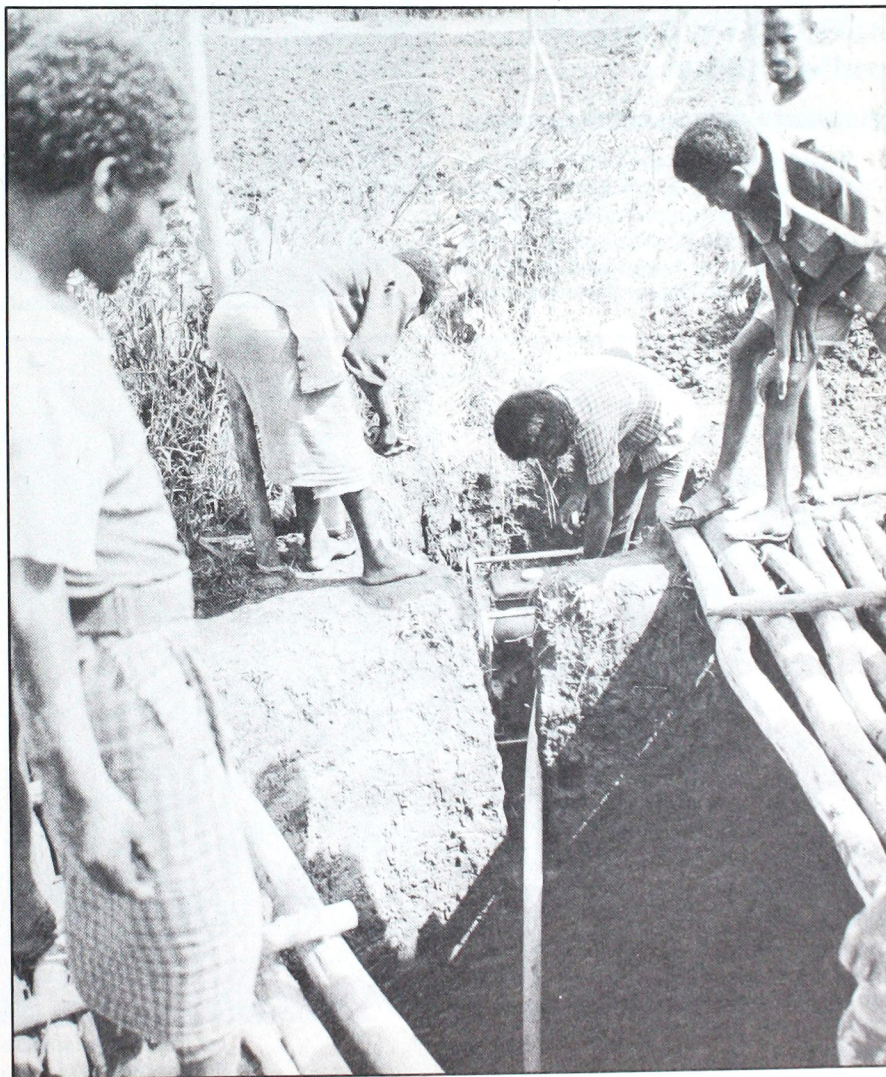
happen. They need something more—and not just a handout."

World Vision workers in Ansokia, all Ethiopians, describe the valley's people as "very clever, hard workers." What they need are the resources to start their lives over again. Mulugeta says, "These people know how to farm." He taps his forehead and adds, "Everything's already 'up there' to some extent, but it's a matter of putting things together."

Help first came to Ansokia in October 1984 when World Vision started emergency feeding. Up to 20

## **The valley's people need more than emergency food.**

Men in the food-for-work program hit water at 1.5 yards while digging a six-yard well for the demonstration field. A pump draws the water out as they dig.





people a day had been dying. The situation is now under control, but the needs—and help—continue.

And there have been obstacles. World Vision was able to truck food to this remote valley for distribution until the rains returned in March. Then the road, which crosses a riverbed, became impassable.

"By the end of April we had almost come to the end of our supplies," says Mulugeta. "We came up with the idea of using pack animals." And so, almost daily, a caravan of camels brought in food from nine miles away until the warehouses were full again. With World Vision's help, a bridge has now been built over the river so that food can once again be trucked into the valley.

Further help is coming to the

**L**and that was mainly used for grazing is now being broken for farming by a tractor-pulled plow.

Hussen Hassen receives his food-for-work pay—two kilos of wheat flour—for helping to hoe the World Vision demonstration field's vegetable bed. Hussen's wife and two children stay at the nutrition center while he works.



A tractor-pulled plow has broken up the land at the Ansokia demonstration farm site for the first time. Until now, much of this land was used only for grazing.

A mother and her child wait for food at Ansokia's nutrition-health center.





people. Many of them lost oxen in the drought. World Vision has given them hand tools for now and plans to help restock their herds. And every farmer in the valley—representing some 620 families—has been given seed.

One of the farmers, Aragaw Mndaye, 55, says, "Without this aid, we would have no seed to plant." World Vision has also helped three of Mndaye's six children gain back their weight at the nutrition center. Now the family is receiving World Vision rations to take to their home.

There are other dreams for the

valley besides tools and seed. World Vision is bringing the village a water system and a major agricultural project. The plan is to build an irrigation system and a 100-hectare demonstration farm to teach intensive farming and field-test a variety of crops—some new to the valley, some new to Ethiopia itself. Field workers are also considering experimenting with rice—something foreign to the area—as a possible crop for the Ansokia valley's low-lying swamplands.

Land that was used mainly for grazing is now being broken for farming

**"Without this aid, we would have no seed to plant."**

by a tractor-pulled plow. Daily, men come to the fields in a food-for-work program. They help work the land and learn farming techniques.

At 5 p.m. the workers gather in the village to collect their pay: two kilos of wheat flour each. The flour is better than money; there's no food in the marketplace.

The "food-for-work" women who spend the day clearing rocks from a

**A man in the World Vision food-for-work program pauses to have his picture taken.**



field divide up their shares of the sack of World Vision flour. The men do the same in their groups. The food has made the village quite a different sight from a year ago. A worker said, "You should come back in a year to see the difference *then*."

Sitting in his office next to the warehouse where flour is stored, Mulugeta notes that the really big changes are going to take time. "Changing people's attitudes is the hardest part of the job," he says. The tasks ahead include teaching such things as building latrines, persuading people "to stop cutting down trees as if they were enemies," and helping farmers improve their methods—such as planting corn in rows instead of scattering seeds.

Mulugeta says some important changes have already taken place.

He looks out his window to the valley floor and sees a patchwork of farms where there were only weeds a year ago. The children who used to be skinny and weak now play around the nutrition center. The death rate was more than 20 per day a year ago, but now a week passes without a death.

Thinking about the changes in Ansokia and the big plans for the future, Mulugeta looks out again across the valley, smiles, and says, "It makes me happy." □

*Mary Peterson is a freelance writer who lives in North Hollywood, California.*



**World Vision is testing rice in Ansokia as a potential new crop in the valley's swampland.**



# IDEAS FOR END-OF-THE-YEAR GIVING!

## Taxwise giving

by Daniel Rice

World Vision's Associate  
Director of Planned Giving



**D**ecember 31 is the last day for you to take advantage of tax-wise planning for this year's charitable gifts.

It's important for you to plan your giving—for two reasons. Wise planning helps you make sure that your charitable dollars go where you want them to go. But when you've reached this decision, wise planning also enables you to take advantage of tax benefits that the Federal Government has provided to encourage charitable giving.

The fact is, there are many ways of giving, and some have greater benefits than others. Here is a quick check list of some ways you might consider:

**CASH** Tax advantages from a cash gift may be substantial. If your tax rate is 40%, a gift of \$2000 will reduce your taxes by \$800 and actually cost you only \$1200 out-of-pocket.

**SECURITIES** A gift of appreciated securities to World Vision can be one of your best ways of making a gift, because you can completely avoid capital gains taxes. For instance, if you have XYZ stock now worth \$5000 (for which you paid \$1000 five years ago), you can give the stock to World Vision, deduct the entire \$5000 as a gift and pay no capital gains tax at all.

**REAL ESTATE** A gift to World Vision of appreciated property, a building or a home provides the same benefits as securities. If you give property to World Vision that you have held longer than six months, you can take the appraised fair market value as a charitable contribution deduction on your taxes. The Federal Government provides for complete avoidance of the capital gains taxes which you

would have incurred if you had sold the property.

**LIFE INCOME PLANS** World Vision's life income plans may provide you with an ideal way to make an end-of-the-year gift and provide lifetime income for yourself as well.

The WORLD VISION UNITRUST and ANNUITY TRUST produce good income for you, avoid capital gains taxes on appreciated property, provide an immediate charitable tax deduction, and may even save Federal Estate taxes and probate costs.

The WORLD VISION GIFT ANNUITY has rates of return to you as high as 14% (depending on your age), partially tax-free income, and the joy of knowing that part of your annuity is helping a hurting world right now.

### HELP FOR YOUR YEAR-END PLANNING

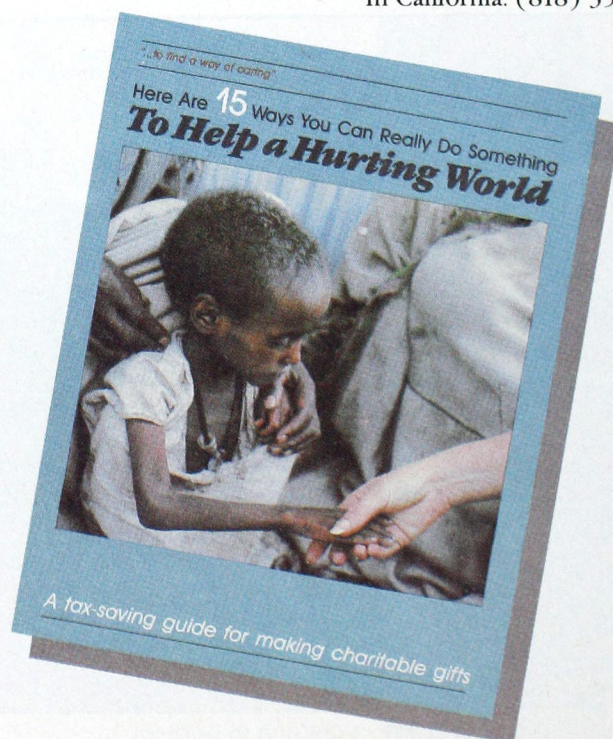
The end of the year has become a traditional time for Americans to assess their income for the year and

to make final judgments on their charitable gifts. Even though there are many ways of giving, the motivation remains the same for most Americans: to share with cheerful hearts that which they have abundantly received.

If we may be of assistance in helping you as you assess your charitable gifts, please call on us. We have professionally trained personnel who will work with you or your financial advisors in complete confidence.

I would also like to send you a copy of our booklet "A Tax-Saving Guide for Making Charitable Gifts" without cost or obligation. Write to me at the address below.

Daniel Rice  
Planned Giving Department  
WORLD VISION  
919 W. Huntington Drive  
Monrovia, California 91016  
Or phone toll-free: (800) 228-1869  
In California: (818) 357-7979



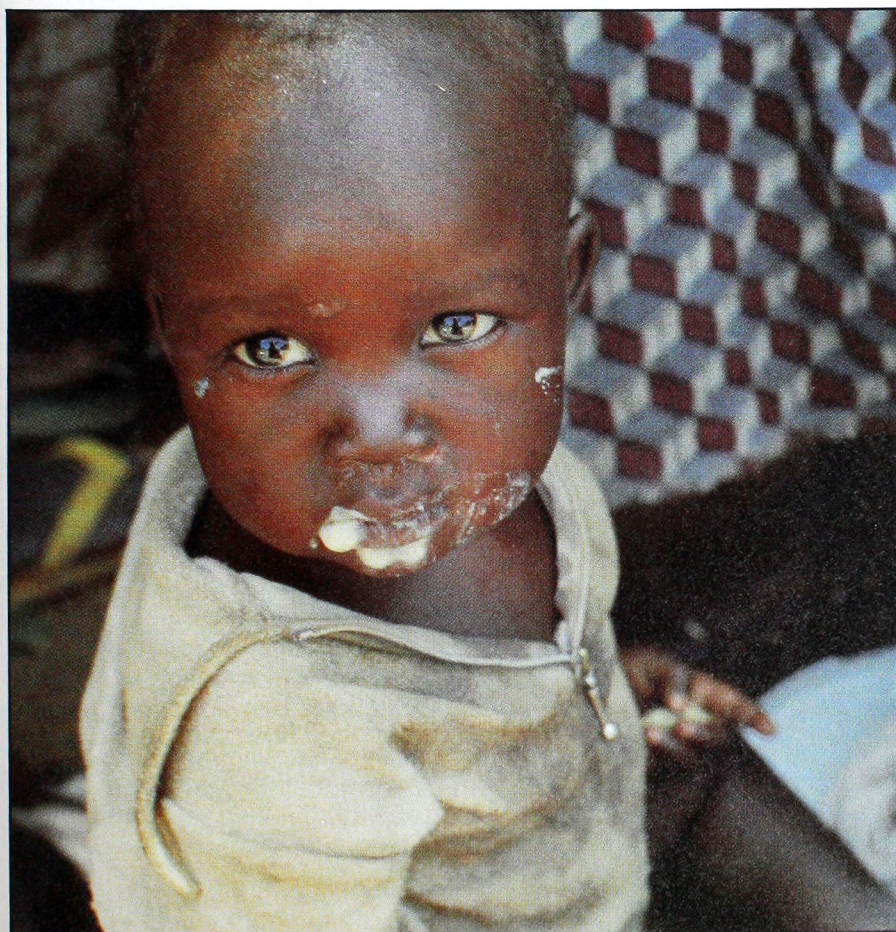


Faithful caring restores health and hope

# THE CHALLENGE OF CHAD

by Fred Messick

(right) American nutritionist Sharon Gonzales (center) helps villagers prepare "bouillie" porridge at a nutrition-health center. (below) A youngster pauses midway through a bowl of porridge.



**F**or generations, survival in Chad has been difficult. Recently, however, food and water shortages, combined with political and civil conflict, diseases, and extreme poverty have escalated the struggle between life and death.

Landlocked in north-central Africa, Chad has two geographic regions. In the north, the desert area including the Sahel is the inhospitable home of scattered groups of Arabs whose nomadic lifestyle reflects their ever-present concern with food and water.

Traditionally, Chad's greatest hope has been in the south. Fertile lands and abundant rains have made this area south of the Chari River the country's breadbasket, capable of growing enough millet, sorghum and other crops to feed most of the nation's five million people. Many of the fields are also planted in cotton, Chad's primary export crop and source of income.

In recent years, however, the landscape in the south has changed dramatically. The once-abundant rains became increasingly unreliable and infrequent. Lush vegetation disappeared,

crops withered, and lean harvests served as frustrating reminders that the margin of life was narrowing.

Fortunately, rains have returned to southern Chad, at least in the short-



Fred Messick

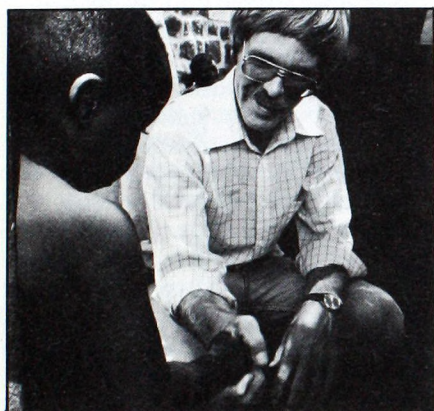


term. Yet food shortages continue because of a lack of seeds and tools. Many farmers "en brousse"—in the bush—have been weakened by the famine and are unable to return to work in their fields.

Government and relief organizations are trying to help. That help fails to reach many people in need, however. In the troubled south, food distribution is hampered by poor roads and security problems, including attacks by rebel groups known as "codos," some of whom are motivated by loyalty to the previous government, while others are simply bandits and thieves.

In this environment, World Vision has made a commitment to provide food for those most affected by famine: severely malnourished infants, children, mothers and the elderly.

World Vision nutrition-health



(above)  
American  
nutritionist Mike  
Finley shakes the  
hand of a young  
child he has just  
weighed and  
measured. (right)  
A mother waits  
patiently for  
food for her  
severely mal-  
nourished child.



specialists Michael Finley and Sharon Gonzales are providing help in the Moundou area of southwest Chad. In their first two months of operation, Michael and Sharon have conducted nutrition-need surveys in 49 villages in the Krim-Krim region, measuring arm circumference, and checking the height/weight ratio and overall health of more than 3000 children. According to these tests, as many as one-fourth of the children are severely malnourished. Even more are suffering from malaria and other diseases.

During my recent visit to Moundou I saw the opening of the first of six nutrition-health centers. The first step in this effort—as in all of our community work in Chad—was to meet with the village chief and his elders. As they gave us a gracious welcome, people from huts throughout the villages rounded up enough chairs for our meeting. Then, as we sat together in the shade of a tree by the chief's hut, Michael and Sharon explained the goals of the project and asked for villagers' support and participation. Later that day Michael told me, "We are committed to building relationships of mutual trust wherever we go. We feel honored that village chiefs welcome us to work with them in their villages. We are not simply helping them; they are also helping us learn new lessons about friendship and community."

During the course of my visit in the south, I watched Sharon train village women to operate the center and, specifically, to prepare a high protein mixture called "bouillie"—made up of corn-soy-milk powder, cooking oil, sugar, and boiled water. That first day, approximately 100 severely malnourished infants were fed.

It was anticipated that each center, furnished with enough "bouillie"

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**"We are not simply helping them; they are also helping us."**

---

mixture to last until December harvests, would eventually provide a daily meal for as many as 300 village children and others in desperate need of food. Now, as we continue our commitment to needy villagers, we are looking ahead to rehabilitation and development efforts to help move people even closer to good health.

In the villages we work alongside local Christians such as Alphonse Natibe, a Chadian nurse who has lived in Krim-Krim for seven years. Alphonse, a key person in the operation of the nutrition-health centers, told me about the local needs. As the only medical worker in the area, he sees 2500 patients a week.

Many of the Krim-Krim people, says Alphonse, suffer from malaria and other effects of unhealthful water and poor sanitation. Frustratingly, he never has enough medicine to treat all those who need help. Yet he remains motivated to serve. "It's the Christian life for me to follow the word of God, to be faithful to God, to care for people physically and spiritually."

In Chad I saw a country beset by a multitude of problems. Yet I saw evidence of new rains, prospects for a better harvest, and a commitment from the World Vision partnership to care and to help. I saw in many of the villages—and in the faces of villagers themselves—hopeful signs of a healthier future. □

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*Fred Messick is a member of World Vision's communication resources staff.*



# Samaritan sampler

SOME WAYS PEOPLE ARE HELPING  
OTHERS IN THE NAME OF CHRIST



**Zambia's President Kaunda shakes hands with MCCer Ruth Thiessen at Appropriate Technology Fair in Lusaka.**

## **An Appropriate Technology Fair**

organized by Mennonite Central Committee workers in Lusaka, Zambia, displayed low-cost items made largely of locally available materials. A reflector oven, rope and washer pump, solar food dryers, brick and mud stoves and a cooking box insulated with hay were some of the aids designed for daily-life use. Other displays included weaving, spinning and a small printing press on which a local co-op produces a magazine using block printing. For information write Mennonite Central Committee, 21 S. 12th St., Akron, PA 17501.

## **Worldwide opportunities for Christian service**

are listed by the Interdenominational Foreign Mission Association (IFMA). Their roster of more than 65 member missions includes such well-known organizations as the Africa Inland Mission, Far East Broadcasting Company, Overseas Missionary Fellowship and U.S. Center for World Mission. For information write Interdenominational Foreign Mission Association, Box 395, Wheaton, IL 60189-0395.

**A new publication from the Navigators** is designed to help people become effective small group leaders. *The Small Group Letter* speaks to those

who want to conduct lively, thought-provoking, spiritually dynamic small group meetings; to lead others in applying more of God's Word to their lives, and to understand and help those who are hurting. Charter subscriptions (10 issues a year) are \$17. Write *The Small Group Letter*, Subscription Services, P.O. Box 1164, Dover, NJ 07801.

## **Maintaining a positive Christian influence**

on the nation's public schools is a central purpose of Christian Educators Association International. CEAI offers educators the opportunity to support each other in prayer and fellowship, to better inform churches of specific needs and to share helpful insights. Christians who are public educators are invited both to become part of CEAI and to register for Holiday '85, a year end conference and celebration combined, in Pasadena, California. For information contact CEAI, Box 50025, Pasadena, CA 91105; (818) 798-1124.

## **Solo, a magazine for singles,**

has been phased out and replaced by *Spirit!*, a new magazine aimed at young Christian adults. *Spirit!* does not focus on marital status, but on an age group and lifestyle. For information write Jerry Jones, Box 1231, Sisters, OR 97759.

**Reaching street kids** in an area that is a magnet for runaways is a primary focus for Centrum of Hollywood, a ministry of Youth With a Mission (YWAM). Now in its ninth year, Centrum is seeking to expand its ministry with a Scripture distribution campaign, an annual evangelism sweep ("S.O.S. Hollywood"), and an increased emphasis on year-round "friendship evangelism" that includes taking the initiative in offering practical help to street people. Two current needs are crucial: first, a large home to provide crisis shelter for more than eight individuals (the present housing capacity); second, funding, establishing and staffing a crisis pregnancy center for young girls who now see abortion as their only option. For information contact Centrum of Hollywood, P.O. Box 29069, Hollywood, CA 90029; (213) 463-5576.

## **Lively, well-told accounts**

of what some "grass roots Christians seeking social justice" are accomplishing, make encouraging, idea-generating reading in *Salt* magazine. Approaching problems from an individual perspective, *Salt* "offers suggestions for small, incremental changes . . . in readers' way of life." Visiting prisoners, tutoring inner-city kids—and being a family peacemaker—are some of the challenges undertaken. Published by the Claretian Fathers and Brothers at \$10/yr. Write: *Salt* 221 W. Madison, Chicago, IL 60606.

## **A multicultural ministry**

of a different kind keeps Inter-Varsity staff worker Meri McLeod constantly working with new groups of students.

The American Graduate School of International Management (AGSIM) near Phoenix, Arizona, offers a high-intensity one-year program in international management. One-third of the students are from foreign countries and most of the American students have already either studied or worked overseas and are largely bi- or trilingual. Members of the I-V chapter at AGSIM are strongly involved in evangelism and in applying Christian faith and lifestyle to their chosen careers. One of the most exciting aspects of working with AGSIM students, says Meri, is their potential for influencing people in many parts of the world.

## **Southeast Asian refugees**

have received a warm welcome from the Church of the Nazarene. The denomination now has 111 churches involved in ministry to these new residents and a full-time national consultant for Southeast Asians, Mrs. Nancy Clark. In addition to the usual helping services provided for Asian refugees, an active church-planting ministry is carried on. Newly established is a Cambodian church in Columbus, Ohio, home of an estimated 4000 Cambodians. Many of those on the church-planting team were Cambodians themselves, some from churches planted as recently as two years ago. The Columbus church was the 27th Southeast Asian church that Nancy Clark and her team have been instrumental in planting.



Americans spend \$25 billion for Christmas

## GOOD NEWS FOR THE POOR?

**G**ift-giving," say leaders of an organization called Alternatives, "is to Christmas what the camel was to the tent. On a chilly night the camel said, 'Oh, please, can't I just put my nose in the tent?' By morning, the whole camel was in the tent, leaving little space for the original occupants."

In an effort to make room for the real meaning of Christmas, more than 10,000 church congregations are participating in a nationwide campaign to reduce its commercialization.

One of the goals of the campaign is to divert a portion of the \$25 billion that Americans spend on Christmas gifts and paraphernalia, so that a substantial part of that amount can go instead to helping people who really need it, such as those suffering in Africa and the homeless and hungry in our own communities. Church members will be asked to estimate what they spent on presents and decorations last year and consider channeling 25 percent of that amount to the helping agencies of their denominations.

According to Milo Shannon-Thornberry, director of the not-for-profit organization that has sponsored the alternative Christmas campaign annually since 1974, "There's an irony in celebrating Christ's birth by spending extravagantly on things we don't need while people all over the world and even in our own communities are going without life's basic necessities. Christ's coming was supposed to be good news to the poor, but the celebration of his birth has turned into a spending orgy for the affluent."

As part of the campaign, churches will show the filmstrip "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas." Winner of a



An Alternatives cartoon shows Mary telling intruding reindeer, "I don't care if Santa Claus IS coming to town."

gold medal in the Houston International Film Festival, the filmstrip challenges the commercialization of Christmas and suggests alternatives.

Some churches are also having alternative Christmas festivals and workshops geared to helping members resist holiday pressures.

Resources for alternative Christmas

celebrations have been created by Alternatives in cooperation with more than a dozen major denominations. □

*Information on alternative Christmas and Easter emphases is available from Alternatives, Box 429, Ellenwood, GA 30049, (404) 961-0102.*



## A 48-FOOT REMINDER

**M**ost highway billboards offer you some pleasure, some convenience, some taste of prestige. Near the nation's capitol however, stands an exception, the likes of which you may spy in your own city this winter. This billboard encourages Americans to share with desperately hungry kids in Africa.

This World Vision Africa Heartline appeal is the first ever to appear on the nation's billboards. These giant public service announcements are a result of the generosity of the Outdoor Advertising Association of America (OAAA) and more than 200 of its member companies.

The billboard began appearing in early October. By the end of the month, more than 2600 had been or were being put up at scattered locations in 38 states. They can be seen in metropolitan areas as well as along interstate highways from coast to coast.

"We are grateful to the association for this magnificent contribution which will help motivate Americans to share with Africans," said Paul Carey, World Vision's senior director of resource development. Carey, who helped work out arrangements for the billboard displays, added that the Association's show of support for World Vision was encouraging. "When you consider the cost of \$400 per month for one billboard plus at least \$200 to put up each display, you are talking about a substantial gift."

Each billboard will display the World Vision Africa Heartline appeal for at least one month, and in some areas longer, depending on other OAAA schedules and demands.

Vernon Clark, president of the OAAA, offered the billboard displays to World



Virginia Senator Paul Tribble and his wife Rosemary announce the kickoff of World Vision's Africa Heartline billboard appeal at a Washington, DC, news conference.

**This billboard encourages Americans to share with desperately hungry kids in Africa.**

Vision free of charge, as part of an ongoing commitment to support worthy public service causes. He said that this is an expression of the Association's concern for the starving people in Africa and its desire to stimulate people to get involved.

Senator Paul Tribble of Virginia announced the Africa Heartline billboard appeal at an October 3 news conference in Washington, DC. He was instrumental in bringing together the

OAAA and World Vision, and in stimulating cooperation among government agencies, corporations and the public to meet emergency needs in Africa as well as to work toward long-range solutions. Congressional representatives who have been aiding World Vision's Africa relief efforts showed their support by attending the news conference.

Readers who want to thank the Outdoor Advertising Association of America or its member companies for donating the use of their billboards to the World Vision Africa Heartline appeal can write or phone the participating company named on the billboard frame. □



## Mini-message

### THE GREAT GIFT EXCHANGE

**Not only at His birth** but throughout all 33 years of His life on earth, Jesus Christ was more than sinless; He was—and is—The Righteous One. Yet He demonstrated unmistakably that His birth, His life on earth, His death, His resurrection, His ascension—all were for the sake of sinners.

Months before His birth, an angel told Joseph that His name was to be Jesus *because He was to save His people from their sins*.

Before He began His public ministry, His cousin John referred to Him as one "the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie." Then, when Jesus came walking toward him and his listeners, John exclaimed, "Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29).

Although Jesus, like John, warned that sin spells death and that sincere repentance is required, He bore the best of news to penitent believers. "God so loved the world," He declared,



In the film *Jesus*, listeners contemplate our Lord's words.

"that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

That message, meant for all humankind in every generation, is clearly meant for you and me today. The Son born in Bethlehem, who grew up in Nazareth, walked and taught in Judea, Samaria and Galilee, then died at Golgotha just outside Jerusalem but rose again, appeared to many and ascended to the Father in heaven, now continues to offer Himself to *you*, contingent only on your opening your heart to receive Him through repentance and the kind of faith that says sincerely, "I give myself to *You*, Lord Jesus."

If you've experienced that gift exchange with Him, you know the delight of complete forgiveness and fellowship with the Son. If you've *not* experienced that gift exchange, today is not too soon. Read, openheartedly, the Gospel of John. Respond to the One of whom it tells. For, as its author says, "These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (John 20:31). □

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

## Is God calling you . . .

to work where your efforts will be directly related to saving lives and spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ? Consider these opportunities for service. If you think you may qualify for one of these positions, send your resume to World Vision International, Human Resources, 919 W. Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016.

### Latin America Field Development Office Facilitators

Six facilitators needed with technical expertise in health care, agriculture, non-formal education, evangelism or development. Requires M.A. or equivalent experience in one of the technical fields listed; five years experience doing development projects, preferably in the Two-Thirds World; good verbal and written skills; written and spoken fluency in Spanish. Involves 40% travel. *Contact: Mel Loucks, Overseas Employment Coordinator.*

### Facilities Manager

To support the work within the World Vision International office in California

by supplying to the staff effective, well-maintained work environments, furniture, equipment and communication tools. Will develop five-year plan for facilities management, prepare and monitor department and facilities services budget, forecast and plan for short-term space requirements, and act as primary communicator to WVI employees regarding facilities issues. Requires knowledge of systems furniture products, construction practices, planning, scheduling and project management techniques as well as familiarity with accounting and purchasing methods and procedures. *Contact: Kent Stock, Employment Supervisor.*

### Africa Short-Term Contract Positions

Positions in West Africa, Chad, Sudan and Ethiopia require appropriate qualifications and experience including previous Two-Thirds World experience. French language required for Chad/West Africa positions. Must be flexible and adaptable to a variety of living conditions. Six month minimum contract required.

Logisticians  
Project managers  
Nutritionists  
Public health nurses

Agriculturalists  
Mechanics  
Medical doctors  
Water sanitation engineers

*Contact: Karin Hubby, World Vision U.S.*



# I MUST TELL WHAT I SEE

**Try to feel it** as you read.

A just-opened nutrition center sits on a piece of almost barren ground in Sudan. In three weeks, 3000 people have crowded in; hundreds more arrive each day.

A few scraggly bushes dot the plain but offer no relief from the 105-degree heat. The overpowering odor of sickness permeates the atmosphere; flies constantly light on everything.

I stop to talk to a family of nine that has just arrived. They have no money, no bedding, no pots or pans or suitcases or tent. Nothing! Only the ragged clothes they wear.

I learn this as I talk to the grandfather who has five grandchildren. I tell him that I'm also a grandfather with five grandchildren. I want him to know that I hurt for him, but I recognize that I can't even begin to feel the pain he feels. Nor, I suppose, can he imagine the frustration I feel because I can't do more for him.

It's true, of course, that his family might have died had World Vision workers not been there. The old man and his family had walked all the way from Chad—who knows how many miles—looking for food. Word of nutrition centers spreads quickly throughout drought-stricken nations.

My senses soak it all up; I don't want to lose this sense of urgency when I get back home. I rehearse these painful images to fix them in my own mind, as well as to impress them on the minds and hearts of others. I have to do that.

When I see the workers in the nutrition centers—doctors, nurses, technicians, truck drivers and others—I



Dr. Engstrom in Sudan last summer

**“Faith is only real when there is obedience.”**

think, God has called them to their tasks; He'll give them the strength to do them. And God has called me to witness such grim disasters in Sudan, Ethiopia, Lebanon and elsewhere. He has told me to tell what I see as forcefully and effectively as I can.

Similarly, I believe, He has called others—perhaps you—to respond in

certain ways: to pray, to support, to spread the word, perhaps even to serve more directly.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, “Faith is only real when there is obedience, never without it, and faith only becomes faith in the act of obedience.” He's right about that. And that's why I write so much about what I've experienced. I hope you can feel it!

*Ted W. Engstrom*

Ted W. Engstrom  
President

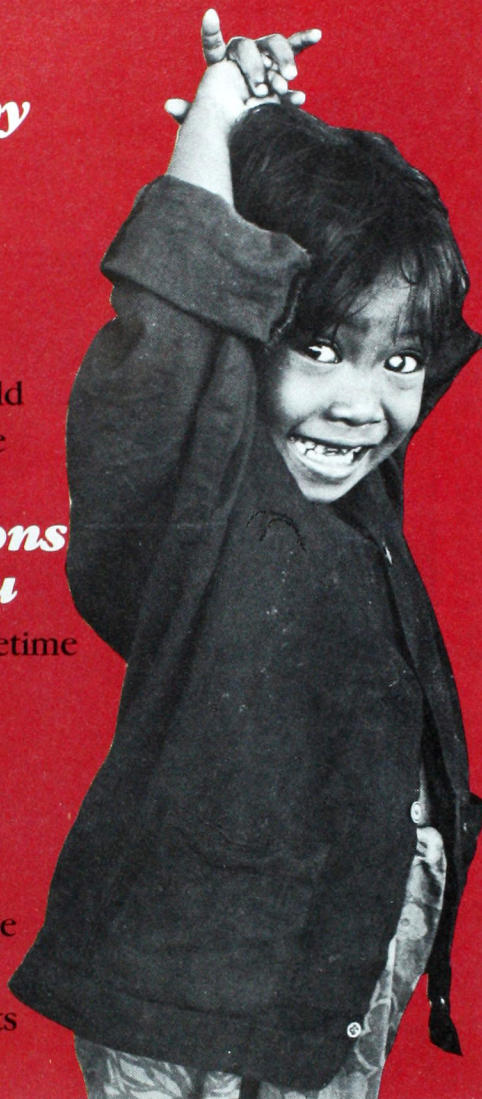


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A camel caravan in Sudan transports desperately needed grain to villagers in the Engesina Hills.



LEADER'S EDITION



# Readers write

## Self-help

I was glad to learn of the long-range plans World Vision has for educating the people to help themselves in the future. That is surely what is needed over the long haul.

Lois E. Marine  
Englewood, FL

## How one church reaches out to internationals

Our church (First Covenant) agrees that we must make Christ known to internationals in our community. For two years we have conducted an outreach program to our college community which includes international students. We call it "Adopt a College Student." What happens is that a family of our congregation "adopts" a student for the school year and makes that person a part of their family life. This may include some meals, family outings, having the student cook an international dish for the family, etc. It has been highly successful for both the family and the students.

Tom Miller  
River Falls, WI

## Gratitude in Mali

As Proverbs 17:17 says (in French): "*L'ami aime de tout temps, et dans le malheur il se montre un frère.*" Literally: "The friend loves at all times, and in times of misfortune he proves to be a brother."

We Malian Christians are very grateful to our Christian brothers and sisters all over the world who have been moved by our suffering and have given their time, money and themselves to save thousands of lives from starvation and cruel suffering.

More than that, the Lord has mightily used this Christian love expression, particularly in the southern part of the country, to draw to Himself hundreds of souls that are now members of His Kingdom. Many Christian missions and organizations have contributed to that, and World Vision is certainly not behind in this achievement.

In the Beledugu area a needy non-Christian who was freely given about 50 kilograms of rice said: "If this is how Christians love those they do not even know, then this is enough to believe in their God."

Indeed, the news of the food assistance given by the churches has spread all over the country and made Christianity come almost suddenly out of the shadow of ignorance. Now many villages that were

closed to the gospel are sending delegations to the churches to ask for a messenger to go preach the gospel to them.

Last Saturday the church I attend received such an invitation from a village 80 kilometers from Bamako where there were only four Christians. Thirteen people were announced to be ready for a decision for Christ. When the evangelistic service was over, an additional 13 people had accepted the Lord. You may not realize what that means for a 90% Muslim country.

The radio and TV programs that I have the privilege of leading for the churches by His grace, contribute very much to this spiritual movement. Many pastors are overwhelmed with discipleship work.

A critic may say that there are "rice Christians" among such converts. Sure, but most of them would not give an ear to the gospel outside a crisis context. Now they know Jesus and are responsible for their decision.

In this time of sorrow you have proved to be more than friends, to be real brothers and sisters in Christ. We in turn express our gratitude to you in Christ. May the Lord continue to bless you profusely in His service.

Daniel Coulibaly  
Bamako, Mali, West Africa

## Teenager knows what it's like

Our adopted daughter Ailise, who regularly sends her contributions to World Vision, is a high school student who earns about \$50 a week in her part-time job at McDonald's. All the donations are completely her own. Alice came to us from the streets of Seoul, Korea, when she was 5½ years old, along with her twin sister who was quadriplegic from polio. Ailise was the caretaker of the two, rummaging in the trash and begging to support the two of them. Perhaps this is why she is so generous with her meager earnings.

Jayne Hoge  
Duluth, GA

## Teen volunteer

I'm writing to you about the Counter-Top volunteers story in your August/September issue. I was a contributor to World Vision but because of family problems I thought I would no longer be able to give—until I read the story about Mrs. Darlene Newton. She raises money for your work by putting Counter-Top displays in stores and restaurants. I am willing to do the same to help people of all ages who are hungry.

I'm a teen and I'm willing to fight for others so they too may live. Please send me information about how I can become a Counter-Top volunteer.

Heather Hudson  
Paradise, CA

## New perspective

I just wanted to say how sorry I am for thinking you just wanted money all the time. I read, for the first time, WORLD VISION magazine all the way through. I was impressed, shocked and mostly ashamed.

God has been so kind to me and my family and I have been feeling sorry for myself, but no more.

I pledge my \$16 a month to help a child. Please forgive me.

Name withheld

## Called to city ministry

A page in John Maust's book *Cities of Change* carries the following poem by George MacDonald, which expresses the experience of many missionaries and national pastors who serve in Latin America's congested cities:

I said, "Let me walk in the field."

God said, "Nay, walk in the town."

I said, "There are no flowers there."

He said, "No flowers, but a crown."

I said, "But the sky is black,

There is nothing but noise and din."

But He wept as He sent me back,

"There is more," He said, "there is sin."

I said, "But the air is thick,

And fogs are veiling the sun."

He answered, "Yet souls are sick,

And souls in the dark undone."

I said, "I shall miss the light,

And friends will miss me, they say."

He answered me, "Choose tonight

If I am to miss you, or they."

I pleaded for time to be given.

He said, "Is it hard to decide?

It will not seem hard in Heaven

To have followed the steps of your Guide."

I cast one look at the fields,

then set my face to the town.

He said, "My child, do you yield?

Will you leave the flowers for the crown?"

Then into His hand went mine,

And into my heart came He;

And I walk in a light Divine,

The path I had feared to see. □



# World Vision®



## 4 The cry of the elephant's trunk

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## BEYOND SANTA'S USUAL ROUTE

**With so many big deliveries** to make on certain other continents, well-meaning Santa tends to miss most of the children in Africa.

"Oh, well," the plump old gent usually says sleepily to his reindeer when he unhitches them each year, "Grain hauling isn't really my bag anyway."

Yet in the dreams of children in Sudan and Ethiopia floats an image of neither a talking doll nor a Complete Package of the Hardware and Software Needed for New Computer Games, but of a bowl of almost anything to eat.

How fortunate, then, that within the vast region that Santa generally overlooks, a few camels now trudge faithfully across hot sand with grain,

some donkeys thread their way with seed and tools, and where the semblance of a road exists, a fleet of heavy-cargo trucks rumbles over rocky terrain with extremely precious gifts of corn, hoes, well-drilling machinery, diarrhea medicine and Good News.

To each big-hearted giver helping make such deliveries possible, *Merry Christmas to all—and to all a good night!*

David Olson

PHOTOS, ILLUSTRATIONS: Cover: Lloyd Ashton, photo, Gary Left, calligraphy; pp. 4-9, 23 (below): Bruce Brander; p. 11: Sanjay Sojwal; pp. 12, 13 (right): Jose Maria Blanch, (left): Armando Vasquez; pp. 14, 15 (above): Herb Shoebridge; pp. 15 (below), 16: Dana MacDuff; p. 17: COA; p. 18: Vallore Christian Medical College; return envelope, pp. 19, 20: Sheryl Watkins; p. 21: Ken Klippenstein; p. 23 (above): Bernard Gomes; p. 25: Jacob Akol.



Sudan's famine victims echo . . .

# THE CRY OF THE 'ELEPHANT'S TRUNK'

by Bruce Brander

**L**anding at Khartoum, I could hardly forget that I was entering a stricken country.

One thousand miles south of Cairo, roughly midway up the Nile River, the capital city of Sudan itself signaled the plight of its people. A hot, dusty haze wrapped the skyline. Gritty sand swept along the runway underfoot. Both told of the drought that long had racked the nation, and of a famine of biblical proportions spreading in its wake.

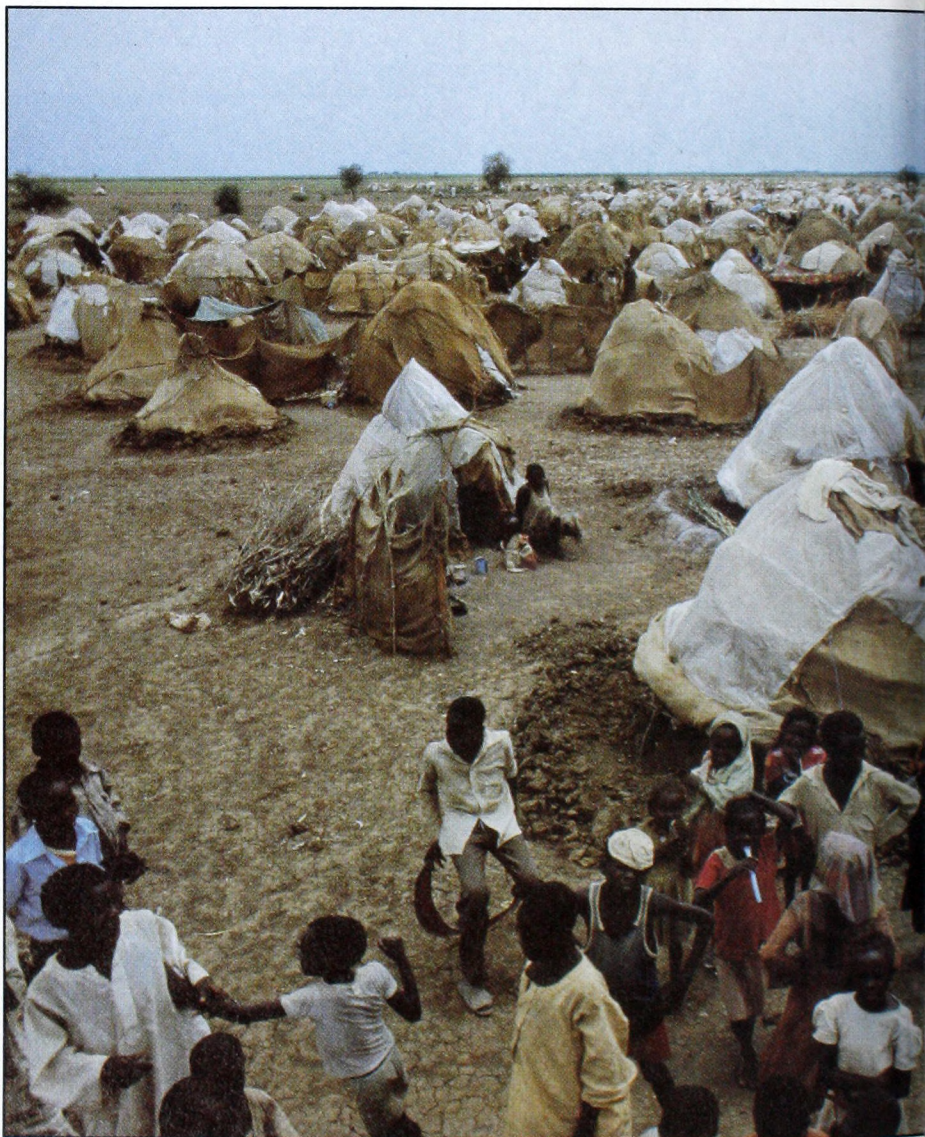
I had been reading of Sudan in scattered news reports, often overshadowed by heavier coverage from neighboring Ethiopia to the east. Africa's largest country, with an area greater than all of Western Europe, Sudan lay parched by drought for three and four and, in some places, ten years in a row. And, as it was all across the Sahel belt of semi-arid land dividing the Sahara Desert from green Africa, withering crops and dying livestock herds left farmers, villagers and nomadic tribes stripped of the barest sustenance.

No country except Ethiopia, in fact, was suffering more from the trans-continental drought. An estimated 8.4 million people—a colossal proportion of Sudan's total population of 22

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*Bruce Brander is an editor for World Vision International Communications.*

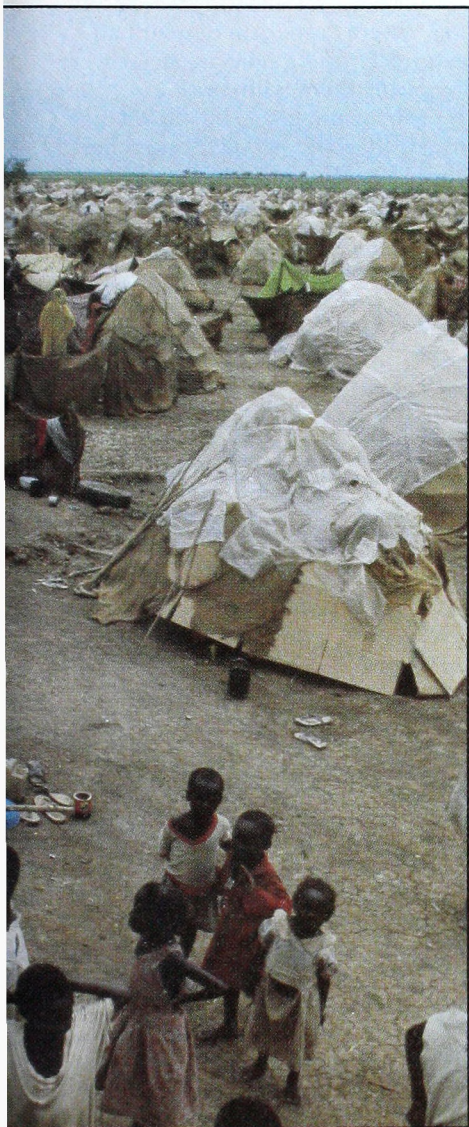
The 7000 refugees—largely Chadian—of Mabi Camp live in makeshift huts of reed matting, rags and plastic sheeting.







(left) Khartoum's Acropole Hotel with its faded empire-days style is popular with relief workers and journalists. (below) At Mobi Camp's medical tent, a Chadian woman is treated for suspected cholera before being hospitalized in Wad Medani.



million—were short of food. The need among many was desperate. Hundreds of thousands—perhaps as many as a million—were scattered throughout the vast and trackless country in various stages of starvation, sickness and dying.

The tragedy had come perilously close to mass annihilation of whole populations. But alert governments

## Young mothers sit on dusty pavements with their babies and plastic cups.

and relief agencies, including World Vision, were intervening in time to prevent that. Massive aid rushed to the anguished land was blocking the impending avalanche of death.

Khartoum looked normal for an Arabic African city. Its bleak concrete airport terminal fluttering with ceiling fans led out to a snarled traffic of hooting cars, donkeys and milling pedestrians. In the past decade alone, the city's population has doubled with a torrent of job-seekers from hundreds of miles around fleeing the drying-up countryside. It now stands at 1.4 million.

The population recently swelled much larger as farmers and herdsmen by the tens of thousands, fallen out of

the economic system, abandoned ancient homelands in the remote western provinces of Darfur and Kordofan to wander through the country in search of work and food. Khartoum became a capital of vagrants begging for their livelihood. The flood of newcomers strained urban resources and spread diseases of the destitute until the government trucked many of the people back into the hinterlands.

Yet even after the dispersion of the starving, I found signs of tragic hunger on city streets. Under the balconies that shade downtown shoppers from blast-furnace heat, young mothers sit on dusty pavements with their babies and plastic or aluminum cups. At a busy corner, an aging man dozes on a reed mat that serves as his only home. Outside my hotel, I ration out Sudanese pound notes to a silently imploring man in a ragged cotton turban, a graceful woman making hand-to-mouth gestures and a boy about 12 with the thinnest legs I've ever seen.

**The Acropole Hotel** is like a scene from a 1930s movie. A sand-colored building rising three stories on the corner of sandy streets, it serves as a hub for relief workers in Sudan.

The Acropole is no place for creature comforts. Guests climb to their rooms on twisting flights of stairs. Baths are down the hall; beds, springless cotton mattresses spread on



boards. A candle waits on each bedstand, since Khartoum sometimes goes without electricity for weeks at a time. And there is nothing to relieve midday temperatures of 115 degrees and more but lattice doors, window shutters and overhead fans reminiscent of empire days.

Khartoum's low skyline squats at the confluence of two of Africa's most storied rivers. The Blue Nile gushes down from the wild mountains of Ethiopia. The White Nile flows from the mid-African countries of Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda. The city's name means "elephant trunk," a shape

## Rain poured down in a summer-long deluge that turned much of the country into mire.

suggested as one river curls into the other for the single Nile's northward journey to Egypt.

Early last summer, as Sudan gasped through the driest of all its recent drought years, the great rivers crept past the city dark and sluggish, lower than anytime since the early 1900s, said some, and since the 1600s, claimed others. By September, both were running higher than most people could recall, flooding islands, drowning tall trees. Rain had returned to the Sahel.

It came as a curse. What everyone here was waiting for, praying for—while 20,000 Sudanese were dying from starvation every month for its lack—poured down in a summer-long deluge that turned much of the country into mire.

By July, relief food was piling up in Port Sudan on the Red Sea, the nation's single major entry point. The United States Agency for International Development, the United Nations World Food Program, World Vision Canada, and other donors from around the globe had filled warehouses and wharves with some 420,000 tons of cereal grains, milk powder, sugar, cooking oil and other commodities. Ships holding more lay offshore waiting for berthing space. Trucks and trains stood ready to carry the precious cargo to the barren and hungry interior.

But the rains paralyzed land transport. The single length of deteriorating rail line penetrating the west fell to pieces: a major bridge collapsed, plunging two locomotives off the tracks into a river, while washouts severed the route in nine other places. The whole of Sudan has only two lengths of paved road. Elsewhere, vehicles usually follow the tire prints of other vehicles, but rain turned most of these truck routes into totally impassable muck.

The European Economic Community responded with an "airbridge" of huge cargo planes from West Germany, Britain, Belgium, Denmark and Italy. But the airlifts of 20 tons per trip could not feed half a nation. Some food shipments were mobbed by desperate crowds of the starving.

Meanwhile, many tales of tragedy had yet to reach Khartoum. Most villages and tribal camps have neither telephones nor radios. Only the overfull rivers racing past the city suggested the extent of rains in distant places and how utterly cut off from help many people remained.

**The road southbound** from Khartoum is good: two lanes of fairly smooth blacktop crossing flat, tan land. In a four-wheel-drive vehicle full of World Vision workers, I sped toward the town of Wad Medani 114 miles distant to visit one of the camps where World Vision serves displaced desert people.

*Sug* lorries—Sudan's market trucks—crowded the outbound highway. The sturdy flatbed vehicles with their desert-wise drivers make up the country's major lifeline for goods and passengers. Pink and green, blue, orange and yellow, decked with curtains around the cabs, the trucks were setting out on journeys of days and weeks into remote hinterlands. At times World Vision has rented *sug* lorries when other transport for food relief was unavailable. For months many of the vehicles had been returning from the backlands full of people fleeing the dying countryside. These environmental migrants still had money for their journeys. Others, crowded on the tops of trains, rode for nothing. Still others walked.

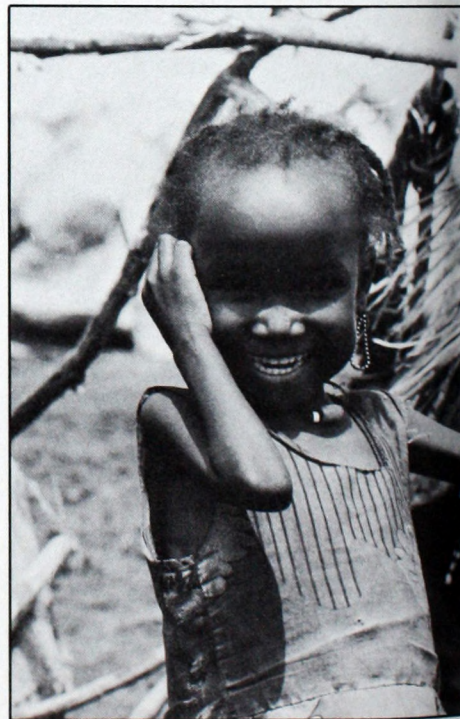
Down the road and to our right sprawled a grand illusionary lake of mirages. Out of that shimmering desert some wanderers came after walking for a thousand miles. They, among some 220,000 migrants, chose Sudan's

Central Region as their final hope.

Here, between the two great rivers, lies an irrigation scheme known as the *Gezira*—the island. Designed by British engineers in 1925, its vast lace-work of canals, ditches and pumps turned the area from a barren land of nomads into a rich alluvial garden. Today, with 2.1 million acres and 96,000 tenant farmers, the Gezira is the world's largest farm. In better times, migrant workers had come from many hundreds of miles away to find seasonal employment here, and oil-rich investors had hoped to make the area a breadbasket for the Arab world. In recent times, the hungry wanderers found no work, no food, even here. The Gezira's parched harvests did not tally up to half enough to feed itself.

Farther on a farmer poked a muddy field with a *seluka* stick, his yellow-robed wife popping seeds into the holes. All over Sudan, I had heard, the land was regaining its promise from recent rains and planting was resuming. Where farmers in despair had eaten their seed, relief agencies were supplying them with more.

"You cannot fail to be moved by the spirit of the people," one relief executive said. "They are weak and debilitated after months of cumulative malnutrition, but those who can are



A Chadian refugee girl, one of thousands saved from starvation, flashes a bright smile.



out there weeding and plowing. Some are actually dying in the fields."

Like the land, its animals, too, were beginning to fare better. A boy marched a tight-ranked herd of goats beside the road to a newly green grazing spot. Farther on, we stopped as two herders led a mob of lyre-horned cattle across the highway. Our driver remarked that the beasts were getting some flesh on them again.

Early promise of the first good harvest in years also was appearing. Roadside vendors in white *galabia* robes sat beneath thatch shelters with piles of watermelons, trays of tomatoes and pyramids of guavas for sale. Yet no substantial harvest of staple grains—sorghum, millet, maize—would arrive until mid-November. Until then the entire nation was dependent upon outside aid for its continued existence.

Children at the roadside danced and waved at our truck as we neared Wad

## Out of the shimmering desert some wanderers came after walking for a thousand miles.

Medani, a low town of flat-roofed buildings on the banks of the Blue Nile. I stopped briefly at the World Vision office there. The high-ceilinged room was full of workers and wall-charts, a nerve center for nutrition programs, medical services and future development plans for all of central Sudan.

World Vision, with its Sudan budget of \$5.7 million for fiscal year 1985, is not undertaking alone to feed the many millions of hungry people in the region. The task, too enormous for any single group, is shared among many agencies who work together in a complex network of cooperation.

In one plan, for example, World Vision finds areas of need, the United States Agency for International Development provides food, the United Nations World Food Program organizes transportation and, finally, World Vision monitors deliveries to village councils that then distribute the aid to people needing it most. In another plan, World Vision supplies staff, food or funds to camps run by other agencies, including the Christian-based Africa Committee for Rehabilitation of Southern Sudan (ACROSS).

Other arrangements are less formal. When World Vision ran short of sugar

to mix with flour, milk powder, oil and salt for a supplementary nutrition program serving malnourished children, another agency freely offered a whole truckload. Meanwhile, World Vision, learning of a hospital isolated by rains and desperately short of medicines, purchased the supplies from yet another agency and arranged to fly them into the remote location. At the same time, The British Save the Children Fund needed CB radios for food trucking operations, and World Vision provided the funds to supply them. Only such a network of free cooperation saved so many people so quickly in Sudan.

**Most of the workers** in the Wad Medani office were Sudanese. Months ago, reports had warned that some early food shipments had been hampered by misappropriation, riots, even bandit raids. To avert such problems at the outset of its work in Sudan, World Vision hired local monitors, many of them graduates of local universities. Their job was to travel through Central Region villages on foot and donkeyback, measuring needs then making sure distributions proceeded as intended.

One of the monitors, Anwar El Nour, a 28-year-old graduate of Cairo University, guided me to the camp for famine migrants on the outskirts of town. Near a village called Mobi, the encampment had grown spontaneously as displaced people from western Sudan and refugees from the country of Chad arrived, fleeing drought and famine there. Though Sudan is heavily burdened by crippled agriculture, a staggering national debt and civil war in its non-Islamic, black African southern region, the notably hospitable nation has generously received 1,160,000 refugees from Chad to the west, Ethiopia to the east and Uganda and Zaire to the south. Anwar explained: "These problems are not problems of countries but of African people, and the Sudanese want to help."

In four-wheel-drive, we jounced along a deeply rutted track past files of women and children walking toward town. Then, beyond the mud-brick homes of Mobi Village, we turned onto

(above) Kosli's refugee camp is now home to this mother and her child. (left) Even in a refugee camp, a tiny suq (market) is an important part of Arabic Africa.





a flat, dusty plain. Part of the roadless field served as a local cemetery. Just beyond, the city of displaced people spread half a horizon wide, its dome-shaped huts providing refuge for 7000.

With World Vision's Mobi camp manager Hugh Hamilton, an exuberant 28-year-old Irishman from County Kildare, I toured the area, following him on his morning rounds. Striding almost at a trot through the labyrinth of shoulder-high huts made of saplings, cardboard, reed matting and cloth, he greeted people cheerfully as he ferreted out the morning's sick.

As the patients of the day were carried in for treatment, I moved on to a nutrition tent. Hundreds of seriously malnourished children formed a long line across a dusty field. A few of them—recent arrivals—clung to mothers or fathers, too weak to walk. The rest had regained enough health to happily chatter and play while they waited for meals of high-nutrition porridge. One by one they filed past a registration table, held their hands out for washing, and toddled into the long canvas shelter. Two local women ladled the food from steaming vats into orange plastic bowls while other women carried them to the rows of waiting children.

I wandered on to watch several Chadian women building a new hut.

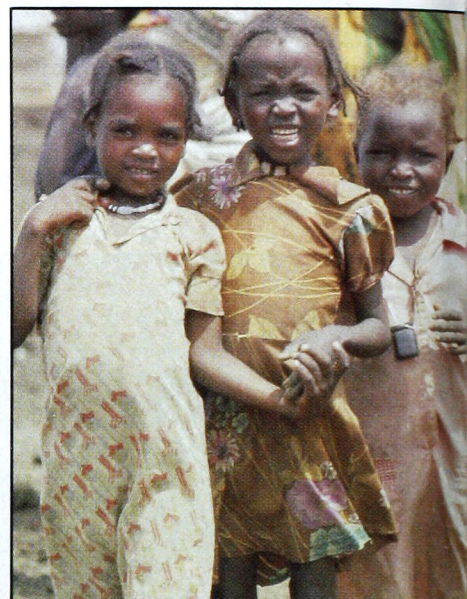
"We're starting another section of the camp," said Jan Pearce, who was taking a break from work in the medical tent. The wife of the World Vision Central Region project manager, David Pearce, a retired dairy farmer from New Zealand, Jan labored among the displaced people with neither official position nor pay. That morning her vehicle had broken down in a mud rut. She had walked to the camp. Now she waved a hand toward neat files of huts rising ahead like beige bubbles. "More people are arriving every day. The camp that grew here before we came is too crowded. The shelters are too close. Here we're trying to space them out and put streets between the rows."

**With Anwar** I returned to the older section of the camp. Winding among the shacks, we looked for someone who would give me a personal account of how he had come here. We stopped beside a group of turbaned men sitting on a large reed mat. One of them got up to find a leader.

Sheik Isaka Ali Omer, a man of 75 who looked at least 20 years younger, said he would be happy to speak with me. With Anwar acting as interpreter, Sheik Isaka told me he had led his people out of the Abeche region of eastern Chad, where people must be hardy to survive. Nomadic herders often live for months on nothing more than camel's meat and camel's milk.

**"You cannot fail to be moved by the spirit of the people."**

Sheik Isaka's people were not nomads but farmers cultivating millet. Yet their land was harsh and they were hardy too. But when herds died away and seeds refused to grow for several years in a row, they saw no people could be strong enough to endure such a



(above) Refugee children outside Sennar, in another camp where World Vision ministers.  
(right) A young Chadian mother encourages her son to wash before eating.





terrible drought. In September 1984 they left the land of their forebears.

They could only wander from place to place, the leader said, looking for food. Though a proud and independent people, they often were reduced to begging. "My wife and children also begged," the sheik said, nodding slowly. When he and his following found the once-rich Gezira region also stricken with drought, his people scattered. Where they went he did not know, nor if they were alive. He brought the ones who stayed with him, along with his family, to Mobi Camp. Soon after, World Vision relief arrived.

"We are very happy here," Sheik Isaka told me with the courtly courtesy of desert people, as we stood amidst the squalid jumble of hovels. Things were better now, he explained. The sick were treated. The death rate was low. And since the first food shipment

arrived in May—enough for only one handful a person—the quantities they received had been growing

"But there is still too little," Sheik Isaka pleaded, holding up a metal bowl. "We get this much for each person every eight days. Yet it is gone in five days."

Feeling helpless over the hunger of his people, I took his photograph to go with my report and assured him that I would bring his problem to my people.

The problem that Sheik Isaka described—a problem of some help but not yet enough—appeared everywhere as I made my way through other camps farther south and in the distant west where World Vision is working.

The medical tents I saw welcomed all comers. But always they were short of staff. Undernourished children by the thousands filed into feeding tents for health-restoring meals. Careful

camp design was alleviating crowded, makeshift living conditions while improving hygiene and sanitation standards. But there were too few workers, often no waterproof materials to keep huts and their occupants dry during rains, too few blankets to fend off pneumonia and other illnesses resulting from chilling.

Not only in the camps did I encounter problems of serious continued need. Everywhere I traveled in Sudan, I heard heart-wrenching tales of isolated regions yet unreached by relief supplies where food had run out weeks and even months before.

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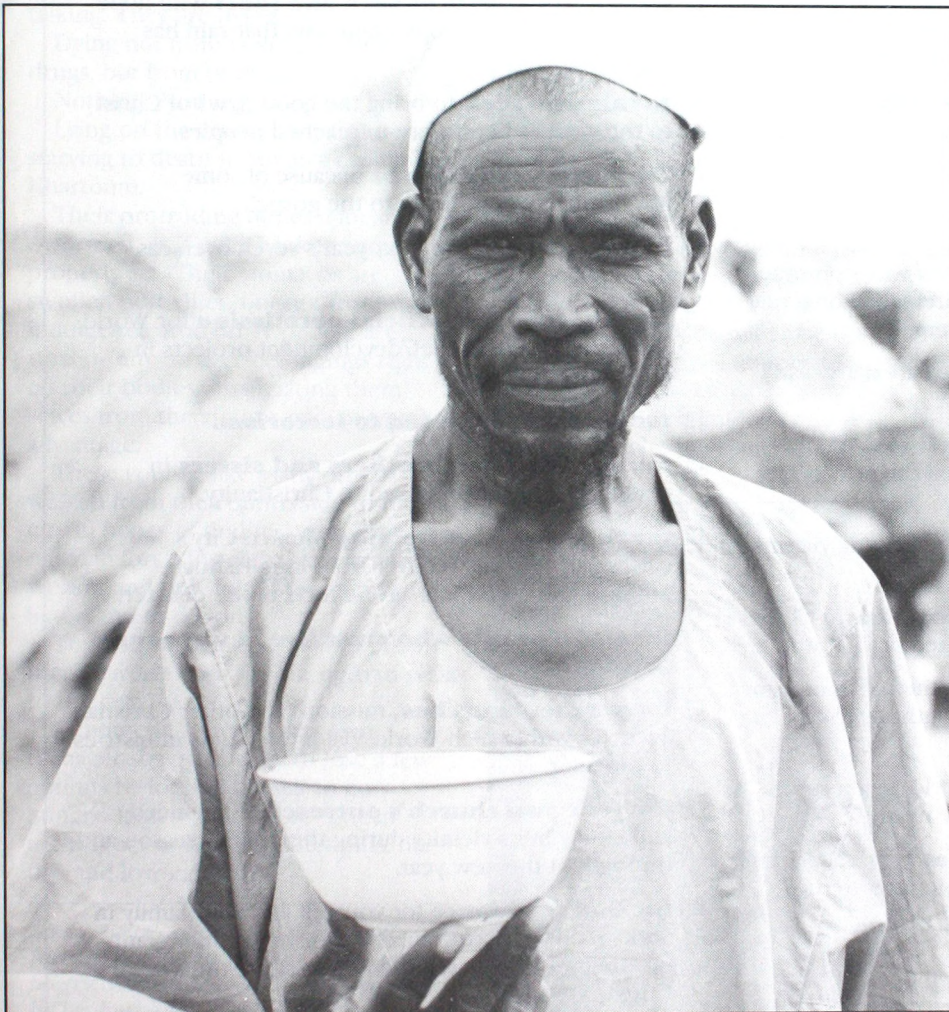
**Though a proud and independent people, they often were reduced to begging.**

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World Vision, along with other agencies, is preparing to help Sudan and its people meet many of these urgent needs. But we also mean to go beyond immediate necessities. As I spoke and traveled with our workers, I heard discussions of a five-year project to bring water supplies to remote central villages where presently women might carry water daily for miles on their heads. World Vision is mapping out ways to help farmers increase production on their lands and income for their families. Still more ambitious are plans for tree nurseries in local villages that will enable local people to anchor fragile soils and stop the annual two-to-three-mile southward advance of the desert, perhaps gaining new land as well.

So far, eminently successful relief efforts have averted the catastrophic mass starvation of a nation. But the job is far from done. More food, more workers, more funds are needed to bring the country back to its feet. Anwar once told me, "The people are very grateful for what World Vision is doing." But, like Sheik Isaka, he hoped we could stay and do more. □

*To help provide food and hope for starving Sudanese people at this time, please use the return envelope provided between pages 18 and 19.*



**Sheik Isaka Ali Omer, 75, uses a bowl to show how much grain each person in Mobi Camp receives for a week.**



# When you pray

## THANK GOD . . .

- ☐ **for the spirit of prayer** that is spreading in a growing number of churches worldwide.
- ☐ **for the volunteers and donations** which have already saved thousands of lives in Africa's famine-stricken nations.
- ☐ **for the provision of trucks**, donkeys and now even camels to deliver food and hope to starving Africans.
- ☐ **for the longer-range self-help projects** which now have been launched in areas previously served only by emergency relief efforts.
- ☐ **for the spiritual response** of many who have been touched by Christians' caring ministries.
- ☐ **for the nutrition and health workers** who will continue to serve the needy throughout the Christmas holidays.
- ☐ **for all who labor to reach** heretofore unevangelized people of the world.
- ☐ **for the faithfulness of believers** who continue to represent Christ in the face of threatened or actual imprisonment and other mistreatment.
- ☐ **for the national pastors** who attended a World Vision conference in Manipur, India.
- ☐ **for the remarkably effective witness** of believers whose churches are denied the privilege of corporate worship services.
- ☐ **for the way many Americans** are helping victims of Mexico City's earthquakes.
- ☐ **for the large number of new converts** to Christ in Central American countries ravaged by civil war.
- ☐ **for childcare workers**, meeting the needs of many abused or abandoned children in South American nations.
- ☐ **for the churches** with which World Vision serves as a partner in ministries among the needy.
- ☐ **for the abundant opportunities** your church can find to express God's love in tangible ways to the needy and lonely nearby.

## PLEASE INTERCEDE . . .

- ☐ **for the still-helpless hungry** in widely scattered regions of Sudan who will never see 1986 unless they can be reached swiftly with food and medical care.
- ☐ **for a continued outpouring** of assistance that will put thousands more on their feet again in Jesus' name.
- ☐ **for the emergency workers** who are using every feasible mode of transportation to get vital supplies to starving and malnourished people.
- ☐ **for nutrition and health workers** who will work long days through the season's holidays.
- ☐ **for the recipients of seed and tools** who hope to raise successful crops again now that rain has returned.
- ☐ **for all who seek** to bring the good news of Christ to the world's heretofore unreached peoples.
- ☐ **for pastors imprisoned** because of some governments' opposition to the gospel.
- ☐ **for the planners** of next year's seven overseas pastors' conferences.
- ☐ **for governments' official permission** for World Vision to conduct relief/development projects in areas not yet entered.
- ☐ **for families subjected to terrorism.**
- ☐ **for our Christian brothers and sisters** in countries officially opposed to Christianity.
- ☐ **for those who are helping** Mexico City's earthquake victims recover from long-lasting physical and emotional after-effects of the disaster.
- ☐ **for God's people who must live in war zones** or refugee camps.
- ☐ **for partner churches**, missions and other Christian agencies with which World Vision conducts ministries to the poor.
- ☐ **for your own church's outreach** to the needy and lonely in its vicinity during the holiday season and throughout the new year.
- ☐ **for God's guidance** for yourself and your family in seeking out opportunities to minister to immigrants or foreign students with whom to share the love of Christ.



## A CORNER TO DIE ON

by David Beltz,  
with help from his wife Rhoda

**O**n the corner outside my hotel, I see four teens. As a parent of a teen, I am aware that most of them are taken up with conversation about their peers: who said what, who was doing what, and so on. But these four teens aren't laughing, comparing notes or even talking. They are dying.

Dying not from violence, nor from drugs, but from nothing.

Nothing? Nothing to eat.

Lying on the ground, they are starving to death in Sudan's capital city, Khartoum.

Their protruding bones appear deformed, as if once broken and not properly set. Their stomachs are swollen potbellies, but not from over-indulgence. And other people are stealing any meager belongings right off their bodies, dissociating themselves from the victims except to take advantage.

These youths, like many others, walked from the countryside to the city in hopes of finding nourishment of some form. Instead, they became weaker and only found the corner to lie on and to die on.

The countryside is worse. People there haven't even the strength to walk to the city.

At home in America, my own teenager struggles daily to lose a few pounds by forcing herself to go hungry. How would these African teens react to diet pop, diet pills, lite this and low-cal that?

Looking at the four Sudanese youths, I cannot isolate my emotions. Are they anger, fear, pity? Am I doubting God's existence? Where is He? How does He feel when He looks down at these teens crumpled on the ground, looking like skeletons upholstered with a thin fabric of skin?

I see only a few at a time. God sees the millions. How does He seek solace?

I'm here to help, but I can't help. The fact that I'm here doing a job is helpful—in an impersonal kind of way—but I feel so *unhelpful* because I'm only a few feet away from dying kids. I am not underweight, I have plenty, but I cannot save them. The lump in my throat feels the size of a golf ball. Would it help if I cried?

It is so hot! Today's temperature is somewhere between 110° and 115° Fahrenheit, with humidity of 30-40 percent. Air-conditioning, of course, is

non-existent. I'm always sweaty. Are these people so dehydrated that they do not sweat?

I'm so thirsty for a tall glass of crushed ice and water—even L.A. tap water. But these people drink only from muddy puddles, with their cupped hands. What is crushed ice? What's a glass?

Before I left for Sudan on this survey trip, I saw slides—lots of slides of similar situations, mostly in Ethiopia. The mourning mothers with children half their normal size in their arms. The pictures of naked children with flies feeding on their faces. The photos were stills; surely the children would shoo the flies off their faces; isn't that a natural reaction? How can I live knowing the reality is that flies don't just make rest stops on these faces—they *live* there!

Back at the office, we could walk

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**H**ow do I go back to my own life and justify its fullness? All I can pray for is understanding.

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away from a slide-viewing to a dinner party or our favorite restaurant. Here, I can't turn the slide show off. The people are in front of me. Someone please turn the lights back on!

Right now, I'm angry with God. I am unable to pray. What would I pray for? Peace of mind? Food? Rain? I look up through the sand-filled air toward the sky. Forgive me, Lord, but this is unbearable. How do I go back to my own life and justify its fullness? All I can pray for is understanding. Help me, Lord, to understand.

I begin remembering how much Jesus suffered. He was not exempt from pain. I begin sorting out the meaning of living this nightmare and rejoining my family and friends. It brings a measure of peace to my heart to know that my being here will in some way make a difference. I cling to this. Instead of looking at the masses I cannot help, I must turn and look at those lives I am helping to save. I'm here to give these people life; they will never know how much they have given me. □



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*Rhoda Beltz's writing is usually in the form of humorous greeting cards and poetry. She was moved to write this piece by her husband David's graphic account in a letter he wrote her while on a survey assignment in Sudan for World Vision. David and Rhoda live in Duarte, California, with their two daughters.*



Providing immediate and long-range help for quake victims

# REBUILDING IN MEXICO CITY

**M**exico City's earthquake damage no longer claims front-page headlines, but the arduous tasks of clean-up, restoration and rehabilitation still remain.

World Vision, like other relief agencies from around the world, provided emergency assistance immediately following the mid-September quakes which left more than 7500 people dead and thousands more injured and homeless. Initial assistance from World Vision was channeled mainly through the Salvation Army Rehabilitation Center, the First Baptist Church of Mina and the Sion Methodist Church, where quake victims received food, medicine, blankets and plastic sheeting.

The majority of the quake damage occurred in the central portion of Mexico City. More than 500 buildings, including hospitals, hotel and government buildings, were completely destroyed. No World Vision sponsor children were killed or hurt during either of the quakes, however.

Although most of the rescue work and removal of rubble took place in the downtown district, two lower-income neighborhoods about one mile away suffered extensive damage. In one area, colonia (neighborhood) Morelos, more than 500,000 impoverished people live in a 10-by-17-block area. Most of the residents live in "vecindads," single-family dwellings converted to accommodate as many as 30 families each. Ordinarily, a vecindad will have only one water source and toilet for all of the residents. Many of the vecindads in Morelos were destroyed during the earthquakes.

In addition to its initial emergency

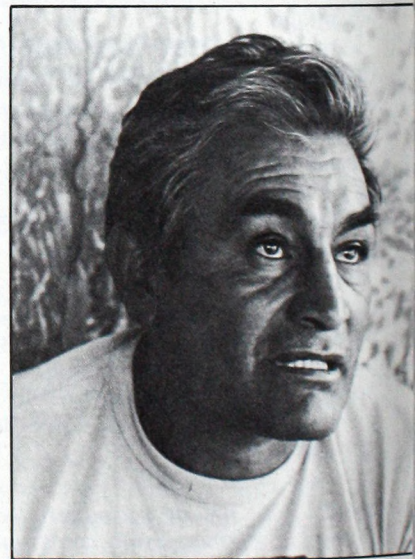
Food, tools and blankets purchased by World Vision are carried from a van into the Salvation Army Rehabilitation Center, where they were later distributed to victims immediately following the quake.



relief response, World Vision has undertaken a \$350,000 extended rehabilitation and development project slated to continue through June. The project will focus on the needs of families in colonia Morelos. Besides continuing to provide food, medical supplies and blankets, World Vision will also rebuild 100 multi-family dwellings occupied by 300 families, thus providing permanent shelter for as many as 3000 people.

Medical care is still among the greatest needs of the people living in the city. World Vision will provide

**In one stricken neighborhood, more than 500,000 impoverished people live in a 10-by-17-block area.**



"People have been very good to us," said 51-year-old Apriano Alvarez. "Volunteers pass by often. One feels like crying."





A cross and the name "Hugo" are painted on a crumbling concrete wall to mark the spot where one of the building's residents died.

Two-year-old Dulce Maria clings to her mother's hem as her family seeks temporary shelter.



- W**orld Vision will
- help rebuild 100 multi-family dwellings
  - provide artificial limbs for 200 people
  - compensate residents for reconstruction work.

World Vision's partners in its rehabilitation effort will include a Presbyterian and a Baptist church and the National Board of Voluntary Agencies. The Baptist church will sponsor an evangelistic program aimed at reaching earthquake victims. The project budget will include \$10,000 to assist less-affluent congregations repair their church buildings.

Jose-Maria Blanch, World Vision's director of communications for Latin America, toured Mexico City shortly after the earthquakes to assess the damage and help determine the nature of World Vision's response.

"The easy part of World Vision's work—the distribution of emergency relief commodities—is over," Mr. Blanch said. "The most difficult times are still ahead as we initiate rehabilitation efforts." □

artificial limbs for 200 people who were dismembered in the earthquake. The prostheses—costing \$300 each—will be provided at no cost to the victims. In addition, crisis counseling and legal advice will be available to those who experienced trauma and unusual hardship during the earthquake aftermath.

In keeping with World Vision's commitment to community involvement, colonia Morelos residents will be compensated for their participation in the recovery of their own neighborhood. For 90 days, World Vision will

pay 250 community members for their rubble-clearing efforts. This program will help offset families' loss of income that resulted when hundreds of businesses were destroyed by the quakes.

To further create employment in poor neighborhoods where the unemployment rate was high even before the earthquake, World Vision will work with partner agencies to initiate income-generating projects by January. Included will be a block/brick manufacturing program being started by the Salvation Army.

In addition to the Salvation Army,



"Four years ago I'd never have imagined . . ."

# AN URBAN MINISTRY WITH AN INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

by Hilary Clay Hicks

**G**ross roots community groups sometimes grow into highly significant urban ministries with international overtones. Example: Christian Outreach Appeal of Long Beach, California.

"I remember four years ago. We were driving a green station wagon full of food and clothing to Rosepark Orphanage in Tijuana, Mexico," says COA director, Jack Jensen. "Now we're using semi-trucks to deliver 100,000 pounds of food each week to a distribution center in Tijuana.

"Four years ago, I would never have imagined giving out almost 1.5 million pounds of food in 1984. By the end of the first half of 1985 we matched that, giving away over \$2 million worth of food to people in need. That's astronomical for a ministry born so recently."

The group's work includes sharing food with hungry people in Long Beach and northern Mexico, besides serving as one of the few agencies significantly alleviating the problems of the Southeast Asian refugees, more than 40,000 of whom live in Long Beach.

Christian Outreach Appeal is closely tied to a church in Long Beach. At the same time, it draws on the resources of about 50 other Los Angeles area churches, a federal agency and other community groups. It is tackling as



Jack Jensen networks with churches, agencies and individuals to minister to internationals.

much as possible of a unique urban area's needs and also using its resources to extend its ministry beyond the nation's southern border.

As now constituted, COA began with Jack Jensen, 48, a Long Beach certified public accountant. "I was a partner in a CPA firm, reasonably successful, but I became burdened about the needs of others," says Jensen, who turned to Christ at the age of 14 and re-committed his life to Him in 1979. "Our children were grown, so I was able to go overseas, working for the United Nations on the Thai-Cambodian border in '79 and '80. As a field officer in

**"We've had no choice but to step into the gap."**

refugee camps, I experienced the horror of the bitter fruit of civil war. It changed my life. When I came back, I started this."

"This" was a food center in Long Beach on property owned by the United Methodist Church. "By serving Hispanics in the Long Beach area, we became acutely aware of the needs just 100 miles south of us in Mexico. We began to network with other churches and agencies in Southern California and then with those across the border.

"We're now working with about 50 churches in the U.S. One hundred fifty or so Mexican churches, of which 50 are in Tijuana alone, draw food from us and feed as many destitute people as they can in their areas. We have distribution centers in Tijuana, Ensenada and Mexicali, and we're helping people as far south as San Quintin, about 200 miles below the border."

**Initially**, the food came from processors in the private sector and from the Long Beach Food Bank. In December '84, a contract was begun with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), which has since supplied about two-

*Hilary Hicks is a freelance writer who lives in North Hollywood, California.*





**A little Cambodian girl's curiosity leads her to the Long Beach Emergency Food Center.**



**Refugees can smile more easily because COA has committed itself to provide food for needy Asian families.**

thirds of the goods distributed, such as cheese, butter and dry milk.

USAID ships these food supplies to Chula Vista, California. From there, COA trucks them and all other goods designated for Mexico to their Mexican distribution points.

Typical food distribution in Mexico includes cheese, butter, dry milk, bread, tomato sauce—and produce when available.

A year ago, World Vision gave COA some 240,000 packets of vegetable seed for use in Mexico. Youngsters from American churches distributed them door-to-door with gospel tracts, giving about 20 packets of seed to each family. COA also frequently takes bus-



loads of young people from Los Angeles to Mexico to show them conditions firsthand.

In a related ministry, COA conducts an ongoing sponsorship program in cooperation with the Rose Park Orphanage in Tijuana. Mexican orphans are sponsored by U.S. families and brought once a month to their sponsors' homes to benefit from a Christian family atmosphere.

In Long Beach (pop. 361,334), a sprawling, mixed-income seaport community south of Los Angeles, the work has an urban ministry character. "We serve about 75 families a day with

## **"We began to network with other churches and agencies."**

food packages, and we counsel them about jobs, housing and other basic needs," says Joel Roberts, 24, assistant director of COA and a student at Fuller Theological Seminary.

"We use basically the same methods both here and in Mexico," says Roberts. "We insist on a high level of integrity in our program's eligibility systems. Program participants' needs must be well-documented."

Says Jensen: "With my background as a CPA, we're serious about good stewardship. We're working with other people's money and the Lord's money. That calls for good record-keeping."

The Long Beach ministry is managed in cooperation with a church, the Iglesia de Dios (Church of God), a Hispanic congregation with about 135 members pastored by Vincent Negrón, 43.

Food lines are served in the church's basement with the help of volunteers from the church. COA also employs a truck driver who picks up goods from donors at various points in southern California and delivers them to the Iglesia de Dios basement warehouse. Some of the food comes from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

**Cans of food received at Christian Outreach Appeal are neatly shelved for efficient distribution.**

**For a family** of up to five people, the Long Beach Emergency Food Center distributes a bag of flour, a bag of cornmeal, about five pounds of cheese, one pound of butter, three pounds of honey, a bag of rice, four pounds of dry milk and two or three loaves of bread. Produce is given when available.

Currently, this quantity of supplies is being distributed every two months. COA hopes soon to be able to provide the same amount of food each month.

Pastor Negrón, who describes himself as "a former street hood from New York," is of Puerto Rican extraction, raised in the U.S. He was a civil rights activist in the '60s, worked in Catholic social services ("they trained me for what I do now"), and came to Christ while in Puerto Rico. He attended seminary there, pastored there, and then sought assignment to southern California. "My wife and I wanted to work with the Mexican people," he says. More of a "street" type than Jensen or Roberts, Negrón is an interesting third member of the

management trio of COA, especially compatible with its urban and Hispanic environment.

"We have no doubt that the Lord brought us together for this work," says Jensen. COA's offices are located on the second floor of the Iglesia de

**A Mexican girl holds a stroller to push home food her mother has obtained from COA's food center.**





Dios, and both organizations have occupied the present site for the last two years.

COA's services to the Southeast Asian refugee community in Long Beach adds yet another dimension to their labors. "In recent years, the agencies serving them have lost funding," says Jensen. "Nearly 40,000 Cambodians, Laotians and Thais live in this community, 20,000 of them Cambodians, with whose background I had important experience when I worked in the

refugee camps six years ago. We've had no choice but to step into the gap and help them."

**The birthplace** of Christian Outreach Appeal in 1981 was a community garden in Long Beach, where land had been obtained so that Asian refugees could raise crops. To that project was added tutoring of Asian refugee women in survival English and tutoring of Asian children at all public school

levels so they could help their parents. Students from Christian colleges in the area serve as volunteer tutors. Resettlement assistance is managed in cooperation with the Asian-Pacific Family Outreach Center.

Much of this work is done in cooperation with two Cambodian Christian congregations, one in Santa Ana, California, and one in Long Beach. The Cambodian churches have provided sponsor-families to help refugees adjust to their new homeland.

"We're doing everything possible to help meet physical needs," says Jensen. "But far more help is needed. We're only able to meet a small part.

"All of COA's programs are the result of Christian commitment," Jensen

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## **"The Lord brought us together for this work."**

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continues. "We distribute gospel tracts wherever possible. We assist in evangelism in Mexico. In partnership with both U.S. and Mexican churches, we're trying to do our part in the Lord's name."

In 1985, World Vision underwrote certain communications aspects of COA's work. "World Vision has a good understanding of our needs and has furthered our ability to network in our community and in Mexico," says Roberts.

"Needless to say, we—like most non-profit ministries—are always ahead of our funding base," says Jensen. "We have to be frugal and we must struggle on through by faith. People don't understand how we do it."

According to Paul Landrey, director of World Vision's U.S. Ministries, "Christian Outreach Appeal is virtually a model of what can be done. God has called out a special team to do a special job, pulling together the resources for what has become both an urban and an international ministry.

"We're proud to be working with that team." □

**As part of its holistic ministry in Mexico, COA helps a Mexican boy learn carpentry skills.**





Though bedridden herself, Dr. Mary Varghese is

## DOCTOR TO THE DISABLED

**F**or her 32 years of medical care to India's lepers, paraplegics and polio victims, Dr. Mary Varghese, herself a paraplegic, is the 1985 recipient of the Robert W. Pierce Award for Christian Service. She is the sixth person to receive this annual World Vision award, which consists of a commemorative silver medallion, a wall plaque and a check for \$10,000.

"Dr. Varghese personifies all that we mean by rehabilitation, both in her own response to severe disability and in her lifelong commitment to help others achieve the maximum they're capable of in the face of the consequences of disease or injury," said World Vision International President Tom Houston in announcing the award.

"While lying paralyzed in bed, she gave herself to God to be used to inspire and help other people struggling with a disability, deformity or handicap. She has been true to this commitment in unbelievable ways for more than 30 years now.

"I first heard her story from Dr. Paul Brand in Scotland when she had just started working with people who were deformed as a result of leprosy. Afterwards, moved by her fortitude, someone prayed, 'Lord, help us to strip from ourselves like cobwebs the troubles we have allowed to cling to us like chains.' For nearly three decades, Dr. Varghese has been an inspiration to me."

Dr. Varghese had just begun her medical career when an accident almost ended her life. After graduating from the Christian Medical College in Vellore in 1952 and completing her senior house surgency [internship] in 1953, she planned to pursue a career in the field of gynecology. In January

1954, on the way to a college picnic, a station wagon carrying Dr. Varghese and others went off the road, injuring the passengers. Her spinal cord was severely damaged just below the neck and her face was seriously gashed.

After two years of recovery, she was able to continue her profession from a wheelchair. Under the teaching of the gifted Christian specialist Dr. Paul Brand, she began doing transplants on leprosy patients who had the characteristic "clawed" hands.

Dr. Varghese's continuing contribution to medicine showed her concern for and skill in the treatment and rehabilitation of paraplegics, hemiplegics and polio victims. While caring for these victims, she advanced their cause in several substantial ways.

Primarily due to her patient perseverance, the Christian Medical College opened a new building for the Department of Physical Medicine. Dr. Varghese established and supervised this new department in which medical students began receiving their training.

Later she started and operated a rehabilitation center for severely handicapped patients. In this 30-bed center she also led research in preventing bedsores for paraplegics, and in discovering what types of mattresses best suited their needs. Her special faith motivated her to further

serve the disabled by visiting them in the wards and outpatient clinics.

The government of India has recognized her medical contribution by presenting her with the Padma Shree award for outstanding, courageous work among the disabled.

Although completely bedridden since 1978, Dr. Varghese continues to be a woman of courageous vision. Her dream is to build a Christian sheltered workshop for the severely disabled. She has initiated the Mary Varghese Trust for the Physically Handicapped and has purchased an acre of property for building the workshop and a small chapel.

The story of her sacrificial life is told in her biography *Take My Hands*, by Dorothy Clark Wilson, which includes examples of her personal ministry such as her Bible classes for nursing students.

"She has been a source of spiritual help to many of her colleagues and has touched the lives of many disabled people around the world," says her friend and colleague since college days, Dr. Sarala Elisha. "She is a woman of tremendous faith and courage, a woman of prayer and an ardent student of God's Word. Her cheerfulness gives courage and comfort to those who visit her." □





Faithful caring restores health and hope

# THE CHALLENGE OF CHAD

by Fred Messick

(right) American nutritionist Sharon Gonzales (center) helps villagers prepare "bouillie" porridge at a nutrition-health center.  
(below) A youngster pauses midway through a bowl of porridge.



**F**or generations, survival in Chad has been difficult. Recently, however, food and water shortages, combined with political and civil conflict, diseases, and extreme poverty have escalated the struggle between life and death.

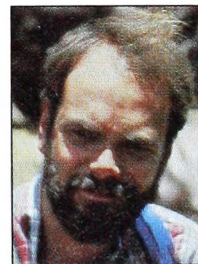
Landlocked in north-central Africa, Chad has two geographic regions. In the north, the desert area including the Sahel is the inhospitable home of scattered groups of Arabs whose nomadic lifestyle reflects their ever-present concern with food and water.

Traditionally, Chad's greatest hope has been in the south. Fertile lands and abundant rains have made this area south of the Chari River the country's breadbasket, capable of growing enough millet, sorghum and other crops to feed most of the nation's five million people. Many of the fields are also planted in cotton, Chad's primary export crop and source of income.

In recent years, however, the landscape in the south has changed dramatically. The once-abundant rains became increasingly unreliable and infrequent. Lush vegetation disappeared,

crops withered, and lean harvests served as frustrating reminders that the margin of life was narrowing.

Fortunately, rains have returned to southern Chad, at least in the short-



Fred Messick

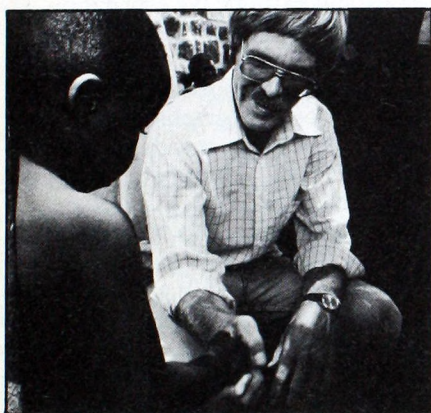


term. Yet food shortages continue because of a lack of seeds and tools. Many farmers "en brousse"—in the bush—have been weakened by the famine and are unable to return to work in their fields.

Government and relief organizations are trying to help. That help fails to reach many people in need, however. In the troubled south, food distribution is hampered by poor roads and security problems, including attacks by rebel groups known as "codos," some of whom are motivated by loyalty to the previous government, while others are simply bandits and thieves.

In this environment, World Vision has made a commitment to provide food for those most affected by famine: severely malnourished infants, children, mothers and the elderly.

World Vision nutrition-health



(above)  
American  
nutritionist Mike  
Finley shakes the  
hand of a young  
child he has just  
weighed and  
measured. (right)  
A mother waits  
patiently for  
food for her  
severely mal-  
nourished child.

specialists Michael Finley and Sharon Gonzales are providing help in the Moundou area of southwest Chad. In their first two months of operation, Michael and Sharon have conducted nutrition-need surveys in 49 villages in the Krim-Krim region, measuring arm circumference, and checking the height/weight ratio and overall health of more than 3000 children. According to these tests, as many as one-fourth of the children are severely malnourished. Even more are suffering from malaria and other diseases.

During my recent visit to Moundou I saw the opening of the first of six nutrition-health centers. The first step in this effort—as in all of our community work in Chad—was to meet with the village chief and his elders. As they gave us a gracious welcome, people from huts throughout the villages rounded up enough chairs for our meeting. Then, as we sat together in the shade of a tree by the chief's hut, Michael and Sharon explained the goals of the project and asked for villagers' support and participation. Later that day Michael told me, "We are committed to building relationships of mutual trust wherever we go. We feel honored that village chiefs welcome us to work with them in their villages. We are not simply helping them; they are also helping us learn new lessons about friendship and community."

During the course of my visit in the south, I watched Sharon train village women to operate the center and, specifically, to prepare a high protein mixture called "bouillie"—made up of corn-soy-milk powder, cooking oil, sugar, and boiled water. That first day, approximately 100 severely malnourished infants were fed.

It was anticipated that each center, furnished with enough "bouillie"

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**"We are not simply helping them; they are also helping us."**

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mixture to last until December harvests, would eventually provide a daily meal for as many as 300 village children and others in desperate need of food. Now, as we continue our commitment to needy villagers, we are looking ahead to rehabilitation and development efforts to help move people even closer to good health.

In the villages we work alongside local Christians such as Alphonse Natibe, a Chadian nurse who has lived in Krim-Krim for seven years. Alphonse, a key person in the operation of the nutrition-health centers, told me about the local needs. As the only medical worker in the area, he sees 2500 patients a week.

Many of the Krim-Krim people, says Alphonse, suffer from malaria and other effects of unhealthful water and poor sanitation. Frustratingly, he never has enough medicine to treat all those who need help. Yet he remains motivated to serve. "It's the Christian life for me to follow the word of God, to be faithful to God, to care for people physically and spiritually."

In Chad I saw a country beset by a multitude of problems. Yet I saw evidence of new rains, prospects for a better harvest, and a commitment from the World Vision partnership to care and to help. I saw in many of the villages—and in the faces of villagers themselves—hopeful signs of a healthier future. □

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*Fred Messick is a member of World Vision's communication resources staff.*





# Samaritan sampler

SOME WAYS PEOPLE ARE HELPING  
OTHERS IN THE NAME OF CHRIST



Zambia's President Kaunda shakes hands with MCCer Ruth Thiessen at Appropriate Technology Fair in Lusaka.

**An Appropriate Technology Fair** organized by Mennonite Central Committee workers in Lusaka, Zambia, displayed low-cost items made largely of locally available materials. A reflector oven, rope and washer pump, solar food dryers, brick and mud stoves and a cooking box insulated with hay were some of the aids designed for daily-life use. Other displays included weaving, spinning and a small printing press on which a local co-op produces a magazine using block printing. For information write Mennonite Central Committee, 21 S. 12th St., Akron, PA 17501.

**Solo, a magazine for singles**, has been phased out and replaced by *Spirit!*, a new magazine aimed at young Christian adults. *Spirit!* does not focus on marital status, but on an age group and lifestyle. For information write Jerry Jones, Box 1231, Sisters, OR 97759.

**Responding to new challenges in Hong Kong**, OMS International is assisting churches to expand both evangelism programs and the training of lay leaders. A full-time ministry of lay training will offer long-term courses in Bible, evangelism and theology. Short-term leadership

seminars will be structured around lay-persons' available time. There is a sense of urgency because numbers of pastors and other church leaders have either left Hong Kong or are hoping to leave before it is ceded to the People's Republic of China in 1997. The Colony has already been profoundly affected by the coming changes; OMS and the churches it serves are committed to helping strong leaders prepare to take the places of those joining an exodus expected to reach flood proportions.

**Southeast Asian refugees** have received a warm welcome from the Church of the Nazarene. The denomination now has 111 churches involved in ministry to these new residents and a full-time national consultant for Southeast Asians, Mrs. Nancy Clark. In addition to the usual helping services provided for Asian refugees, an active church-planting ministry is carried on. Newly established is a Cambodian church in Columbus, Ohio, home of an estimated 4000 Cambodians. Many of those on the church-planting team were Cambodians themselves, some from churches planted as recently as two years ago. The Columbus church was the 27th Southeast Asian church that Nancy Clark and her team have been instrumental in planting.

## **The Christian Ministries Management Association**

will hold its ninth annual conference in Chicago on February 24-27, 1986. Chuck Colson, E.V. Hill, Gordon MacDonald and other nationally known speakers are scheduled for plenary sessions. More than 60 professional management people will speak and conduct workshops. Regular sessions begin February 25, with a pre-institute fund raising certification seminar on the preceding day. For information contact CMMA, Box 4651, Diamond Bar, CA 91765; (714) 861-8861.

## **Urban pastors and denominational administrators**

concerned with the development of leaders for urban churches may be eligible to participate in the Mentoring Program for Urban Pastors being offered by the Seminary Consortium for Urban Pastoral Education (SCUPE). In January 1986 and every two years thereafter, a limited number of participants will begin the program. Each pastor selected will be matched with a mentor pastor currently working in an urban parish setting. The program involves a two-year period of guided study projects. Annual conferences will bring a group of mentors and apprentice pastors together to explore specific topics of concern. For information contact SCUPE, 30 West Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60610.

**Cross-cultural ministry** to immigrants, refugees, international students and business people, and the urban minority poor is the focus of a teaching resource now being tested. *Adventures in God's Kingdom* is a new curriculum designed to help churches and

other Christian groups develop cross-cultural ministries of evangelism and helps in communities across the nation. For information contact Tom Richardson, The World Christian Curriculum Project, c/o Harvest, 3080 N. Civic Center Dr., Suite 10, Scottsdale, AZ 85251; (602) 945-2300.

**Co-cultural and bilingual**, the Chinese for Christ Theological Seminary trains men and women to serve Chinese churches throughout the world. Founded just over a year ago, CFCTS opened its classes in March 1985. In addition to the M.A., M.Div. and D.Min., the school also offers the Ph.D. in Theological Studies. For information contact Chinese for Christ Theological Seminary, Box 1189, Rosemead, CA 91770; (818) 280-8420.

**Mission '87**, the fourth Missionary Congress for European Youth, will be held December 27, 1986 to January 1, 1987, in Utrecht, The Netherlands. Past congresses—in '76, '80 and '83—have drawn up to 7000 young people. A primary purpose of the Congress is to present "the needs of a world for which Christ died and rose again." In announcing the Congress plans, Eric Gay, Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization alternate member and General Secretary of The European Missionary Association (TEMA), added that a variety of staff openings exist, both in the TEMA office and for the congress itself. For information, write Eric Gay, TEMA, CH-1032 Romanel, Switzerland.



Americans spend \$25 billion for Christmas

## GOOD NEWS FOR THE POOR?

**G**ift-giving," say leaders of an organization called Alternatives, "is to Christmas what the camel was to the tent. On a chilly night the camel said, 'Oh, please, can't I just put my nose in the tent?' By morning, the whole camel was in the tent, leaving little space for the original occupants."

In an effort to make room for the real meaning of Christmas, more than 10,000 church congregations are participating in a nationwide campaign to reduce its commercialization.

One of the goals of the campaign is to divert a portion of the \$25 billion that Americans spend on Christmas gifts and paraphernalia, so that a substantial part of that amount can go instead to helping people who really need it, such as those suffering in Africa and the homeless and hungry in our own communities. Church members will be asked to estimate what they spent on presents and decorations last year and consider channeling 25 percent of that amount to the helping agencies of their denominations.

According to Milo Shannon-Thornberry, director of the not-for-profit organization that has sponsored the alternative Christmas campaign annually since 1974, "There's an irony in celebrating Christ's birth by spending extravagantly on things we don't need while people all over the world and even in our own communities are going without life's basic necessities. Christ's coming was supposed to be good news to the poor, but the celebration of his birth has turned into a spending orgy for the affluent."

As part of the campaign, churches will show the filmstrip "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas." Winner of a



An Alternatives cartoon shows Mary telling intruding reindeer, "I don't care if Santa Claus IS coming to town."

gold medal in the Houston International Film Festival, the filmstrip challenges the commercialization of Christmas and suggests alternatives.

Some churches are also having alternative Christmas festivals and workshops geared to helping members resist holiday pressures.

Resources for alternative Christmas

celebrations have been created by Alternatives in cooperation with more than a dozen major denominations. □

*Information on alternative Christmas and Easter emphases is available from Alternatives, Box 429, Ellenwood, GA 30049, (404) 961-0102.*



# RUNAWAY RECONCILES WITH FAMILY

by Bernard Gomes

*World Vision Bangladesh Communications Officer*

**"I cannot believe my eyes,"** exclaimed 70-year-old Zahed Ali, tears streaming down his face. "My son Tara Miah is standing before me!"

Six years earlier the blind, nine-year-old boy had run away from home after a particularly severe beating from his stepmother. Zahed Ali left no stone unturned in his unsuccessful search for his son. Finally the father sought out a fortune teller, who declared that Tara Miah was dead. Zahed Ali and his family believed the man.

The young boy spent many years as a beggar before finding his way to Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity Home of Compassion in Dhaka, Bangladesh's capital. There a World Vision staff member saw him and arranged for Tara Miah to be admitted to the World Vision-supported Blind Boys' Home, also in Dhaka.

Upon learning of Tara Miah's situation, Bangladesh Director Paul Jones arranged for him to return to the village of Surjanarayanpur, some 20 miles from Dhaka, for a reconciliation with his family, which took place in June.



"Words cannot say how happy I am today to have my brother back in the family," said Tara Miah's eldest brother, 40-year-old Yusuf Ali, as tears rolled down his cheeks. Tara Miah's tear-filled eyes told me he felt the same way.

After spending several days with his family, Tara Miah returned to the Blind Boys' Home to continue learning skills

in chair-weaving, bamboo and cane work, and gardening.

His days as a blind beggar are behind him. And the broken bridge between him and his family has been repaired. With World Vision's assistance Tara Miah's life is now channeled in a new direction where there is hope and love. □

As soon as he heard that Tara Miah had returned, elder brother Yusuf Ali (right) rushed to the World Vision car waiting outside the village Union Council Office.

## LUNCHTIME IN TEGUCIGALPA

**On a rutted street** in one of Tegucigalpa's crowded barrios sits a small white building which draws throngs of Honduran children every weekday at noon. The attraction at Proyecto La Pagoda is lunch—a hot meal of meat or fish with beans, rice or pasta and bread or corn tortillas. For many of these children, the meal represents their only balanced daily nutritional intake.

La Pagoda is one of 93 World Vision projects in Honduras. Seventy-eight operate nutrition centers that serve lunches planned by professional nutritionists to a total of 4750 children previously diagnosed to be malnour-

ished. The children range in age from one month to seven years.

In Tegucigalpa alone, 14 nutrition projects serve 700 youngsters. World Vision Honduras has been providing children with health-building meals since its first nutrition project opened in 1977. At La Pagoda, \$2.50 will feed one child for a week.

**With the help of World Vision donors, this happy youngster and others like him are assured of nutritious meals at least once a day.**





In Ethiopia . . .

## KEEPING BLINDNESS AT BAY

**A** campaign to save the eyesight of thousands of young Ethiopians has been launched following surveys which revealed major eye disease problems in famine areas in the north of the country.

The surveys, carried out by Helen Keller International, with logistical support from World Vision, revealed eye disease rates twice as high as the level used by the World Health Organization to determine public health problems.

The team of three from Helen Keller, an organization which works overseas to try to prevent avoidable

blindness as well as providing services for the blind, spent ten days in Ethiopia visiting famine relief areas. The first area surveyed was at Alamata where World Vision operates a major nutrition-health center.

In a survey of some 800 children, newborn to 12 years old, the HKI team, along with Dr. George Ngatiri, World Vision's Ethiopia Famine Project technical unit director, found that 50 percent suffered from trachoma. This chronic, highly contagious eye disease leads to scarring of the eye membrane, deformities of the eye and eventual blindness. The survey also revealed that 2.4 percent suffered from sight impairment caused by vitamin A deficiency.

Steps have already been taken in World Vision centers to combat trachoma, which is preventable and often curable through regular eye and hand washing, though in some cases treatment with an antibiotic is necessary. Health education in the

centers is now being stepped up to teach famine victims and health workers about the disease and its prevention.

As to the vitamin A deficiency, William Flumenbaum, director of HKI's Blindness Prevention Program and a member of their Ethiopia team, stated that "Vitamin A deficiency often goes hand-in-hand with chronic malnutrition." He went on to explain that a lack of vitamin A eventually leads to nutritional-deficiency blindness. Before the most advanced stages of the condition are reached, however, impairment and blindness are reversible/preventable with high-potency vitamin A capsules taken three times a year. About 1.3 million doses of these capsules are being distributed through nutrition-health centers by HKI.

The HKI team, said Flumenbaum, plans to return in three months for follow-up survey work and to monitor the vitamin A program.

Flumenbaum's concluding comments focused on World Vision: "Without the cooperation of World Vision and the logistic support provided for us, this survey would not have been possible. I cannot overstate how important World Vision has been in making all this possible."

*Pat Banks*

*WV Ethiopia Communications*

**Timely action reverses  
sight impairment and  
prevents blindness.**

## Is God calling you . . .

to work where your efforts will be directly related to saving lives and spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ? Consider these opportunities for service. If you think you may qualify for one of these positions, send your resume to World Vision International, Human Resources, 919 W. Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016.

### **Latin America Field Development Office Facilitators**

Six facilitators needed with technical expertise in health care, agriculture, non-formal education, evangelism or development. Requires M.A. or equivalent experience in one of the technical fields listed; five years experience doing development projects, preferably in the Two-Thirds World; good verbal and written skills; written and spoken fluency in Spanish. Involves 40% travel. *Contact: Mel Loucks, Overseas Employment Coordinator.*

### **Facilities Manager**

To support the work within the World Vision International office in California

by supplying to the staff effective, well-maintained work environments, furniture, equipment and communication tools. Will develop five-year plan for facilities management, prepare and monitor department and facilities services budget, forecast and plan for short-term space requirements, and act as primary communicator to WVI employees regarding facilities issues. Requires knowledge of systems furniture products, construction practices, planning, scheduling and project management techniques as well as familiarity with accounting and purchasing methods and procedures. *Contact: Kent Stock, Employment Supervisor.*

### **Africa Short-Term Contract Positions**

Positions in West Africa, Chad, Sudan and Ethiopia require appropriate qualifications and experience including previous Two-Thirds World experience. French language required for Chad/West Africa positions. Must be flexible and adaptable to a variety of living conditions. Six month minimum contract required.

Logisticians  
Project managers  
Nutritionists  
Public health nurses

Agriculturalists  
Mechanics  
Medical doctors  
Water sanitation engineers

*Contact: Karin Hubby, World Vision U.S.*



## I MUST TELL WHAT I SEE

**Try to feel it** as you read.

A just-opened nutrition center sits on a piece of almost barren ground in Sudan. In three weeks, 3000 people have crowded in; hundreds more arrive each day.

A few scraggly bushes dot the plain but offer no relief from the 105-degree heat. The overpowering odor of sickness permeates the atmosphere; flies constantly light on everything.

I stop to talk to a family of nine that has just arrived. They have no money, no bedding, no pots or pans or suitcases or tent. Nothing! Only the ragged clothes they wear.

I learn this as I talk to the grandfather who has five grandchildren. I tell him that I'm also a grandfather with five grandchildren. I want him to know that I hurt for him, but I recognize that I can't even begin to feel the pain he feels. Nor, I suppose, can he imagine the frustration I feel because I can't do more for him.

It's true, of course, that his family might have died had World Vision workers not been there. The old man and his family had walked all the way from Chad—who knows how many miles—looking for food. Word of nutrition centers spreads quickly throughout drought-stricken nations.

My senses soak it all up; I don't want to lose this sense of urgency when I get back home. I rehearse these painful images to fix them in my own mind, as well as to impress them on the minds and hearts of others. I have to do that.

When I see the workers in the nutrition centers—doctors, nurses, technicians, truck drivers and others—I



Dr. Engstrom in Sudan last summer

**"Faith is only real when there is obedience."**

think, God has called them to their tasks; He'll give them the strength to do them. And God has called me to witness such grim disasters in Sudan, Ethiopia, Lebanon and elsewhere. He has told me to tell what I see as forcefully and effectively as I can.

Similarly, I believe, He has called others—perhaps you—to respond in

certain ways: to pray, to support, to spread the word, perhaps even to serve more directly.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, "Faith is only real when there is obedience, never without it, and faith only becomes faith in the act of obedience." He's right about that. And that's why I write so much about what I've experienced. I hope you can feel it!

*Ted W. Engstrom*

Ted W. Engstrom  
President



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December '85-January '86

A camel caravan in Sudan transports desperately needed grain to villagers in the Engesina Hills.



**PARTNER'S EDITION**



# Readers write

## Self-help

I was glad to learn of the long-range plans World Vision has for educating the people to help themselves in the future. That is surely what is needed over the long haul.

*Lois E. Marine  
Englewood, FL*

## How one church reaches out to internationals

Our church (First Covenant) agrees that we must make Christ known to internationals in our community. For two years we have conducted an outreach program to our college community which includes international students. We call it "Adopt a College Student." What happens is that a family of our congregation "adopts" a student for the school year and makes that person a part of their family life. This may include some meals, family outings, having the student cook an international dish for the family, etc. It has been highly successful for both the family and the students.

*Tom Miller  
River Falls, WI*

## Gratitude in Mali

As Proverbs 17:17 says (in French): "*L'ami aime de tout temps, et dans le malheur il se montre un frère.*" Literally: "The friend loves at all times, and in times of misfortune he proves to be a brother."

We Malian Christians are very grateful to our Christian brothers and sisters all over the world who have been moved by our suffering and have given their time, money and themselves to save thousands of lives from starvation and cruel suffering.

More than that, the Lord has mightily used this Christian love expression, particularly in the southern part of the country, to draw to Himself hundreds of souls that are now members of His Kingdom. Many Christian missions and organizations have contributed to that, and World Vision is certainly not behind in this achievement.

In the Beledugu area a needy non-Christian who was freely given about 50 kilograms of rice said: "If this is how Christians love those they do not even know, then this is enough to believe in their God."

Indeed, the news of the food assistance given by the churches has spread all over the country and made Christianity come almost suddenly out of the shadow of ignorance. Now many villages that were

closed to the gospel are sending delegations to the churches to ask for a messenger to go preach the gospel to them.

Last Saturday the church I attend received such an invitation from a village 80 kilometers from Bamako where there were only four Christians. Thirteen people were announced to be ready for a decision for Christ. When the evangelistic service was over, an additional 13 people had accepted the Lord. You may not realize what that means for a 90% Muslim country.

The radio and TV programs that I have the privilege of leading for the churches by His grace, contribute very much to this spiritual movement. Many pastors are overwhelmed with discipleship work.

A critic may say that there are "rice Christians" among such converts. Sure, but most of them would not give an ear to the gospel outside a crisis context. Now they know Jesus and are responsible for their decision.

In this time of sorrow you have proved to be more than friends, to be real brothers and sisters in Christ. We in turn express our gratitude to you in Christ. May the Lord continue to bless you profusely in His service.

*Daniel Coulibaly  
Bamako, Mali, West Africa*

## Teenager knows what it's like

Our adopted daughter Ailise, who regularly sends her contributions to World Vision, is a high school student who earns about \$50 a week in her part-time job at McDonald's. All the donations are completely her own. Alice came to us from the streets of Seoul, Korea, when she was 5½ years old, along with her twin sister who was quadriplegic from polio. Ailise was the caretaker of the two, rummaging in the trash and begging to support the two of them. Perhaps this is why she is so generous with her meager earnings.

*Jayne Hoge  
Duluth, GA*

## Teen volunteer

I'm writing to you about the Counter-Top volunteers story in your August/September issue. I was a contributor to World Vision but because of family problems I thought I would no longer be able to give—until I read the story about Mrs. Darlene Newton. She raises money for your work by putting Counter-Top displays in stores and restaurants. I am willing to do the same to help people of all ages who are hungry.

I'm a teen and I'm willing to fight for others so they too may live. Please send me information about how I can become a Counter-Top volunteer.

*Heather Hudson  
Paradise, CA*

## New perspective

I just wanted to say how sorry I am for thinking you just wanted money all the time. I read, for the first time, WORLD VISION magazine all the way through. I was impressed, shocked and mostly ashamed.

God has been so kind to me and my family and I have been feeling sorry for myself, but no more.

I pledge my \$16 a month to help a child. Please forgive me.

*Name withheld*

## Called to city ministry

A page in John Maust's book *Cities of Change* carries the following poem by George MacDonald, which expresses the experience of many missionaries and national pastors who serve in Latin America's congested cities:

I said, "Let me walk in the field."

God said, "Nay, walk in the town."

I said, "There are no flowers there."

He said, "No flowers, but a crown."

I said, "But the sky is black,

There is nothing but noise and din."

But He wept as He sent me back,

"There is more," He said, "there is sin."

I said, "But the air is thick,

And fogs are veiling the sun."

He answered, "Yet souls are sick,

And souls in the dark undone."

I said, "I shall miss the light,

And friends will miss me, they say."

He answered me, "Choose tonight

If I am to miss you, or they."

I pleaded for time to be given.

He said, "Is it hard to decide?

It will not seem hard in Heaven

To have followed the steps of your Guide."

I cast one look at the fields,

then set my face to the town.

He said, "My child, do you yield?

Will you leave the flowers for the crown?"

Then into His hand went mine,

And into my heart came He;

And I walk in a light Divine,

The path I had feared to see. □



# World Vision®



## 4 The cry of the elephant's trunk

A report on the state of Sudan's drought sufferers.

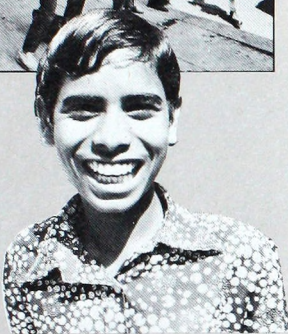


## 12 Rebuilding in Mexico City

Meeting quake victims' immediate and long-range needs.

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How World Vision helped a young boy walk again.



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## BEYOND SANTA'S USUAL ROUTE

**With so many big deliveries** to make on certain other continents, well-meaning Santa tends to miss most of the children in Africa.

"Oh, well," the plump old gent usually says sleepily to his reindeer when he unhitches them each year, "Grain hauling isn't really my bag anyway."

Yet in the dreams of children in Sudan and Ethiopia floats an image of neither a talking doll nor a Complete Package of the Hardware and Software Needed for New Computer Games, but of a bowl of almost anything to eat.

How fortunate, then, that within the vast region that Santa generally overlooks, a few camels now trudge faithfully across hot sand with grain,

some donkeys thread their way with seed and tools, and where the semblance of a road exists, a fleet of heavy-cargo trucks rumbles over rocky terrain with extremely precious gifts of corn, hoes, well-drilling machinery, diarrhea medicine and Good News.

To each big-hearted giver helping make such deliveries possible, *Merry Christmas to all—and to all a good night!*

David Olson

PHOTOS, ILLUSTRATIONS: Cover: Lloyd Ashton, photo, Gary Left, calligraphy; pp. 4-9, 23 (below): Bruce Brander; p. 11: Sanjay Sojwal; pp. 12, 13 (right): Jose Maria Blanch, (left): Armand Vasquez; pp. 14, 15: F. D. Haider; pp. 16, 17: David Cullen; p. 18 (below): Peter Richards; return envelope, pp. 19, 20: Sheryl Watkins; p. 21: Ken Klippenstein; p. 22: Lisa Hindsley; p. 23 (above): Bernard Gomes; p. 25: Jacob Akol.



Sudan's famine victims echo . . .

# THE CRY OF THE 'ELEPHANT'S TRUNK'

by Bruce Brander

**L**anding at Khartoum, I could hardly forget that I was entering a stricken country.

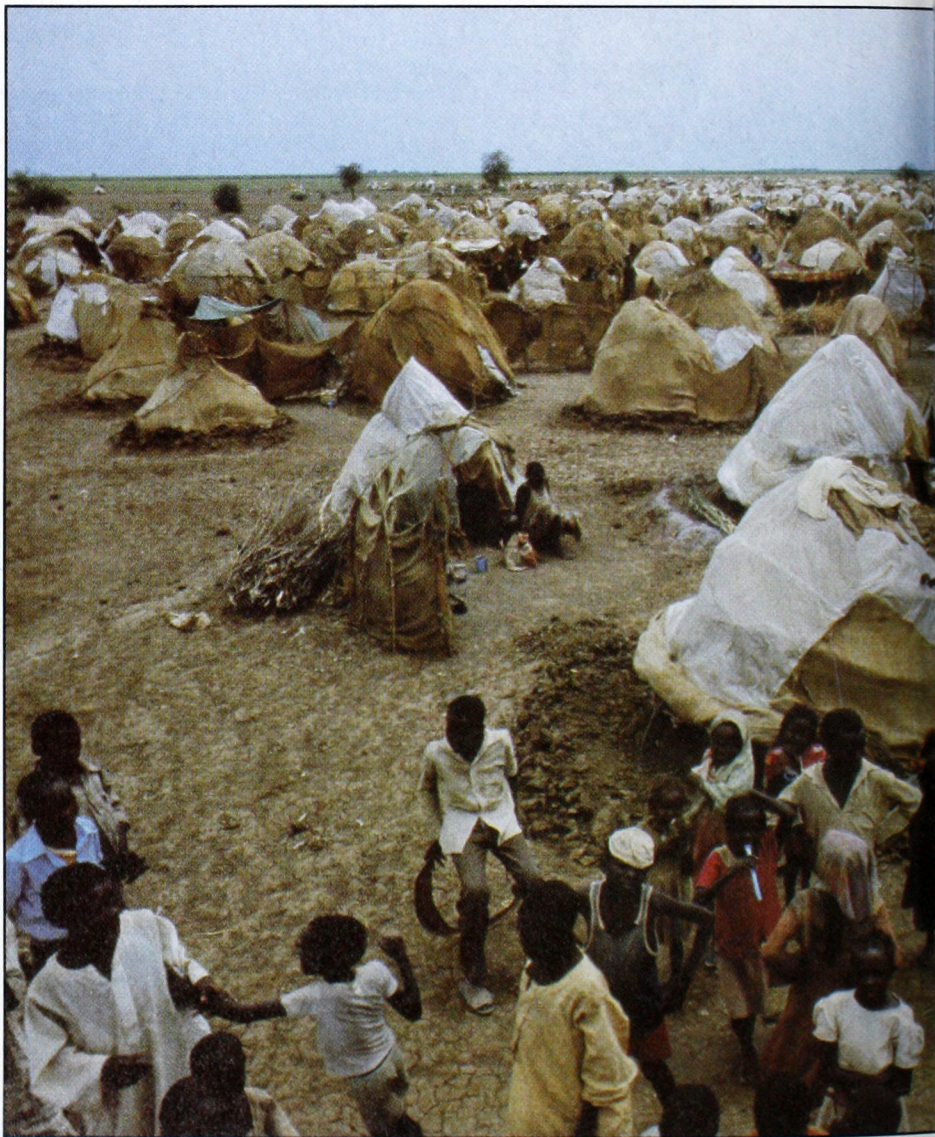
One thousand miles south of Cairo, roughly midway up the Nile River, the capital city of Sudan itself signaled the plight of its people. A hot, dusty haze wrapped the skyline. Gritty sand swept along the runway underfoot. Both told of the drought that long had racked the nation, and of a famine of biblical proportions spreading in its wake.

I had been reading of Sudan in scattered news reports, often overshadowed by heavier coverage from neighboring Ethiopia to the east. Africa's largest country, with an area greater than all of Western Europe, Sudan lay parched by drought for three and four and, in some places, ten years in a row. And, as it was all across the Sahel belt of semi-arid land dividing the Sahara Desert from green Africa, withering crops and dying livestock herds left farmers, villagers and nomadic tribes stripped of the barest sustenance.

No country except Ethiopia, in fact, was suffering more from the trans-continental drought. An estimated 8.4 million people—a colossal proportion of Sudan's total population of 22

*Bruce Brander is an editor for World Vision International Communications.*

The 7000 refugees—largely Chadian—of Mabi Camp live in makeshift huts of reed matting, rags and plastic sheeting.







(left) Khartoum's Acropole Hotel with its faded empire-days style is popular with relief workers and journalists. (below) At Mobi Camp's medical tent, a Chadian woman is treated for suspected cholera before being hospitalized in Wad Medani.



million—were short of food. The need among many was desperate. Hundreds of thousands—perhaps as many as a million—were scattered throughout the vast and trackless country in various stages of starvation, sickness and dying.

The tragedy had come perilously close to mass annihilation of whole populations. But alert governments

## Young mothers sit on dusty pavements with their babies and plastic cups.

and relief agencies, including World Vision, were intervening in time to prevent that. Massive aid rushed to the anguished land was blocking the impending avalanche of death.

Khartoum looked normal for an Arabic African city. Its bleak concrete airport terminal fluttering with ceiling fans led out to a snarled traffic of hooting cars, donkeys and milling pedestrians. In the past decade alone, the city's population has doubled with a torrent of job-seekers from hundreds of miles around fleeing the drying-up countryside. It now stands at 1.4 million.

The population recently swelled much larger as farmers and herdsmen by the tens of thousands, fallen out of

the economic system, abandoned ancient homelands in the remote western provinces of Darfur and Kordofan to wander through the country in search of work and food. Khartoum became a capital of vagrants begging for their livelihood. The flood of newcomers strained urban resources and spread diseases of the destitute until the government trucked many of the people back into the hinterlands.

Yet even after the dispersion of the starving, I found signs of tragic hunger on city streets. Under the balconies that shade downtown shoppers from blast-furnace heat, young mothers sit on dusty pavements with their babies and plastic or aluminum cups. At a busy corner, an aging man dozes on a reed mat that serves as his only home. Outside my hotel, I ration out Sudanese pound notes to a silently imploring man in a ragged cotton turban, a graceful woman making hand-to-mouth gestures and a boy about 12 with the thinnest legs I've ever seen.

**The Acropole Hotel** is like a scene from a 1930s movie. A sand-colored building rising three stories on the corner of sandy streets, it serves as a hub for relief workers in Sudan.

The Acropole is no place for creature comforts. Guests climb to their rooms on twisting flights of stairs. Baths are down the hall; beds, springless cotton mattresses spread on



boards. A candle waits on each bedstand, since Khartoum sometimes goes without electricity for weeks at a time. And there is nothing to relieve midday temperatures of 115 degrees and more but lattice doors, window shutters and overhead fans reminiscent of empire days.

Khartoum's low skyline squats at the confluence of two of Africa's most storied rivers. The Blue Nile gushes down from the wild mountains of Ethiopia. The White Nile flows from the mid-African countries of Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda. The city's name means "elephant trunk," a shape

## Rain poured down in a summer-long deluge that turned much of the country into mire.

suggested as one river curls into the other for the single Nile's northward journey to Egypt.

Early last summer, as Sudan gasped through the driest of all its recent drought years, the great rivers crept past the city dark and sluggish, lower than anytime since the early 1900s, said some, and since the 1600s, claimed others. By September, both were running higher than most people could recall, flooding islands, drowning tall trees. Rain had returned to the Sahel.

It came as a curse. What everyone here was waiting for, praying for—while 20,000 Sudanese were dying from starvation every month for its lack—poured down in a summer-long deluge that turned much of the country into mire.

By July, relief food was piling up in Port Sudan on the Red Sea, the nation's single major entry point. The United States Agency for International Development, the United Nations World Food Program, World Vision Canada, and other donors from around the globe had filled warehouses and wharves with some 420,000 tons of cereal grains, milk powder, sugar, cooking oil and other commodities. Ships holding more lay offshore waiting for berthing space. Trucks and trains stood ready to carry the precious cargo to the barren and hungry interior.

But the rains paralyzed land transport. The single length of deteriorating rail line penetrating the west fell to pieces: a major bridge collapsed, plunging two locomotives off the tracks into a river, while washouts severed the route in nine other places. The whole of Sudan has only two lengths of paved road. Elsewhere, vehicles usually follow the tire prints of other vehicles, but rain turned most of these truck routes into totally impassable muck.

The European Economic Community responded with an "airbridge" of huge cargo planes from West Germany, Britain, Belgium, Denmark and Italy. But the airlifts of 20 tons per trip could not feed half a nation. Some food shipments were mobbed by desperate crowds of the starving.

Meanwhile, many tales of tragedy had yet to reach Khartoum. Most villages and tribal camps have neither telephones nor radios. Only the overfull rivers racing past the city suggested the extent of rains in distant places and how utterly cut off from help many people remained.

**The road southbound** from Khartoum is good: two lanes of fairly smooth blacktop crossing flat, tan land. In a four-wheel-drive vehicle full of World Vision workers, I sped toward the town of Wad Medani 114 miles distant to visit one of the camps where World Vision serves displaced desert people.

*Suq* lorries—Sudan's market trucks—crowded the outbound highway. The sturdy flatbed vehicles with their desert-wise drivers make up the country's major lifeline for goods and passengers. Pink and green, blue, orange and yellow, decked with curtains around the cabs, the trucks were setting out on journeys of days and weeks into remote hinterlands. At times World Vision has rented *suq* lorries when other transport for food relief was unavailable. For months many of the vehicles had been returning from the backlands full of people fleeing the dying countryside. These environmental migrants still had money for their journeys. Others, crowded on the tops of trains, rode for nothing. Still others walked.

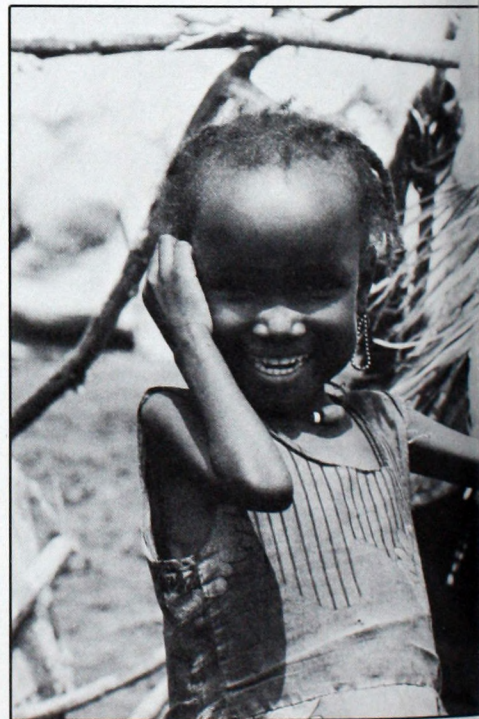
Down the road and to our right sprawled a grand illusory lake of mirages. Out of that shimmering desert some wanderers came after walking for a thousand miles. They, among some 220,000 migrants, chose Sudan's

Central Region as their final hope.

Here, between the two great rivers, lies an irrigation scheme known as the *Gezira*—the island. Designed by British engineers in 1925, its vast lacework of canals, ditches and pumps turned the area from a barren land of nomads into a rich alluvial garden. Today, with 2.1 million acres and 96,000 tenant farmers, the Gezira is the world's largest farm. In better times, migrant workers had come from many hundreds of miles away to find seasonal employment here, and oil-rich investors had hoped to make the area a breadbasket for the Arab world. In recent times, the hungry wanderers found no work, no food, even here. The Gezira's parched harvests did not tally up to half enough to feed itself.

Farther on a farmer poked a muddy field with a *seluka* stick, his yellow-robed wife popping seeds into the holes. All over Sudan, I had heard, the land was regaining its promise from recent rains and planting was resuming. Where farmers in despair had eaten their seed, relief agencies were supplying them with more.

"You cannot fail to be moved by the spirit of the people," one relief executive said. "They are weak and debilitated after months of cumulative malnutrition, but those who can are



A Chadian refugee girl, one of thousands saved from starvation, flashes a bright smile.



out there weeding and plowing. Some are actually dying in the fields."

Like the land, its animals, too, were beginning to fare better. A boy marched a tight-ranked herd of goats beside the road to a newly green grazing spot. Farther on, we stopped as two herders led a mob of lyre-horned cattle across the highway. Our driver remarked that the beasts were getting some flesh on them again.

Early promise of the first good harvest in years also was appearing. Roadside vendors in white *galabia* robes sat beneath thatch shelters with piles of watermelons, trays of tomatoes and pyramids of guavas for sale. Yet no substantial harvest of staple grains—sorghum, millet, maize—would arrive until mid-November. Until then the entire nation was dependent upon outside aid for its continued existence.

Children at the roadside danced and waved at our truck as we neared Wad

## Out of the shimmering desert some wanderers came after walking for a thousand miles.

Medani, a low town of flat-roofed buildings on the banks of the Blue Nile. I stopped briefly at the World Vision office there. The high-ceilinged room was full of workers and wall-charts, a nerve center for nutrition programs, medical services and future development plans for all of central Sudan.

World Vision, with its Sudan budget of \$5.7 million for fiscal year 1985, is not undertaking alone to feed the many millions of hungry people in the region. The task, too enormous for any single group, is shared among many agencies who work together in a complex network of cooperation.

In one plan, for example, World Vision finds areas of need, the United States Agency for International Development provides food, the United Nations World Food Program organizes transportation and, finally, World Vision monitors deliveries to village councils that then distribute the aid to people needing it most. In another plan, World Vision supplies staff, food or funds to camps run by other agencies, including the Christian-based Africa Committee for Rehabilitation of Southern Sudan (ACROSS).

Other arrangements are less formal. When World Vision ran short of sugar

to mix with flour, milk powder, oil and salt for a supplementary nutrition program serving malnourished children, another agency freely offered a whole truckload. Meanwhile, World Vision, learning of a hospital isolated by rains and desperately short of medicines, purchased the supplies from yet another agency and arranged to fly them into the remote location. At the same time, The British Save the Children Fund needed CB radios for food trucking operations, and World Vision provided the funds to supply them. Only such a network of free cooperation saved so many people so quickly in Sudan.

**Most of the workers** in the Wad Medani office were Sudanese. Months ago, reports had warned that some early food shipments had been hampered by misappropriation, riots, even bandit raids. To avert such problems at the outset of its work in Sudan, World Vision hired local monitors, many of them graduates of local universities. Their job was to travel through Central Region villages on foot and donkeyback, measuring needs then making sure distributions proceeded as intended.

One of the monitors, Anwar El Nour, a 28-year-old graduate of Cairo University, guided me to the camp for famine migrants on the outskirts of town. Near a village called Mobi, the encampment had grown spontaneously as displaced people from western Sudan and refugees from the country of Chad arrived, fleeing drought and famine there. Though Sudan is heavily burdened by crippled agriculture, a staggering national debt and civil war in its non-Islamic, black African southern region, the notably hospitable nation has generously received 1,160,000 refugees from Chad to the west, Ethiopia to the east and Uganda and Zaire to the south. Anwar explained: "These problems are not problems of countries but of African people, and the Sudanese want to help."

In four-wheel-drive, we jounced along a deeply rutted track past files of women and children walking toward town. Then, beyond the mud-brick homes of Mobi Village, we turned onto

(above) Kosti's refugee camp is now home to this mother and her child. (left) Even in a refugee camp, a tiny suq (market) is an important part of Arabic Africa.





a flat, dusty plain. Part of the roadless field served as a local cemetery. Just beyond, the city of displaced people spread half a horizon wide, its dome-shaped huts providing refuge for 7000.

With World Vision's Mobi camp manager Hugh Hamilton, an exuberant 28-year-old Irishman from County Kildare, I toured the area, following him on his morning rounds. Striding almost at a trot through the labyrinth of shoulder-high huts made of saplings, cardboard, reed matting and cloth, he greeted people cheerfully as he ferreted out the morning's sick.

As the patients of the day were carried in for treatment, I moved on to a nutrition tent. Hundreds of seriously malnourished children formed a long line across a dusty field. A few of them—recent arrivals—clung to mothers or fathers, too weak to walk. The rest had regained enough health to happily chatter and play while they waited for meals of high-nutrition porridge. One by one they filed past a registration table, held their hands out for washing, and toddled into the long canvas shelter. Two local women ladled the food from steaming vats into orange plastic bowls while other women carried them to the rows of waiting children.

I wandered on to watch several Chadian women building a new hut.

"We're starting another section of the camp," said Jan Pearce, who was taking a break from work in the medical tent. The wife of the World Vision Central Region project manager, David Pearce, a retired dairy farmer from New Zealand, Jan labored among the displaced people with neither official position nor pay. That morning her vehicle had broken down in a mud rut. She had walked to the camp. Now she waved a hand toward neat files of huts rising ahead like beige bubbles. "More people are arriving every day. The camp that grew here before we came is too crowded. The shelters are too close. Here we're trying to space them out and put streets between the rows."

**With Anwar** I returned to the older section of the camp. Winding among the shacks, we looked for someone who would give me a personal account of how he had come here. We stopped beside a group of turbaned men sitting on a large reed mat. One of them got up to find a leader.

Sheik Isaka Ali Omer, a man of 75 who looked at least 20 years younger, said he would be happy to speak with me. With Anwar acting as interpreter, Sheik Isaka told me he had led his people out of the Abeche region of eastern Chad, where people must be hardy to survive. Nomadic herders often live for months on nothing more than camel's meat and camel's milk.

**"You cannot fail to be moved by the spirit of the people."**

Sheik Isaka's people were not nomads but farmers cultivating millet. Yet their land was harsh and they were hardy too. But when herds died away and seeds refused to grow for several years in a row, they saw no people could be strong enough to endure such a



(above) Refugee children outside Sennar, in another camp where World Vision ministers.  
(right) A young Chadian mother encourages her son to wash before eating.





terrible drought. In September 1984 they left the land of their forebears.

They could only wander from place to place, the leader said, looking for food. Though a proud and independent people, they often were reduced to begging. "My wife and children also begged," the sheik said, nodding slowly. When he and his following found the once-rich Gezira region also stricken with drought, his people scattered. Where they went he did not know, nor if they were alive. He brought the ones who stayed with him, along with his family, to Mobi Camp. Soon after, World Vision relief arrived.

"We are very happy here," Sheik Isaka told me with the courtly courtesy of desert people, as we stood amidst the squalid jumble of hovels. Things were better now, he explained. The sick were treated. The death rate was low. And since the first food shipment

arrived in May—enough for only one handful a person—the quantities they received had been growing

"But there is still too little," Sheik Isaka pleaded, holding up a metal bowl. "We get this much for each person every eight days. Yet it is gone in five days."

Feeling helpless over the hunger of his people, I took his photograph to go with my report and assured him that I would bring his problem to my people.

The problem that Sheik Isaka described—a problem of some help but not yet enough—appeared everywhere as I made my way through other camps farther south and in the distant west where World Vision is working.

The medical tents I saw welcomed all comers. But always they were short of staff. Undernourished children by the thousands filed into feeding tents for health-restoring meals. Careful

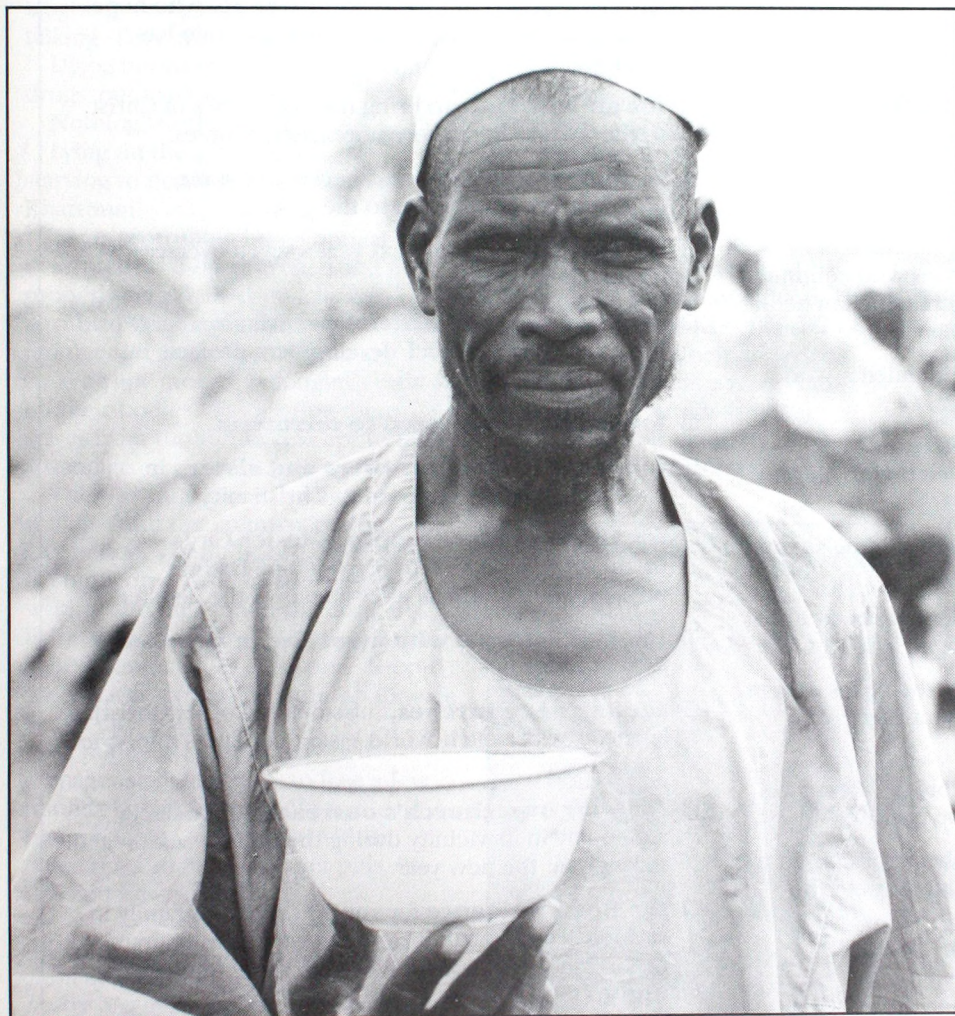
camp design was alleviating crowded, makeshift living conditions while improving hygiene and sanitation standards. But there were too few workers, often no waterproof materials to keep huts and their occupants dry during rains, too few blankets to fend off pneumonia and other illnesses resulting from chilling.

Not only in the camps did I encounter problems of serious continued need. Everywhere I traveled in Sudan, I heard heart-wrenching tales of isolated regions yet unreached by relief supplies where food had run out weeks and even months before.

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**Though a proud and independent people, they often were reduced to begging.**

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Sheik Isaka Ali Omer, 75, uses a bowl to show how much grain each person in Mobi Camp receives for a week.

World Vision, along with other agencies, is preparing to help Sudan and its people meet many of these urgent needs. But we also mean to go beyond immediate necessities. As I spoke and traveled with our workers, I heard discussions of a five-year project to bring water supplies to remote central villages where presently women might carry water daily for miles on their heads. World Vision is mapping out ways to help farmers increase production on their lands and income for their families. Still more ambitious are plans for tree nurseries in local villages that will enable local people to anchor fragile soils and stop the annual two-to-three-mile southward advance of the desert, perhaps gaining new land as well.

So far, eminently successful relief efforts have averted the catastrophic mass starvation of a nation. But the job is far from done. More food, more workers, more funds are needed to bring the country back to its feet. Anwar once told me, "The people are very grateful for what World Vision is doing." But, like Sheik Isaka, he hoped we could stay and do more. □

*To help provide food and hope for starving Sudanese people at this time, please use the return envelope provided between pages 18 and 19.*



# When you pray

## THANK GOD . . .

- ☐ **for the spirit of prayer** that is spreading in a growing number of churches worldwide.
- ☐ **for the volunteers and donations** which have already saved thousands of lives in Africa's famine-stricken nations.
- ☐ **for the provision of trucks**, donkeys and now even camels to deliver food and hope to starving Africans.
- ☐ **for the longer-range self-help projects** which now have been launched in areas previously served only by emergency relief efforts.
- ☐ **for the spiritual response** of many who have been touched by Christians' caring ministries.
- ☐ **for the nutrition and health workers** who will continue to serve the needy throughout the Christmas holidays.
- ☐ **for all who labor to reach** heretofore unevangelized people of the world.
- ☐ **for the faithfulness of believers** who continue to represent Christ in the face of threatened or actual imprisonment and other mistreatment.
- ☐ **for the national pastors** who attended a World Vision conference in Manipur, India.
- ☐ **for the remarkably effective witness** of believers whose churches are denied the privilege of corporate worship services.
- ☐ **for the way many Americans** are helping victims of Mexico City's earthquakes.
- ☐ **for the large number of new converts** to Christ in Central American countries ravaged by civil war.
- ☐ **for childcare workers**, meeting the needs of many abused or abandoned children in South American nations.
- ☐ **for the churches** with which World Vision serves as a partner in ministries among the needy.
- ☐ **for the abundant opportunities** your church can find to express God's love in tangible ways to the needy and lonely nearby.

## PLEASE INTERCEDE . . .

- ☐ **for the still-helpless hungry** in widely scattered regions of Sudan who will never see 1986 unless they can be reached swiftly with food and medical care.
- ☐ **for a continued outpouring** of assistance that will put thousands more on their feet again in Jesus' name.
- ☐ **for the emergency workers** who are using every feasible mode of transportation to get vital supplies to starving and malnourished people.
- ☐ **for nutrition and health workers** who will work long days through the season's holidays.
- ☐ **for the recipients of seed and tools** who hope to raise successful crops again now that rain has returned.
- ☐ **for all who seek** to bring the good news of Christ to the world's heretofore unreached peoples.
- ☐ **for pastors imprisoned** because of some governments' opposition to the gospel.
- ☐ **for the planners** of next year's seven overseas pastors' conferences.
- ☐ **for governments' official permission** for World Vision to conduct relief/development projects in areas not yet entered.
- ☐ **for families subjected to terrorism.**
- ☐ **for our Christian brothers and sisters** in countries officially opposed to Christianity.
- ☐ **for those who are helping** Mexico City's earthquake victims recover from long-lasting physical and emotional after-effects of the disaster.
- ☐ **for God's people who must live in war zones** or refugee camps.
- ☐ **for partner churches**, missions and other Christian agencies with which World Vision conducts ministries to the poor.
- ☐ **for your own church's outreach** to the needy and lonely in its vicinity during the holiday season and throughout the new year.
- ☐ **for God's guidance** for yourself and your family in seeking out opportunities to minister to immigrants or foreign students with whom to share the love of Christ.



## A CORNER TO DIE ON

by David Beltz,  
with help from his wife Rhoda

**O**n the corner outside my hotel, I see four teens. As a parent of a teen, I am aware that most of them are taken up with conversation about their peers: who said what, who was doing what, and so on. But these four teens aren't laughing, comparing notes or even talking. They are dying.

Dying not from violence, nor from drugs, but from nothing.

Nothing? Nothing to eat.

Lying on the ground, they are starving to death in Sudan's capital city, Khartoum.

Their protruding bones appear deformed, as if once broken and not properly set. Their stomachs are swollen potbellies, but not from over-indulgence. And other people are stealing any meager belongings right off their bodies, dissociating themselves from the victims except to take advantage.

These youths, like many others, walked from the countryside to the city in hopes of finding nourishment of some form. Instead, they became weaker and only found the corner to lie on and to die on.

The countryside is worse. People there haven't even the strength to walk to the city.

At home in America, my own teenager struggles daily to lose a few pounds by forcing herself to go hungry. How would these African teens react to diet pop, diet pills, lite this and low-cal that?

Looking at the four Sudanese youths, I cannot isolate my emotions. Are they anger, fear, pity? Am I doubting God's existence? Where is He? How does He feel when He looks down at these teens crumpled on the ground, looking like skeletons upholstered with a thin fabric of skin?

I see only a few at a time. God sees the millions. How does He seek solace?

I'm here to help, but I can't help. The fact that I'm here doing a job is helpful—in an impersonal kind of way—but I feel so *unhelpful* because I'm only a few feet away from dying kids. I am not underweight, I have plenty, but I cannot save them. The lump in my throat feels the size of a golf ball. Would it help if I cried?

It is so hot! Today's temperature is somewhere between 110° and 115° Fahrenheit, with humidity of 30-40 percent. Air-conditioning, of course, is

non-existent. I'm always sweaty. Are these people so dehydrated that they do not sweat?

I'm so thirsty for a tall glass of crushed ice and water—even L.A. tap water. But these people drink only from muddy puddles, with their cupped hands. What is crushed ice? What's a glass?

Before I left for Sudan on this survey trip, I saw slides—lots of slides of similar situations, mostly in Ethiopia. The mourning mothers with children half their normal size in their arms. The pictures of naked children with flies feeding on their faces. The photos were stills; surely the children would shoo the flies off their faces; isn't that a natural reaction? How can I live knowing the reality is that flies don't just make rest stops on these faces—they *live* there!

Back at the office, we could walk

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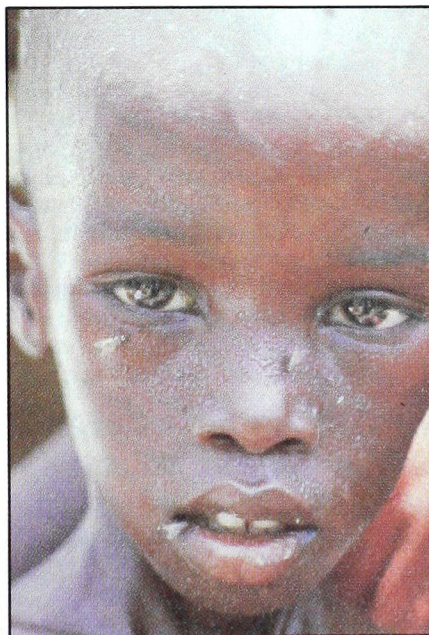
**How do I go back to my own life and justify its fullness? All I can pray for is understanding.**

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away from a slide-viewing to a dinner party or our favorite restaurant. Here, I can't turn the slide show off. The people are in front of me. Someone please turn the lights back on!

Right now, I'm angry with God. I am unable to pray. What would I pray for? Peace of mind? Food? Rain? I look up through the sand-filled air toward the sky. Forgive me, Lord, but this is unbearable. How do I go back to my own life and justify its fullness? All I can pray for is understanding. Help me, Lord, to understand.

I begin remembering how much Jesus suffered. He was not exempt from pain. I begin sorting out the meaning of living this nightmare and rejoining my family and friends. It brings a measure of peace to my heart to know that my being here will in some way make a difference. I cling to this. Instead of looking at the masses I cannot help, I must turn and look at those lives I am helping to save. I'm here to give these people life; they will never know how much they have given me. □



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*Rhoda Beltz's writing is usually in the form of humorous greeting cards and poetry. She was moved to write this piece by her husband David's graphic account in a letter he wrote her while on a survey assignment in Sudan for World Vision. David and Rhoda live in Duarte, California, with their two daughters.*



Providing immediate and long-range help for quake victims

# REBUILDING IN MEXICO CITY

**M**exico City's earthquake damage no longer claims front-page headlines, but the arduous tasks of clean-up, restoration and rehabilitation still remain.

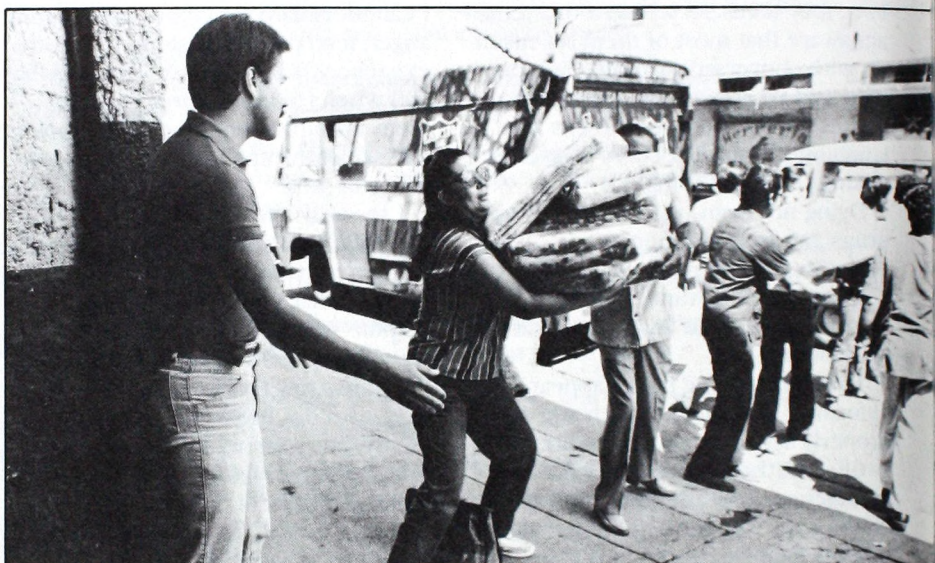
World Vision, like other relief agencies from around the world, provided emergency assistance immediately following the mid-September quakes which left more than 7500 people dead and thousands more injured and homeless. Initial assistance from World Vision was channeled mainly through the Salvation Army Rehabilitation Center, the First Baptist Church of Mina and the Sion Methodist Church, where quake victims received food, medicine, blankets and plastic sheeting.

The majority of the quake damage occurred in the central portion of Mexico City. More than 500 buildings, including hospitals, hotel and government buildings, were completely destroyed. No World Vision sponsor children were killed or hurt during either of the quakes, however.

Although most of the rescue work and removal of rubble took place in the downtown district, two lower-income neighborhoods about one mile away suffered extensive damage. In one area, colonia (neighborhood) Morelos, more than 500,000 impoverished people live in a 10-by-17-block area. Most of the residents live in "vecindads," single-family dwellings converted to accommodate as many as 30 families each. Ordinarily, a vecindad will have only one water source and toilet for all of the residents. Many of the vecindads in Morelos were destroyed during the earthquakes.

In addition to its initial emergency

Food, tools and blankets purchased by World Vision are carried from a van into the Salvation Army Rehabilitation Center, where they were later distributed to victims immediately following the quake.



relief response, World Vision has undertaken a \$350,000 extended rehabilitation and development project slated to continue through June. The project will focus on the needs of families in colonia Morelos. Besides continuing to provide food, medical supplies and blankets, World Vision will also rebuild 100 multi-family dwellings occupied by 300 families, thus providing permanent shelter for as many as 3000 people.

Medical care is still among the greatest needs of the people living in the city. World Vision will provide

**In one stricken neighborhood, more than 500,000 impoverished people live in a 10-by-17-block area.**



"People have been very good to us," said 51-year-old Apriano Alvarez. "Volunteers pass by often. One feels like crying."





A cross and the name "Hugo" are painted on a crumbling concrete wall to mark the spot where one of the building's residents died.

Two-year-old Dulce Maria clings to her mother's hem as her family seeks temporary shelter.



- W**orld Vision will
- help rebuild 100 multi-family dwellings
  - provide artificial limbs for 200 people
  - compensate residents for reconstruction work.

World Vision's partners in its rehabilitation effort will include a Presbyterian and a Baptist church and the National Board of Voluntary Agencies. The Baptist church will sponsor an evangelistic program aimed at reaching earthquake victims. The project budget will include \$10,000 to assist less-affluent congregations repair their church buildings.

Jose-Maria Blanch, World Vision's director of communications for Latin America, toured Mexico City shortly after the earthquakes to assess the damage and help determine the nature of World Vision's response.

"The easy part of World Vision's work—the distribution of emergency relief commodities—is over," Mr. Blanch said. "The most difficult times are still ahead as we initiate rehabilitation efforts." □

artificial limbs for 200 people who were dismembered in the earthquake. The prostheses—costing \$300 each—will be provided at no cost to the victims. In addition, crisis counseling and legal advice will be available to those who experienced trauma and unusual hardship during the earthquake aftermath.

In keeping with World Vision's commitment to community involvement, colonia Morelos residents will be compensated for their participation in the recovery of their own neighborhood. For 90 days, World Vision will

pay 250 community members for their rubble-clearing efforts. This program will help offset families' loss of income that resulted when hundreds of businesses were destroyed by the quakes.

To further create employment in poor neighborhoods where the unemployment rate was high even before the earthquake, World Vision will work with partner agencies to initiate income-generating projects by January. Included will be a block/brick manufacturing program being started by the Salvation Army.

In addition to the Salvation Army,



Thanks to a World Vision Bangladesh development program

# KUDDUS GETS AROUND

by Ferdaus Daud Haider

**T**o **Kuddus Mollah**, a 15-year-old boy from the village of Char Harirampur, 92 miles southwest of the country's capital city of Dhaka, World Vision is something special.

"I am fortunate to have a friend like World Vision that takes special care of me," said Kuddus, who has flashing eyes and an irresistible smile.

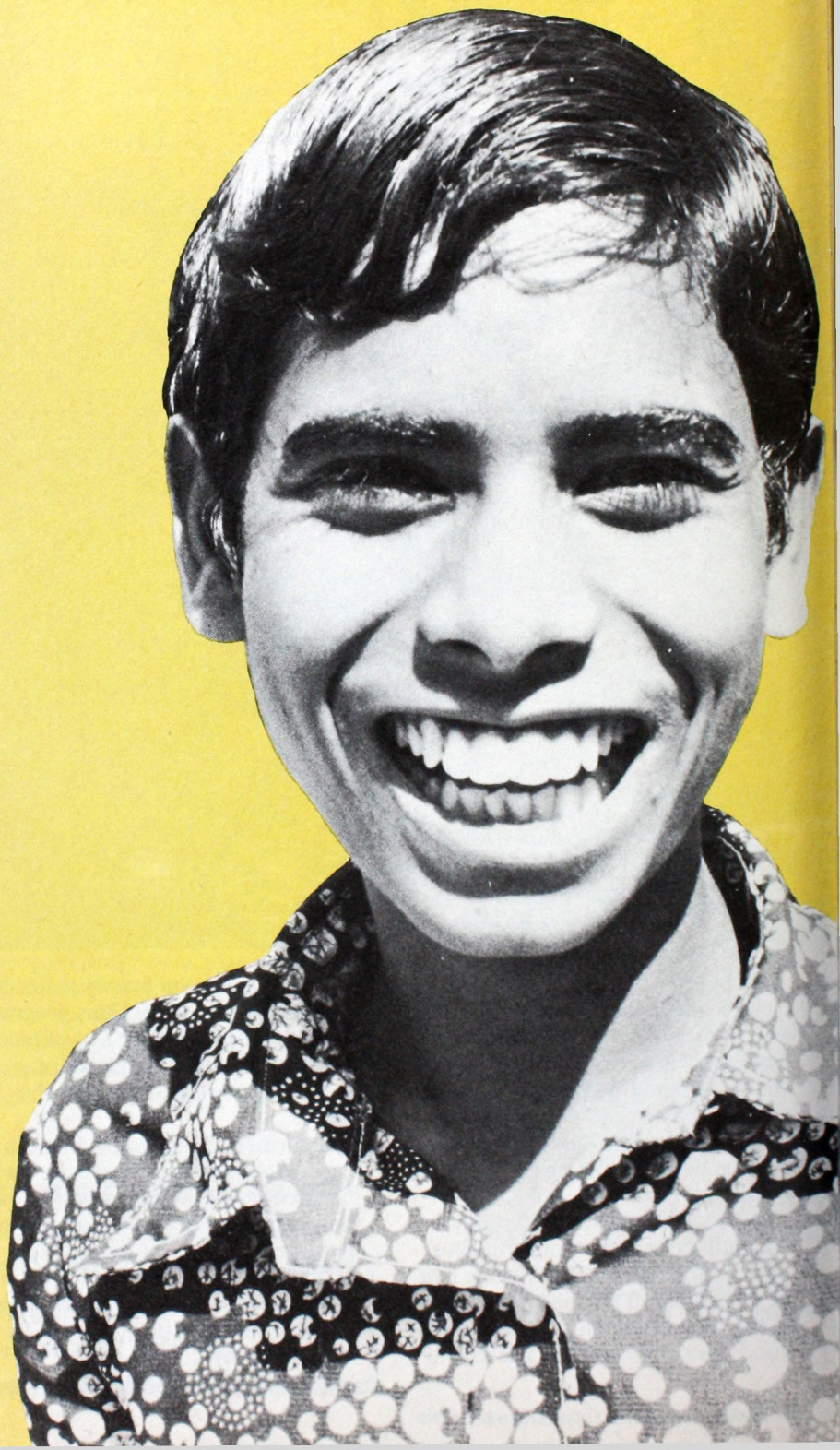
Because of the help given to him by World Vision staff, Kuddus now is able to walk. Four years ago he gave up hope of ever walking again.

Before that, he used to chase chickens, ducks—and other children—in his jubilation with life. Despite his parents' scolding, he spent a lot of time playing in the ponds or out in the rain, great fun for the growing boy. But when Kuddus was 11 he developed a high fever that lasted for several days. His parents say he had typhoid.

Since then he has suffered from frequent high fevers and rheumatic pain. He developed enlarged hip, knee and ankle joints.

His parents, tired of praying to Allah for a cure, took him to several local healers. Nothing beneficial resulted. "My own belief was that I would never be able to walk," said Kuddus.

Dudu Mollah, Kuddus' 45-year-old father, is a farmer who works the fields of landowners, since he owns none of his own. As the eldest son, Kuddus used to help his father in the fields, and it was assumed that he would someday become a farmer and help to



*Ferdaus Daud Haider is communications officer for World Vision Bangladesh*



support the rest of the family. He would like to have attended school, but could not during the years he worked the fields.

When he became disabled, Kuddus found himself without friends because he could no longer run and play. He had only his brothers and sisters to chat with. In his loneliness, Kuddus began to consider his *goru* (cow) to be his best friend. "I felt like crying because of my situation," he said sadly. "But is it my fault that I am handicapped now? I wanted to help my mother and father, but they told me not to do anything."

Help came to Kuddus in an unexpected way. After a deadly flood which struck his community in September 1983, World Vision sent in clothing and emergency food relief. Then in 1984, a development project followed the rehabilitation phase of assistance. The project is providing agricultural aid, small-scale business assistance, safe drinking water, sanitation and job training. Committed Christian couples are carrying out this project.

When World Vision project staff members visited the area, they saw Kuddus sitting in front of his house. The village people explained that although he was a good boy, he had no future because he could not walk well.

Kuddus Mollah today has a wide smile because he is once again able to walk. A disease he contracted while playing in damp weather at the age of 11 left him disabled. Thanks to medical attention and physical therapy, he is able to walk short distances.

## Four years ago he gave up hope of ever walking again.

Through the health services component of the project, Kuddus was taken to Dhaka for examination. The best doctors at the National Rehabilitation Institute and Hospital for the Disabled treated him and directed that he begin physical therapy.

The results were amazing. His condition is now much improved. He

can walk short distances well, and longer distances if he rests along the way. To provide him with incentive to exercise, he has been assigned the task of "special courier" between project members.

On his monthly visit to the hospital for check-ups, Kuddus always pays a call to the World Vision office in Dhaka. He walks proudly up the steps to the offices and greets his newfound friends. Sometimes he brings small gifts, such as fresh vegetables or fruit from his village. He is grateful because, as he said to his friends at World Vision, "It is you who helped me walk again." □



World Vision project worker Supid Halder checks the swelling on Kuddus' knees.



Fragile bones, but a resilient spirit

# A WINDOW ON THE WORLD FOR ELIAS

by Sally Adams

**H**e lives in a slum of Recife, a large seaport in the northeast of Brazil. Outside the dirt-floored shack that is his home, bantam chickens scratch in the dirt, boys play football beside open sewers, and women chat together, breaking the harsh monotony of impoverished lives.

Except for periodic trips to the hospital, Elias, a World Vision sponsored child, doesn't see much of what goes on outside the walls of his home. Elias is seven years old and has spent most of his life sitting in an upholstered armchair. He can't play outside, or even on the floor, because if he tumbled over it would mean another broken bone. Handicapped from birth with a fragile-bone condition—a type of disability intensified by poor nutrition—Elias has broken one leg five times, the other eight, an arm and his breastbone once each.

Unusually bright, Elias amazes

**E**lias doesn't see much of what goes on outside his home.

listeners with his intelligence when he talks. At the hospital, he questions all the doctors about each procedure, and "People gather round to listen and comment on his brightness," Elias' mother, Severina Laurencio do Nascimento, says.

*Sally Adams is a communicator for World Vision of Britain.*



Although Elias enjoys his glimpses of the outside world, he hates to be carried—partly, perhaps, because no matter how carefully he is held, it can mean another broken bone. But even more, one suspects, because it makes the courageous little boy feel dependent and helpless. Elias' mother prays that somehow he will be given help in becoming more mobile. "With a little wheelchair, he could see the world," Severina sighs.

As it is, Elias, unable to attend

school, sits all day in the house, playing with his toys, drawing, and watching an old black and white TV. Are eyebrows lifting? TV in a slum? Severina knows that giving Elias a little window on the world is well worth all the sacrifice involved in getting the battered set. Day after weary day is made a little more bearable as the TV shows him places where the little boy's fragile legs can't take him.

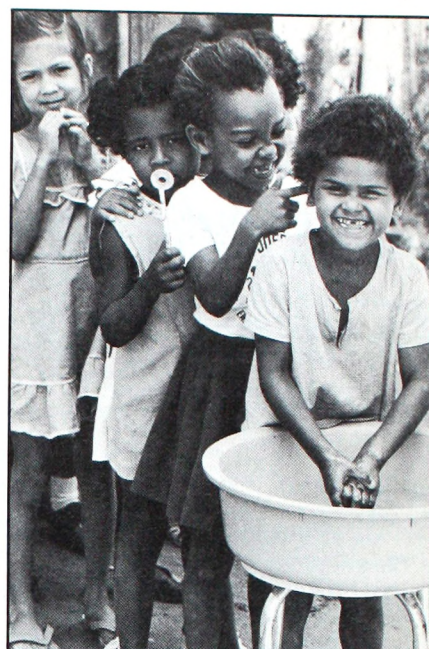




Severina Laurencio do Nascimento earns a meager living washing clothes in the small yard behind her house.



Elias and Eliene Laurencio do Nascimento spend almost all of their waking hours in these armchairs. Playing on the floor or outside would risk more broken bones.



Children at Manuel Machado School line up to wash their hands before eating. They know the rule: No wash, no soup!

## **"With a little wheelchair, he could see the world."**

bone condition even more severely than Elias. And as a result of having meningitis in her infancy, she is also brain damaged.

Severina receives no pension, and although she is fearful for the children's well-being whenever she leaves the house, she has no choice but to be away while picking up or returning the bundles of laundry which are her means of earning a meager income. Severina always hurries, getting back home as soon as possible, then washing the clothes in her backyard "laundry." For each large bundle, she is paid about 53 cents, out of which all needed laundry supplies must be paid for before any money is available for family needs.

Visao Mundial (World Vision Brazil) and caring sponsors have made life far more bearable for Severina's little family, providing needed food for the children and paying the taxi fare for trips to the hospital. Elias and Eliene's condition

makes travel on public vehicles dangerous.

Especially welcome also is Visao Mundial's project, recently approved, to make the Laurencio do Nascimento's home safer, more comfortable and more healthful. The slum in which Elias and his family live is built on a swamp, and during high tides their house regularly floods. Repair and rebuilding to eliminate this problem will soon be underway.

Those who know Elias wish that he could be a part of the days at the World Vision-supported Manuel Machado School. A happy, lively place, the school is administered by project manager Maria José Viera who sees that the students receive a good education, nourishing food and practical training in hygiene—so important in an area where diarrheal disease and a variety of internal parasites are commonly encountered.

Whether in or out of school, the children whose lives are touched by Visao Mundial's ministry also learn about Jesus and the gospel story, the brightest hope of all for the poor, the sick and the heavy laden of the world, like Elias Laurencio do Nascimento and his family. □

Whatever else is going on, though, Elias' eyes tend to follow his mother whenever she is in the house. She in turn, while loving all her children, senses something special about Elias, with his quick mind and brave spirit locked into a body so frail it can literally be shattered by a touch.

Widowed, Severina is the mother of four children (two more have died), but only Elias and his older sister Eliene, 9, now live at home. Eliene, also sponsored, has the same congenital



Working amid the suffering in Ethiopia

## A SECOND LOOK

by Diana Stuhr

**M**y thoughts were drifting homeward, when suddenly I was jarred back to the reality of my present circumstances as Jemal vomited into the rag his father held. To my left, Asnaku was having diarrhea on her mother's skirt. And these were only two of the waiting family groups!

Pausing for a moment in my duties as a nurse and nutritionist at World Vision's nutrition-health center in Lalibela, Ethiopia, I thought, "Lord, I cannot bear this. How can I work in this place of suffering, with suffocating smells, starving children and so many flies?"

I swallowed hard and remembered what I had read that morning from His Word in Isaiah 42:3-4: "A bruised reed He will not break, and a dimly burning wick He will not extinguish. He will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not be disheartened or crushed, until He has established justice in the earth."

In my heart I cried, "Oh Lord, I feel like a bruised reed and a dimly burning wick. I feel disheartened and crushed. What is justice for these people?"

I sensed His reply and felt the promise, the reality, the comfort of His words. "I am the Lord. I have called you in righteousness. I will also hold you by the hand and watch over you" (Isaiah 42:6a).

When we say yes to God, whatever He asks, wherever He leads, there is no end to joy or strength. He has promised. I looked again at my surroundings.

*Diana Stuhr of Portland, Oregon, is a nurse and nutritionist diagnosing and treating patients at World Vision's nutrition-health center in Lalibela, Ethiopia.*



Jemal (center) with his father and sister. The father wears a misfit coat over his tattered clothing.



Diana Stuhr

Jemal is only four years old. His mother is dead. His father has tuberculosis of the spine, walks with a limp and is unable to do heavy labor. They are dressed in rags. I held back tears as I watched this father gently wipe his son's face and slowly lower the boy's weary head to the floor. I'm learning, since coming to Ethiopia, that I often need to look a second time at my circumstances and surroundings as I feel the pressure of His hand in mine.

Glancing through my prayer book, I am struck by the number of times I've prayed over a situation completely out of my control, then waited and waited and waited. No solution. No answer. We love to hear our Savior say yes, and we accept that there are times when He must say no, but to wait . . . it is difficult to wait.

I'm learning also, to say with the psalmist, "Besides Thee, I desire nothing on earth." I am learning to

## How can I work in this place of suffering, with suffocating smells, starving children and so many flies?

come to the Lord not to make a request, not to discuss a problem, not to say thank you, but only to love Him.

Recently in an outpatient clinic, I met a young woman carrying an infant born the night before. She had walked three miles to come to us. Upon examination, we found the child to be healthy, but the umbilical cord had not been tied off, only cut. There was no evidence of blood loss at all.

"How can this be?" I exclaimed. My Ethiopian co-worker said without hesitation, "It is the work of God."

Last week we stitched a person's badly cut heel, having to tie off three severed arteries in the process. It was a difficult procedure and lacked greatly in sterility. We worried about infection. But as the days passed, the wound healed. We marveled: the work of God.

Since coming to Ethiopia, I'm seeing anew how great our God is. A God of miracles today? Yes, a thousand times yes. Do you believe He can do greater things than we could ask or think? He says He can. I know He does. □

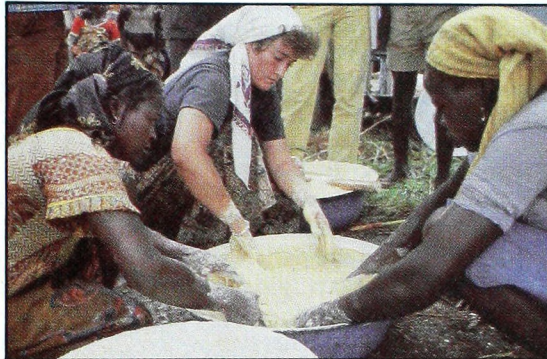


Faithful caring restores health and hope

# THE CHALLENGE OF CHAD

by Fred Messick

(right) American nutritionist Sharon Gonzales (center) helps villagers prepare "bouillie" porridge at a nutrition-health center.  
(below) A youngster pauses midway through a bowl of porridge.



**F**or generations, survival in Chad has been difficult. Recently, however, food and water shortages, combined with political and civil conflict, diseases, and extreme poverty have escalated the struggle between life and death.

Landlocked in north-central Africa, Chad has two geographic regions. In the north, the desert area including the Sahel is the inhospitable home of scattered groups of Arabs whose nomadic lifestyle reflects their ever-present concern with food and water.

Traditionally, Chad's greatest hope has been in the south. Fertile lands and abundant rains have made this area south of the Chari River the country's breadbasket, capable of growing enough millet, sorghum and other crops to feed most of the nation's five million people. Many of the fields are also planted in cotton, Chad's primary export crop and source of income.

In recent years, however, the landscape in the south has changed dramatically. The once-abundant rains became increasingly unreliable and infrequent. Lush vegetation disappeared,

crops withered, and lean harvests served as frustrating reminders that the margin of life was narrowing.

Fortunately, rains have returned to southern Chad, at least in the short-



Fred Messick

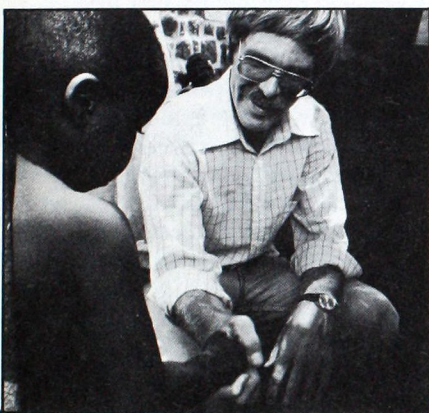


term. Yet food shortages continue because of a lack of seeds and tools. Many farmers "en brousse"—in the bush—have been weakened by the famine and are unable to return to work in their fields.

Government and relief organizations are trying to help. That help fails to reach many people in need, however. In the troubled south, food distribution is hampered by poor roads and security problems, including attacks by rebel groups known as "codos," some of whom are motivated by loyalty to the previous government, while others are simply bandits and thieves.

In this environment, World Vision has made a commitment to provide food for those most affected by famine: severely malnourished infants, children, mothers and the elderly.

World Vision nutrition-health



(above)  
American  
nutritionist Mike  
Finley shakes the  
hand of a young  
child he has just  
weighed and  
measured. (right)  
A mother waits  
patiently for  
food for her  
severely mal-  
nourished child.



specialists Michael Finley and Sharon Gonzales are providing help in the Moundou area of southwest Chad. In their first two months of operation, Michael and Sharon have conducted nutrition-need surveys in 49 villages in the Krim-Krim region, measuring arm circumference, and checking the height/weight ratio and overall health of more than 3000 children. According to these tests, as many as one-fourth of the children are severely malnourished. Even more are suffering from malaria and other diseases.

During my recent visit to Moundou I saw the opening of the first of six nutrition-health centers. The first step in this effort—as in all of our community work in Chad—was to meet with the village chief and his elders. As they gave us a gracious welcome, people from huts throughout the villages rounded up enough chairs for our meeting. Then, as we sat together in the shade of a tree by the chief's hut, Michael and Sharon explained the goals of the project and asked for villagers' support and participation. Later that day Michael told me, "We are committed to building relationships of mutual trust wherever we go. We feel honored that village chiefs welcome us to work with them in their villages. We are not simply helping them; they are also helping us learn new lessons about friendship and community."

During the course of my visit in the south, I watched Sharon train village women to operate the center and, specifically, to prepare a high protein mixture called "bouillie"—made up of corn-soy-milk powder, cooking oil, sugar, and boiled water. That first day, approximately 100 severely malnourished infants were fed.

It was anticipated that each center, furnished with enough "bouillie"

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**"We are not simply helping them; they are also helping us."**

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mixture to last until December harvests, would eventually provide a daily meal for as many as 300 village children and others in desperate need of food. Now, as we continue our commitment to needy villagers, we are looking ahead to rehabilitation and development efforts to help move people even closer to good health.

In the villages we work alongside local Christians such as Alphonse Natibe, a Chadian nurse who has lived in Krim-Krim for seven years. Alphonse, a key person in the operation of the nutrition-health centers, told me about the local needs. As the only medical worker in the area, he sees 2500 patients a week.

Many of the Krim-Krim people, says Alphonse, suffer from malaria and other effects of unhealthful water and poor sanitation. Frustratingly, he never has enough medicine to treat all those who need help. Yet he remains motivated to serve. "It's the Christian life for me to follow the word of God, to be faithful to God, to care for people physically and spiritually."

In Chad I saw a country beset by a multitude of problems. Yet I saw evidence of new rains, prospects for a better harvest, and a commitment from the World Vision partnership to care and to help. I saw in many of the villages—and in the faces of villagers themselves—hopeful signs of a healthier future. □

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*Fred Messick is a member of World Vision's communication resources staff.*



# Samaritan sampler

SOME WAYS PEOPLE ARE HELPING  
OTHERS IN THE NAME OF CHRIST



**Zambia's President Kaunda shakes hands with MCCer Ruth Thiessen at Appropriate Technology Fair in Lusaka.**

## **An Appropriate Technology Fair**

organized by Mennonite Central Committee workers in Lusaka, Zambia, displayed low-cost items made largely of locally available materials. A reflector oven, rope and washer pump, solar food dryers, brick and mud stoves and a cooking box insulated with hay were some of the aids designed for daily-life use. Other displays included weaving, spinning and a small printing press on which a local co-op produces a magazine using block printing. For information write Mennonite Central Committee, 21 S. 12th St., Akron, PA 17501.

## **Worldwide opportunities for Christian service**

are listed by the Interdenominational Foreign Mission Association (IFMA). Their roster of more than 65 member missions includes such well-known organizations as the Africa Inland Mission, Far East Broadcasting Company, Overseas Missionary Fellowship and U.S. Center for World Mission. For information write Interdenominational Foreign Mission Association, Box 395, Wheaton, IL 60189-0395.

## **A new publication from the Navigators**

is designed to help people become effective small group leaders. *The Small Group Letter* speaks to those

who want to conduct lively, thought-provoking, spiritually dynamic small group meetings; to lead others in applying more of God's Word to their lives, and to understand and help those who are hurting. Charter subscriptions (10 issues a year) are \$17. Write *The Small Group Letter*, Subscription Services, P.O. Box 1164, Dover, NJ 07801.

## **Maintaining a positive Christian influence**

on the nation's public schools is a central purpose of Christian Educators Association International. CEAI offers educators the opportunity to support each other in prayer and fellowship, to better inform churches of specific needs and to share helpful insights. Christians who are public educators are invited both to become part of CEAI and to register for Holiday '85, a year end conference and celebration combined, in Pasadena, California. For information contact CEAI, Box 50025, Pasadena, CA 91105; (818) 798-1124.

## **Solo, a magazine for singles**

has been phased out and replaced by *Spirit!*, a new magazine aimed at young Christian adults. *Spirit!* does not focus on marital status, but on an age group and lifestyle. For information write Jerry Jones, Box 1231, Sisters, OR 97759.

**Reaching street kids** in an area that is a magnet for runaways is a primary focus for Centrum of Hollywood, a ministry of Youth With a Mission (YWAM). Now in its ninth year, Centrum is seeking to expand its ministry with a Scripture distribution campaign, an annual evangelism sweep ("S.O.S. Hollywood"), and an increased emphasis on year-round "friendship evangelism" that includes taking the initiative in offering practical help to street people. Two current needs are crucial: first, a large home to provide crisis shelter for more than eight individuals (the present housing capacity); second, funding, establishing and staffing a crisis pregnancy center for young girls who now see abortion as their only option. For information contact Centrum of Hollywood, P.O. Box 29069, Hollywood, CA 90029; (213) 463-5576.

## **Lively, well-told accounts**

of what some "grass roots Christians seeking social justice" are accomplishing, make encouraging, idea-generating reading in *Salt* magazine. Approaching problems from an individual perspective, *Salt* "offers suggestions for small, incremental changes . . . in readers' way of life." Visiting prisoners, tutoring inner-city kids—and being a family peacemaker—are some of the challenges undertaken. Published by the Claretian Fathers and Brothers at \$10/yr. Write: *Salt* 221 W. Madison, Chicago, IL 60606.

## **A multicultural ministry**

of a different kind keeps Inter-Varsity staff worker Meri McLeod constantly working with new groups of students.

The American Graduate School of International Management (AGSIM) near Phoenix, Arizona, offers a high-intensity one-year program in international management. One-third of the students are from foreign countries and most of the American students have already either studied or worked overseas and are largely bi- or trilingual. Members of the I-V chapter at AGSIM are strongly involved in evangelism and in applying Christian faith and lifestyle to their chosen careers. One of the most exciting aspects of working with AGSIM students, says Meri, is their potential for influencing people in many parts of the world.

## **Southeast Asian refugees**

have received a warm welcome from the Church of the Nazarene. The denomination now has 111 churches involved in ministry to these new residents and a full-time national consultant for Southeast Asians, Mrs. Nancy Clark. In addition to the usual helping services provided for Asian refugees, an active church-planting ministry is carried on. Newly established is a Cambodian church in Columbus, Ohio, home of an estimated 4000 Cambodians. Many of those on the church-planting team were Cambodians themselves, some from churches planted as recently as two years ago. The Columbus church was the 27th Southeast Asian church that Nancy Clark and her team have been instrumental in planting.



# Questions childcare partners ask

## What is Childcare Partnership?

It is a program in which caring people join to support children who live in some of the world's neediest places. The partnership provides food, clothing, shelter, medical care and whatever else possible to give these children the start they need in life.

## As a Childcare Partner, I was sent a child's picture. Do other Childcare Partners receive the same picture?

Yes, each partner receives the same story of a child who is representative of the more than 400,000 needy children around the world whom you and other Childcare Partners are helping daily.

## May I write or send gifts to an individual child?

We are sorry, but providing the organizational framework necessary to do this would defeat the cost-effectiveness of the Partnership program.

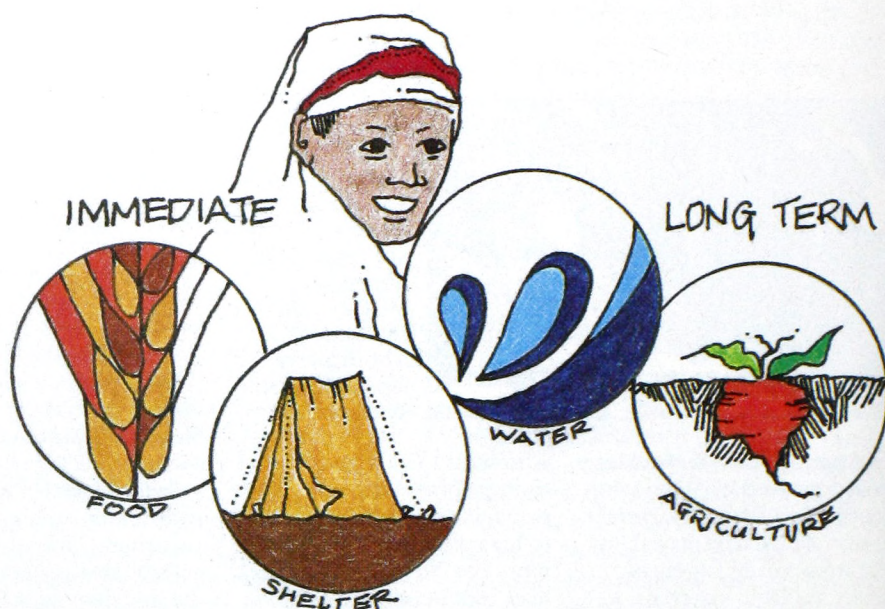
## Isn't it expensive to send the Faces of Need photo-poster pictures each month?

Actually the costs are quite small due to the quantities involved. And we think it's important for you to be able to visualize how your gifts are being used. Average figures from the last three years show that all administrative and fund-raising costs amount to less than 25 percent of our total budget. This means that 75 cents out of every dollar is used for ministry to the needy.

## How does my Childcare Partnership gift benefit these children?

When your gift reaches our office, it is noted and receipted here and then forwarded overseas to be used in our Childcare Partnership projects. Funds are used for both emergency relief and long-term development.

Emergency relief is concerned with the immediate needs of each child for



food, medical care, blankets and temporary shelter. Long-term development projects help entire communities through health care, education, and training in hygiene and employment skills. In addition, help in reclaiming land for agriculture, using improved farming methods and providing appropriate water systems, is also given. We cannot improve the quality of a child's life until the community in which he or she lives is given the opportunity for better living conditions.

## Do project workers share the love of Jesus with the children?

Yes, in most countries project workers are able to share God's Word in Christian education programs. In order to maintain our eligibility to operate in certain countries—for example, a Muslim country—we have to be cautious about being outspoken as to our Christian stand. In all countries, project workers show the love of Christ as they go about their daily duties in ministering to the people.

## Is my Childcare Partnership pledge helping in Africa?

The needs of children in Africa are staggering. World Vision is committed to meeting both short and long-range goals there as God and His people enable us.

Our Childcare Partnership funds are pooled so that personnel in specialized areas can be free to meet whatever needs are the most urgent. One month your gift might be feeding a child in Ethiopia or Mozambique. The next, it might be used for medicine in Ghana or Mali—or for the needs of a child in some other part of the world.

## How can I be sure these children are actually getting the help they need?

Our overseas staff supervises the work and sees that funds are being used as designated. World Vision avoids sending aid through government channels. Each project is carefully monitored to see that care and assistance are being provided as agreed. Project inspections are made on a regular basis and individual families are interviewed. Project staff training is continually provided to upgrade skills.

## How will I know my gifts are helping?

Stories and articles in WORLD VISION magazine show how your Childcare Partnership gifts are being used to bring help to children—one-by-one—in a hurting world.



# RUNAWAY RECONCILES WITH FAMILY

by Bernard Gomes

*World Vision Bangladesh Communications Officer*

**I** cannot believe my eyes," exclaimed 70-year-old Zahed Ali, tears streaming down his face. "My son Tara Miah is standing before me!"

Six years earlier the blind, nine-year-old boy had run away from home after a particularly severe beating from his stepmother. Zahed Ali left no stone unturned in his unsuccessful search for his son. Finally the father sought out a fortune teller, who declared that Tara Miah was dead. Zahed Ali and his family believed the man.

The young boy spent many years as a beggar before finding his way to Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity Home of Compassion in Dhaka, Bangladesh's capital. There a World Vision staff member saw him and arranged for Tara Miah to be admitted to the World Vision-supported Blind Boys' Home, also in Dhaka.

Upon learning of Tara Miah's situation, Bangladesh Director Paul Jones arranged for him to return to the village of Surjanarayanpur, some 20 miles from Dhaka, for a reconciliation with his family, which took place in June.



As soon as he heard that Tara Miah had returned, elder brother Yusuf Ali (right) rushed to the World Vision car waiting outside the village Union Council Office.

"Words cannot say how happy I am today to have my brother back in the family," said Tara Miah's eldest brother, 40-year-old Yusuf Ali, as tears rolled down his cheeks. Tara Miah's tear-filled eyes told me he felt the same way.

After spending several days with his family, Tara Miah returned to the Blind Boys' Home to continue learning skills

in chair-weaving, bamboo and cane work, and gardening.

His days as a blind beggar are behind him. And the broken bridge between him and his family has been repaired. With World Vision's assistance Tara Miah's life is now channeled in a new direction where there is hope and love. □

## LUNCHTIME IN TEGUCIGALPA

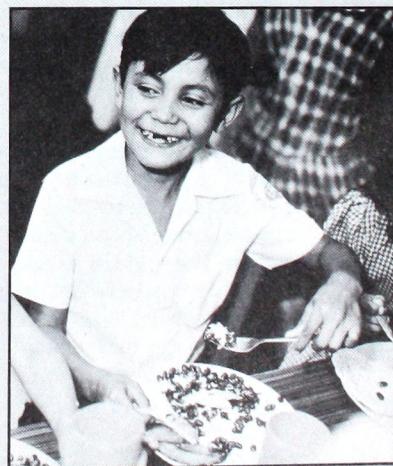
**O**n a rutted street in one of Tegucigalpa's crowded barrios sits a small white building which draws throngs of Honduran children every weekday at noon. The attraction at Proyecto La Pagoda is lunch—a hot meal of meat or fish with beans, rice or pasta and bread or corn tortillas. For many of these children, the meal represents their only balanced daily nutritional intake.

La Pagoda is one of 93 World Vision projects in Honduras. Seventy-eight operate nutrition centers that serve lunches planned by professional nutritionists to a total of 4750 children previously diagnosed to be malnour-

ished. The children range in age from one month to seven years.

In Tegucigalpa alone, 14 nutrition projects serve 700 youngsters. World Vision Honduras has been providing children with health-building meals since its first nutrition project opened in 1977. At La Pagoda, \$2.50 will feed one child for a week.

**With the help of World Vision donors, this happy youngster and others like him are assured of nutritious meals at least once a day.**





## Mini-message

### THE GREAT GIFT EXCHANGE

**Not only at His birth** but throughout all 33 years of His life on earth, Jesus Christ was more than sinless; He was—and is—The Righteous One. Yet He demonstrated unmistakably that His birth, His life on earth, His death, His resurrection, His ascension—all were for the sake of sinners.

Months before His birth, an angel told Joseph that His name was to be Jesus *because He was to save His people from their sins.*

Before He began His public ministry, His cousin John referred to Him as one "the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie." Then, when Jesus came walking toward him and his listeners, John exclaimed, "Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29).

Although Jesus, like John, warned that sin spells death and that sincere repentance is required, He bore the best of news to penitent believers. "God so loved the world," He declared,



In the film *Jesus*, listeners contemplate our Lord's words.

"that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

That message, meant for all mankind in every generation, is clearly meant for you and me today. The Son born in Bethlehem, who grew up in Nazareth, walked and taught in Judea, Samaria and Galilee, then died at Golgotha just outside Jerusalem but rose again, appeared to many and ascended to the Father in heaven, now continues to offer Himself to *you*, contingent only on your opening your heart to receive Him through repentance and the kind of faith that says sincerely, "I give myself to *You*, Lord Jesus."

If you've experienced that gift exchange with Him, you know the delight of complete forgiveness and fellowship with the Son. If you've *not* experienced that gift exchange, today is not too soon. Read, openheartedly, the Gospel of John. Respond to the One of whom it tells. For, as its author says, "These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (John 20:31). □

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

## Is God calling you...

to work where your efforts will be directly related to saving lives and spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ? Consider these opportunities for service. If you think you may qualify for one of these positions, send your resume to World Vision International, Human Resources, 919 W. Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016.

### Latin America Field Development Office Facilitators

Six facilitators needed with technical expertise in health care, agriculture, non-formal education, evangelism or development. Requires M.A. or equivalent experience in one of the technical fields listed; five years experience doing development projects, preferably in the Two-Thirds World; good verbal and written skills; written and spoken fluency in Spanish. Involves 40% travel. *Contact: Mel Loucks, Overseas Employment Coordinator.*

### Facilities Manager

To support the work within the World Vision International office in California

by supplying to the staff effective, well-maintained work environments, furniture, equipment and communication tools. Will develop five-year plan for facilities management, prepare and monitor department and facilities services budget, forecast and plan for short-term space requirements, and act as primary communicator to WVI employees regarding facilities issues. Requires knowledge of systems furniture products, construction practices, planning, scheduling and project management techniques as well as familiarity with accounting and purchasing methods and procedures. *Contact: Kent Stock, Employment Supervisor.*

### Africa Short-Term Contract Positions

Positions in West Africa, Chad, Sudan and Ethiopia require appropriate qualifications and experience including previous Two-Thirds World experience. French language required for Chad/West Africa positions. Must be flexible and adaptable to a variety of living conditions. Six month minimum contract required.

Logisticians  
Project managers  
Nutritionists  
Public health nurses

Agriculturalists  
Mechanics  
Medical doctors  
Water sanitation engineers

*Contact: Karin Hubby, World Vision U.S.*



## I MUST TELL WHAT I SEE

**Try to feel it** as you read.

A just-opened nutrition center sits on a piece of almost barren ground in Sudan. In three weeks, 3000 people have crowded in; hundreds more arrive each day.

A few scraggly bushes dot the plain but offer no relief from the 105-degree heat. The overpowering odor of sickness permeates the atmosphere; flies constantly light on everything.

I stop to talk to a family of nine that has just arrived. They have no money, no bedding, no pots or pans or suitcases or tent. Nothing! Only the ragged clothes they wear.

I learn this as I talk to the grandfather who has five grandchildren. I tell him that I'm also a grandfather with five grandchildren. I want him to know that I hurt for him, but I recognize that I can't even begin to feel the pain he feels. Nor, I suppose, can he imagine the frustration I feel because I can't do more for him.

It's true, of course, that his family might have died had World Vision workers not been there. The old man and his family had walked all the way from Chad—who knows how many miles—looking for food. Word of nutrition centers spreads quickly throughout drought-stricken nations.

My senses soak it all up; I don't want to lose this sense of urgency when I get back home. I rehearse these painful images to fix them in my own mind, as well as to impress them on the minds and hearts of others. I have to do that.

When I see the workers in the nutrition centers—doctors, nurses, technicians, truck drivers and others—I



Dr. Engstrom in Sudan last summer

**"Faith is only real when there is obedience."**

think, God has called them to their tasks; He'll give them the strength to do them. And God has called me to witness such grim disasters in Sudan, Ethiopia, Lebanon and elsewhere. He has told me to tell what I see as forcefully and effectively as I can.

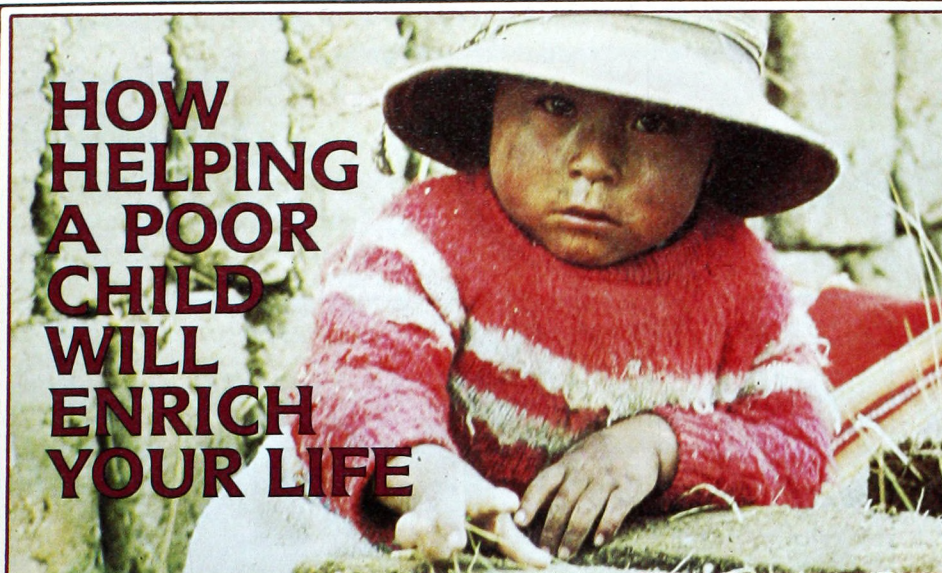
Similarly, I believe, He has called others—perhaps you—to respond in

certain ways: to pray, to support, to spread the word, perhaps even to serve more directly.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, "Faith is only real when there is obedience, never without it, and faith only becomes faith in the act of obedience." He's right about that. And that's why I write so much about what I've experienced. I hope you can feel it!

*Ted W. Engstrom*  
Ted W. Engstrom  
President





# HOW HELPING A POOR CHILD WILL ENRICH YOUR LIFE

You feel many things when a child suffers in desperate poverty.

Pity. Compassion. Frustration. Sadness.

But perhaps you've never considered how helping one poor girl or boy through World Vision's sponsorship program can enrich your life.

**It's beautifully simple.**

You see a child's poverty. You help him or her rise above it. Then you feel that child's love... and you sense a new gratitude for the abundance God has given you.

**This refreshing alternative to today's growing materialism** is an experience that has been shared by thousands of compassionate people since World Vision began Childcare Sponsorship thirty-five years ago.

And now you can become a sponsor, too.

Your monthly gifts will give one child an opportunity to know the love of Christ—as well as regular nutritious meals and medical care, carefully administered by dedicated Christian workers.

You will receive a photo and background information on your child. You will also receive progress reports so you can be assured that your gifts are making a difference.

**And, best of all, you don't have to be materially rich** to sponsor a child through World Vision.

Only 65 cents a day—\$20 a month—gives a child perhaps the only hope he or she will ever have of escaping a life of deprivation and poverty.

To become a World Vision Childcare Sponsor, simply complete and mail the coupon below.

There's no need to send any money now. Instead, you'll receive a packet of information about the child who needs your love and care.

Then, if you decide to become a sponsor, keep the packet and mail your first sponsorship payment of \$20. If not, return the material within ten days and owe nothing.

Please act today. Thousands of poor children are waiting.

**By helping one, you'll enrich two lives.**



## WORLD VISION

Helping People Care

☐ Please send me information and a photograph today of a child who needs my help.

(I understand that if I decide to become a World Vision Childcare Sponsor, I'll send my first \$20 payment within ten days. If not, I'll return the materials so someone else can help.)

SII

☐ I prefer to make my first payment immediately. I enclose \$20.

☐ I can't sponsor a child right now, but would like to contribute \$\_\_\_\_\_ 1000

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Your sponsorship payments are tax deductible.

**World Vision Childcare • Arcadia, CA 91006**

AC5W36





Struggling to survive  
Sudan's famine

Helping Mexico's  
quake victims

A boy who  
walks again

December '85-January '86

# World Vision®

A camel caravan in Sudan transports desperately needed grain to villagers in the Engesina Hills.



**Beyond  
Santa's  
Route**

**SPONSOR'S EDITION**



# Readers write

## Self-help

I was glad to learn of the long-range plans World Vision has for educating the people to help themselves in the future. That is surely what is needed over the long haul.

Lois E. Marine  
Englewood, FL

## How one church reaches out to internationals

Our church (First Covenant) agrees that we must make Christ known to internationals in our community. For two years we have conducted an outreach program to our college community which includes international students. We call it "Adopt a College Student." What happens is that a family of our congregation "adopts" a student for the school year and makes that person a part of their family life. This may include some meals, family outings, having the student cook an international dish for the family, etc. It has been highly successful for both the family and the students.

Tom Miller  
River Falls, WI

## Gratitude in Mali

As Proverbs 17:17 says (in French): "*L'ami aime de tout temps, et dans le malheur il se montre un frère.*" Literally: "The friend loves at all times, and in times of misfortune he proves to be a brother."

We Malian Christians are very grateful to our Christian brothers and sisters all over the world who have been moved by our suffering and have given their time, money and themselves to save thousands of lives from starvation and cruel suffering.

More than that, the Lord has mightily used this Christian love expression, particularly in the southern part of the country, to draw to Himself hundreds of souls that are now members of His Kingdom. Many Christian missions and organizations have contributed to that, and World Vision is certainly not behind in this achievement.

In the Beledugu area a needy non-Christian who was freely given about 50 kilograms of rice said: "If this is how Christians love those they do not even know, then this is enough to believe in their God."

Indeed, the news of the food assistance given by the churches has spread all over the country and made Christianity come almost suddenly out of the shadow of ignorance. Now many villages that were

closed to the gospel are sending delegations to the churches to ask for a messenger to go preach the gospel to them.

Last Saturday the church I attend received such an invitation from a village 80 kilometers from Bamako where there were only four Christians. Thirteen people were announced to be ready for a decision for Christ. When the evangelistic service was over, an additional 13 people had accepted the Lord. You may not realize what that means for a 90% Muslim country.

The radio and TV programs that I have the privilege of leading for the churches by His grace, contribute very much to this spiritual movement. Many pastors are overwhelmed with discipleship work.

A critic may say that there are "rice Christians" among such converts. Sure, but most of them would not give an ear to the gospel outside a crisis context. Now they know Jesus and are responsible for their decision.

In this time of sorrow you have proved to be more than friends, to be real brothers and sisters in Christ. We in turn express our gratitude to you in Christ. May the Lord continue to bless you profusely in His service.

Daniel Coulibaly  
Bamako, Mali, West Africa

## Teenager knows what it's like

Our adopted daughter Ailise, who regularly sends her contributions to World Vision, is a high school student who earns about \$50 a week in her part-time job at McDonald's. All the donations are completely her own. Alice came to us from the streets of Seoul, Korea, when she was 5½ years old, along with her twin sister who was quadriplegic from polio. Ailise was the caretaker of the two, rummaging in the trash and begging to support the two of them. Perhaps this is why she is so generous with her meager earnings.

Jayne Hoge  
Duluth, GA

## Teen volunteer

I'm writing to you about the Counter-Top volunteers story in your August/September issue. I was a contributor to World Vision but because of family problems I thought I would no longer be able to give—until I read the story about Mrs. Darlene Newton. She raises money for your work by putting Counter-Top displays in stores and restaurants. I am willing to do the same to help people of all ages who are hungry.

I'm a teen and I'm willing to fight for others so they too may live. Please send me information about how I can become a Counter-Top volunteer.

Heather Hudson  
Paradise, CA

## New perspective

I just wanted to say how sorry I am for thinking you just wanted money all the time. I read, for the first time, WORLD VISION magazine all the way through. I was impressed, shocked and mostly ashamed.

God has been so kind to me and my family and I have been feeling sorry for myself, but no more.

I pledge my \$16 a month to help a child. Please forgive me.

Name withheld

## Called to city ministry

A page in John Maust's book *Cities of Change* carries the following poem by George MacDonald, which expresses the experience of many missionaries and national pastors who serve in Latin America's congested cities:

I said, "Let me walk in the field."

God said, "Nay, walk in the town."

I said, "There are no flowers there."

He said, "No flowers, but a crown."

I said, "But the sky is black,

There is nothing but noise and din."

But He wept as He sent me back,

"There is more," He said, "there is sin."

I said, "But the air is thick,

And fogs are veiling the sun."

He answered, "Yet souls are sick,  
And souls in the dark undone."

I said, "I shall miss the light,

And friends will miss me, they say."

He answered me, "Choose tonight

If I am to miss you, or they."

I pleaded for time to be given.

He said, "Is it hard to decide?

It will not seem hard in Heaven

To have followed the steps of your Guide."

I cast one look at the fields,

then set my face to the town.

He said, "My child, do you yield?

Will you leave the flowers for the crown?"

Then into His hand went mine,

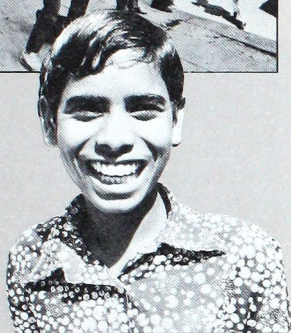
And into my heart came He;

And I walk in a light Divine,

The path I had feared to see. □



# World Vision®



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A report on the state of Sudan's drought sufferers.

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**WORLD VISION**

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## BEYOND SANTA'S USUAL ROUTE

**With so many big deliveries** to make on certain other continents, well-meaning Santa tends to miss most of the children in Africa.

"Oh, well," the plump old gent usually says sleepily to his reindeer when he unhitches them each year, "Grain hauling isn't really my bag anyway."

Yet in the dreams of children in Sudan and Ethiopia floats an image of neither a talking doll nor a Complete Package of the Hardware and Software Needed for New Computer Games, but of a bowl of almost anything to eat.

How fortunate, then, that within the vast region that Santa generally overlooks, a few camels now trudge faithfully across hot sand with grain,

some donkeys thread their way with seed and tools, and where the semblance of a road exists, a fleet of heavy-cargo trucks rumbles over rocky terrain with extremely precious gifts of corn, hoes, well-drilling machinery, diarrhea medicine and Good News.

To each big-hearted giver helping make such deliveries possible, *Merry Christmas to all—and to all a good night!*

*David Olson*

PHOTOS, ILLUSTRATIONS: Cover: Lloyd Ashton, photo, Gary Left, calligraphy; pp. 4-9, 23 (below): Bruce Brander; p. 11: Sanjay Sojwal; pp. 12, 13 (right): Jose Maria Blanch, (left): Armand Vasquez; pp. 14, 15: F.D. Haider; pp. 16, 17: David Cullen; return envelope; pp. 19, 20: Sheryl Watkins; p. 21: Ken Klippenstein; p. 22: Lisa Hindsley; p. 23 (above): Bernard Gomes; p. 25: Jacob Akol.



Sudan's famine victims echo . . .

# THE CRY OF THE 'ELEPHANT'S TRUNK'

by Bruce Brander

**L**anding at Khartoum, I could hardly forget that I was entering a stricken country.

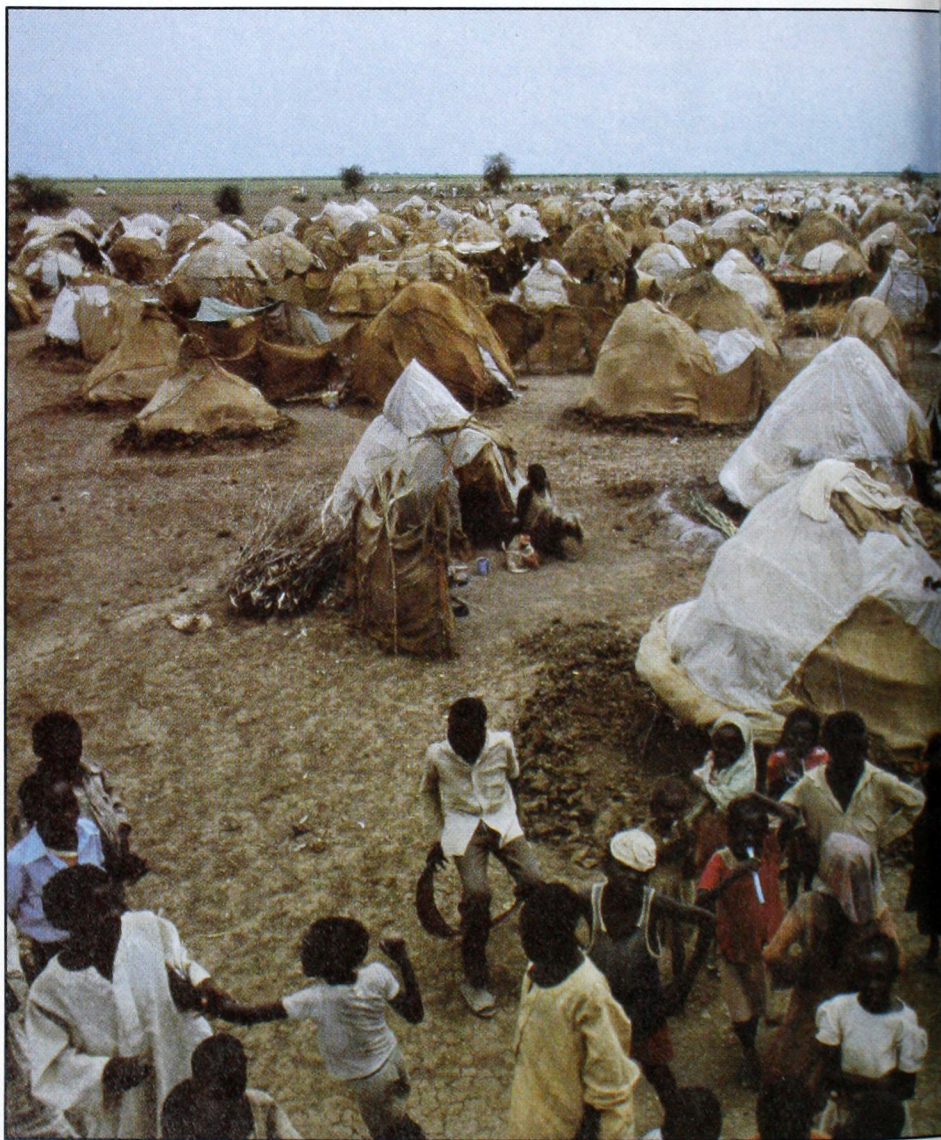
One thousand miles south of Cairo, roughly midway up the Nile River, the capital city of Sudan itself signaled the plight of its people. A hot, dusty haze wrapped the skyline. Gritty sand swept along the runway underfoot. Both told of the drought that long had racked the nation, and of a famine of biblical proportions spreading in its wake.

I had been reading of Sudan in scattered news reports, often overshadowed by heavier coverage from neighboring Ethiopia to the east. Africa's largest country, with an area greater than all of Western Europe, Sudan lay parched by drought for three and four and, in some places, ten years in a row. And, as it was all across the Sahel belt of semi-arid land dividing the Sahara Desert from green Africa, withering crops and dying livestock herds left farmers, villagers and nomadic tribes stripped of the barest sustenance.

No country except Ethiopia, in fact, was suffering more from the trans-continental drought. An estimated 8.4 million people—a colossal proportion of Sudan's total population of 22

*Bruce Brander is an editor for World Vision International Communications.*

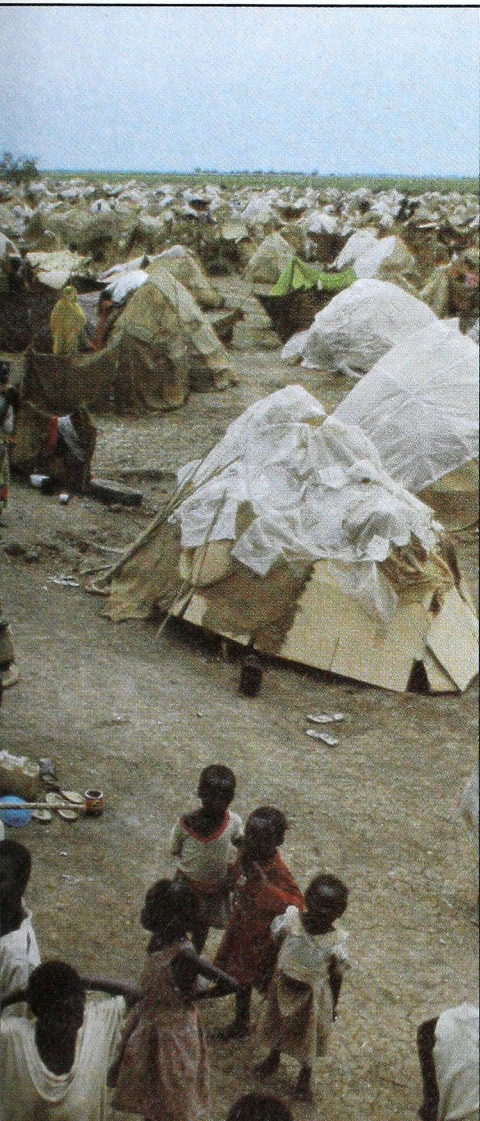
The 7000 refugees—largely Chadian—of Mabi Camp live in makeshift huts of reed matting, rags and plastic sheeting.







(left) Khartoum's Acropole Hotel with its faded empire-days style is popular with relief workers and journalists. (below) At Mobi Camp's medical tent, a Chadian woman is treated for suspected cholera before being hospitalized in Wad Medani.



million—were short of food. The need among many was desperate. Hundreds of thousands—perhaps as many as a million—were scattered throughout the vast and trackless country in various stages of starvation, sickness and dying.

The tragedy had come perilously close to mass annihilation of whole populations. But alert governments

## Young mothers sit on dusty pavements with their babies and plastic cups.

and relief agencies, including World Vision, were intervening in time to prevent that. Massive aid rushed to the anguished land was blocking the impending avalanche of death.

Khartoum looked normal for an Arabic African city. Its bleak concrete airport terminal fluttering with ceiling fans led out to a snarled traffic of hooting cars, donkeys and milling pedestrians. In the past decade alone, the city's population has doubled with a torrent of job-seekers from hundreds of miles around fleeing the drying-up countryside. It now stands at 1.4 million.

The population recently swelled much larger as farmers and herdsmen by the tens of thousands, fallen out of

the economic system, abandoned ancient homelands in the remote western provinces of Darfur and Kordofan to wander through the country in search of work and food. Khartoum became a capital of vagrants begging for their livelihood. The flood of newcomers strained urban resources and spread diseases of the destitute until the government trucked many of the people back into the hinterlands.

Yet even after the dispersion of the starving, I found signs of tragic hunger on city streets. Under the balconies that shade downtown shoppers from blast-furnace heat, young mothers sit on dusty pavements with their babies and plastic or aluminum cups. At a busy corner, an aging man dozes on a reed mat that serves as his only home. Outside my hotel, I ration out Sudanese pound notes to a silently imploring man in a ragged cotton turban, a graceful woman making hand-to-mouth gestures and a boy about 12 with the thinnest legs I've ever seen.

**The Acropole Hotel** is like a scene from a 1930s movie. A sand-colored building rising three stories on the corner of sandy streets, it serves as a hub for relief workers in Sudan.

The Acropole is no place for creature comforts. Guests climb to their rooms on twisting flights of stairs. Baths are down the hall; beds, springless cotton mattresses spread on



boards. A candle waits on each bedstand, since Khartoum sometimes goes without electricity for weeks at a time. And there is nothing to relieve midday temperatures of 115 degrees and more but lattice doors, window shutters and overhead fans reminiscent of empire days.

Khartoum's low skyline squats at the confluence of two of Africa's most storied rivers. The Blue Nile gushes down from the wild mountains of Ethiopia. The White Nile flows from the mid-African countries of Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda. The city's name means "elephant trunk," a shape

## Rain poured down in a summer-long deluge that turned much of the country into mire.

suggested as one river curls into the other for the single Nile's northward journey to Egypt.

Early last summer, as Sudan gasped through the driest of all its recent drought years, the great rivers crept past the city dark and sluggish, lower than anytime since the early 1900s, said some, and since the 1600s, claimed others. By September, both were running higher than most people could recall, flooding islands, drowning tall trees. Rain had returned to the Sahel.

It came as a curse. What everyone here was waiting for, praying for—while 20,000 Sudanese were dying from starvation every month for its lack—poured down in a summer-long deluge that turned much of the country into mire.

By July, relief food was piling up in Port Sudan on the Red Sea, the nation's single major entry point. The United States Agency for International Development, the United Nations World Food Program, World Vision Canada, and other donors from around the globe had filled warehouses and wharves with some 420,000 tons of cereal grains, milk powder, sugar, cooking oil and other commodities. Ships holding more lay offshore waiting for berthing space. Trucks and trains stood ready to carry the precious cargo to the barren and hungry interior.

But the rains paralyzed land transport. The single length of deteriorating rail line penetrating the west fell to pieces: a major bridge collapsed, plunging two locomotives off the tracks into a river, while washouts severed the route in nine other places. The whole of Sudan has only two lengths of paved road. Elsewhere, vehicles usually follow the tire prints of other vehicles, but rain turned most of these truck routes into totally impassable muck.

The European Economic Community responded with an "airbridge" of huge cargo planes from West Germany, Britain, Belgium, Denmark and Italy. But the airlifts of 20 tons per trip could not feed half a nation. Some food shipments were mobbed by desperate crowds of the starving.

Meanwhile, many tales of tragedy had yet to reach Khartoum. Most villages and tribal camps have neither telephones nor radios. Only the overfull rivers racing past the city suggested the extent of rains in distant places and how utterly cut off from help many people remained.

**The road southbound** from Khartoum is good: two lanes of fairly smooth blacktop crossing flat, tan land. In a four-wheel-drive vehicle full of World Vision workers, I sped toward the town of Wad Medani 114 miles distant to visit one of the camps where World Vision serves displaced desert people.

*Suq* lorries—Sudan's market trucks—crowded the outbound highway. The sturdy flatbed vehicles with their desert-wise drivers make up the country's major lifeline for goods and passengers. Pink and green, blue, orange and yellow, decked with curtains around the cabs, the trucks were setting out on journeys of days and weeks into remote hinterlands. At times World Vision has rented *suq* lorries when other transport for food relief was unavailable. For months many of the vehicles had been returning from the backlands full of people fleeing the dying countryside. These environmental migrants still had money for their journeys. Others, crowded on the tops of trains, rode for nothing. Still others walked.

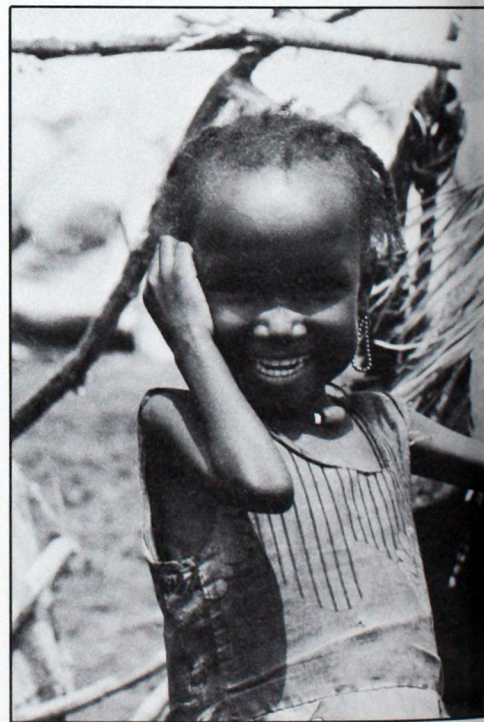
Down the road and to our right sprawled a grand illusionary lake of mirages. Out of that shimmering desert some wanderers came after walking for a thousand miles. They, among some 220,000 migrants, chose Sudan's

Central Region as their final hope.

Here, between the two great rivers, lies an irrigation scheme known as the *Gezira*—the island. Designed by British engineers in 1925, its vast lacework of canals, ditches and pumps turned the area from a barren land of nomads into a rich alluvial garden. Today, with 2.1 million acres and 96,000 tenant farmers, the Gezira is the world's largest farm. In better times, migrant workers had come from many hundreds of miles away to find seasonal employment here, and oil-rich investors had hoped to make the area a breadbasket for the Arab world. In recent times, the hungry wanderers found no work, no food, even here. The Gezira's parched harvests did not tally up to half enough to feed itself.

Farther on a farmer poked a muddy field with a *seluka* stick, his yellow-robed wife popping seeds into the holes. All over Sudan, I had heard, the land was regaining its promise from recent rains and planting was resuming. Where farmers in despair had eaten their seed, relief agencies were supplying them with more.

"You cannot fail to be moved by the spirit of the people," one relief executive said. "They are weak and debilitated after months of cumulative malnutrition, but those who can are



A Chadian refugee girl, one of thousands saved from starvation, flashes a bright smile.



out there weeding and plowing. Some are actually dying in the fields."

Like the land, its animals, too, were beginning to fare better. A boy marched a tight-ranked herd of goats beside the road to a newly green grazing spot. Farther on, we stopped as two herders led a mob of lyre-horned cattle across the highway. Our driver remarked that the beasts were getting some flesh on them again.

Early promise of the first good harvest in years also was appearing. Roadside vendors in white *galabia* robes sat beneath thatch shelters with piles of watermelons, trays of tomatoes and pyramids of guavas for sale. Yet no substantial harvest of staple grains—sorghum, millet, maize—would arrive until mid-November. Until then the entire nation was dependent upon outside aid for its continued existence.

Children at the roadside danced and waved at our truck as we neared Wad

## Out of the shimmering desert some wanderers came after walking for a thousand miles.

Medani, a low town of flat-roofed buildings on the banks of the Blue Nile. I stopped briefly at the World Vision office there. The high-ceilinged room was full of workers and wall-charts, a nerve center for nutrition programs, medical services and future development plans for all of central Sudan.

World Vision, with its Sudan budget of \$5.7 million for fiscal year 1985, is not undertaking alone to feed the many millions of hungry people in the region. The task, too enormous for any single group, is shared among many agencies who work together in a complex network of cooperation.

In one plan, for example, World Vision finds areas of need, the United States Agency for International Development provides food, the United Nations World Food Program organizes transportation and, finally, World Vision monitors deliveries to village councils that then distribute the aid to people needing it most. In another plan, World Vision supplies staff, food or funds to camps run by other agencies, including the Christian-based Africa Committee for Rehabilitation of Southern Sudan (ACROSS).

Other arrangements are less formal. When World Vision ran short of sugar

to mix with flour, milk powder, oil and salt for a supplementary nutrition program serving malnourished children, another agency freely offered a whole truckload. Meanwhile, World Vision, learning of a hospital isolated by rains and desperately short of medicines, purchased the supplies from yet another agency and arranged to fly them into the remote location. At the same time, The British Save the Children Fund needed CB radios for food trucking operations, and World Vision provided the funds to supply them. Only such a network of free cooperation saved so many people so quickly in Sudan.

**Most of the workers** in the Wad Medani office were Sudanese. Months ago, reports had warned that some early food shipments had been hampered by misappropriation, riots, even bandit raids. To avert such problems at the outset of its work in Sudan, World Vision hired local monitors, many of them graduates of local universities. Their job was to travel through Central Region villages on foot and donkeyback, measuring needs then making sure distributions proceeded as intended.

One of the monitors, Anwar El Nour, a 28-year-old graduate of Cairo University, guided me to the camp for famine migrants on the outskirts of town. Near a village called Mobi, the encampment had grown spontaneously as displaced people from western Sudan and refugees from the country of Chad arrived, fleeing drought and famine there. Though Sudan is heavily burdened by crippled agriculture, a staggering national debt and civil war in its non-Islamic, black African southern region, the notably hospitable nation has generously received 1,160,000 refugees from Chad to the west, Ethiopia to the east and Uganda and Zaire to the south. Anwar explained: "These problems are not problems of countries but of African people, and the Sudanese want to help."

In four-wheel-drive, we jounced along a deeply rutted track past files of women and children walking toward town. Then, beyond the mud-brick homes of Mobi Village, we turned onto



(above) Kosti's refugee camp is now home to this mother and her child. (left) Even in a refugee camp, a tiny suq (market) is an important part of Arabic Africa.



a flat, dusty plain. Part of the roadless field served as a local cemetery. Just beyond, the city of displaced people spread half a horizon wide, its dome-shaped huts providing refuge for 7000.

With World Vision's Mobi camp manager Hugh Hamilton, an exuberant 28-year-old Irishman from County Kildare, I toured the area, following him on his morning rounds. Striding almost at a trot through the labyrinth of shoulder-high huts made of saplings, cardboard, reed matting and cloth, he greeted people cheerfully as he ferreted out the morning's sick.

As the patients of the day were carried in for treatment, I moved on to a nutrition tent. Hundreds of seriously malnourished children formed a long line across a dusty field. A few of them—recent arrivals—clung to mothers or fathers, too weak to walk. The rest had regained enough health to happily chatter and play while they waited for meals of high-nutrition porridge. One by one they filed past a registration table, held their hands out for washing, and toddled into the long canvas shelter. Two local women ladled the food from steaming vats into orange plastic bowls while other women carried them to the rows of waiting children.

I wandered on to watch several Chadian women building a new hut.

"We're starting another section of the camp," said Jan Pearce, who was taking a break from work in the medical tent. The wife of the World Vision Central Region project manager, David Pearce, a retired dairy farmer from New Zealand, Jan labored among the displaced people with neither official position nor pay. That morning her vehicle had broken down in a mud rut. She had walked to the camp. Now she waved a hand toward neat files of huts rising ahead like beige bubbles. "More people are arriving every day. The camp that grew here before we came is too crowded. The shelters are too close. Here we're trying to space them out and put streets between the rows."

**With Anwar** I returned to the older section of the camp. Winding among the shacks, we looked for someone who would give me a personal account of how he had come here. We stopped beside a group of turbaned men sitting on a large reed mat. One of them got up to find a leader.

Sheik Isaka Ali Omer, a man of 75 who looked at least 20 years younger, said he would be happy to speak with me. With Anwar acting as interpreter, Sheik Isaka told me he had led his people out of the Abeche region of eastern Chad, where people must be hardy to survive. Nomadic herders often live for months on nothing more than camel's meat and camel's milk.

**"You cannot fail to be moved by the spirit of the people."**

Sheik Isaka's people were not nomads but farmers cultivating millet. Yet their land was harsh and they were hardy too. But when herds died away and seeds refused to grow for several years in a row, they saw no people could be strong enough to endure such a



(above) Refugee children outside Sennar, in another camp where World Vision ministers.  
(right) A young Chadian mother encourages her son to wash before eating.





terrible drought. In September 1984 they left the land of their forebears.

They could only wander from place to place, the leader said, looking for food. Though a proud and independent people, they often were reduced to begging. "My wife and children also begged," the sheik said, nodding slowly. When he and his following found the once-rich Gezira region also stricken with drought, his people scattered. Where they went he did not know, nor if they were alive. He brought the ones who stayed with him, along with his family, to Mobi Camp. Soon after, World Vision relief arrived.

"We are very happy here," Sheik Isaka told me with the courtly courtesy of desert people, as we stood amidst the squalid jumble of hovels. Things were better now, he explained. The sick were treated. The death rate was low. And since the first food shipment

arrived in May—enough for only one handful a person—the quantities they received had been growing

"But there is still too little," Sheik Isaka pleaded, holding up a metal bowl. "We get this much for each person every eight days. Yet it is gone in five days."

Feeling helpless over the hunger of his people, I took his photograph to go with my report and assured him that I would bring his problem to my people.

The problem that Sheik Isaka described—a problem of some help but not yet enough—appeared everywhere as I made my way through other camps farther south and in the distant west where World Vision is working.

The medical tents I saw welcomed all comers. But always they were short of staff. Undernourished children by the thousands filed into feeding tents for health-restoring meals. Careful

camp design was alleviating crowded, makeshift living conditions while improving hygiene and sanitation standards. But there were too few workers, often no waterproof materials to keep huts and their occupants dry during rains, too few blankets to fend off pneumonia and other illnesses resulting from chilling.

Not only in the camps did I encounter problems of serious continued need. Everywhere I traveled in Sudan, I heard heart-wrenching tales of isolated regions yet unreached by relief supplies where food had run out weeks and even months before.

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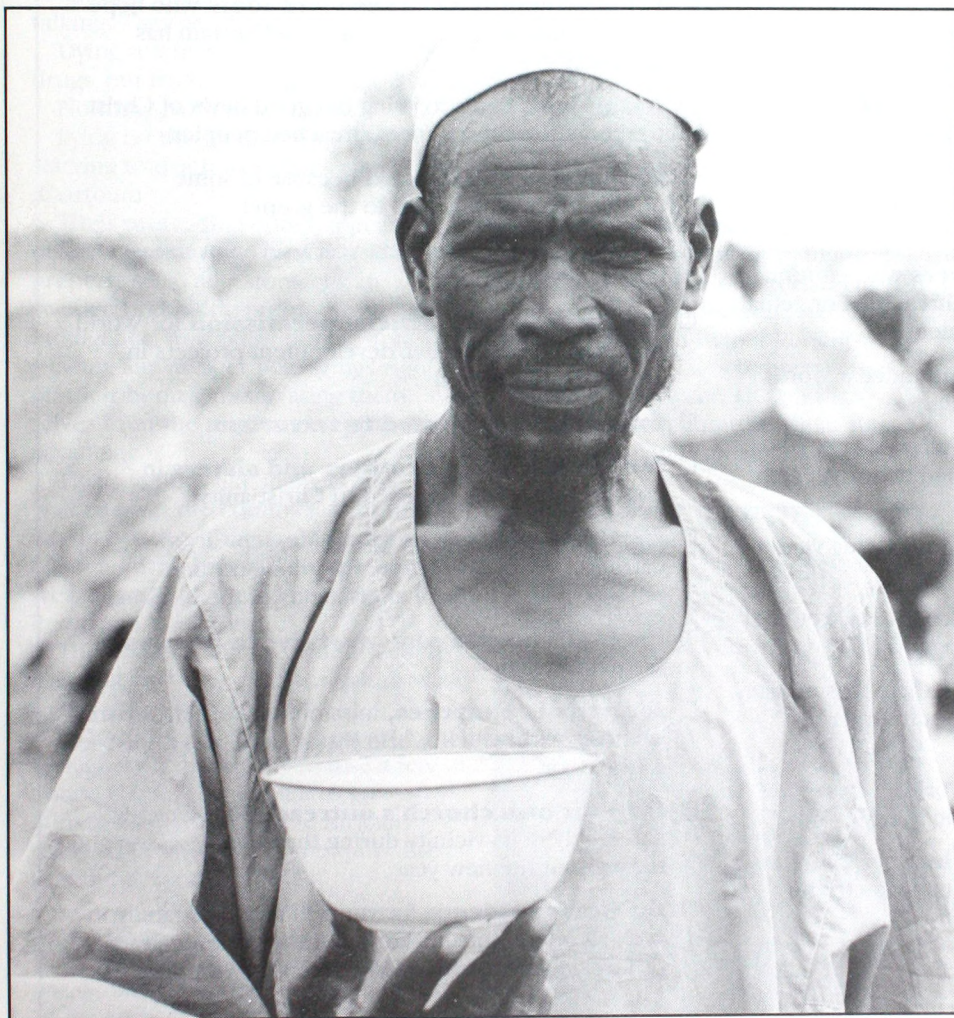
**Though a proud and independent people, they often were reduced to begging.**

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World Vision, along with other agencies, is preparing to help Sudan and its people meet many of these urgent needs. But we also mean to go beyond immediate necessities. As I spoke and traveled with our workers, I heard discussions of a five-year project to bring water supplies to remote central villages where presently women might carry water daily for miles on their heads. World Vision is mapping out ways to help farmers increase production on their lands and income for their families. Still more ambitious are plans for tree nurseries in local villages that will enable local people to anchor fragile soils and stop the annual two-to-three-mile southward advance of the desert, perhaps gaining new land as well.

So far, eminently successful relief efforts have averted the catastrophic mass starvation of a nation. But the job is far from done. More food, more workers, more funds are needed to bring the country back to its feet. Anwar once told me, "The people are very grateful for what World Vision is doing." But, like Sheik Isaka, he hoped we could stay and do more. □

*To help provide food and hope for starving Sudanese people at this time, please use the return envelope provided between pages 18 and 19.*



Sheik Isaka Ali Omer, 75, uses a bowl to show how much grain each person in Mobi Camp receives for a week.



# When you pray

## THANK GOD . . .

- ☐ **for the spirit of prayer** that is spreading in a growing number of churches worldwide.
- ☐ **for the volunteers and donations** which have already saved thousands of lives in Africa's famine-stricken nations.
- ☐ **for the provision of trucks**, donkeys and now even camels to deliver food and hope to starving Africans.
- ☐ **for the longer-range self-help projects** which now have been launched in areas previously served only by emergency relief efforts.
- ☐ **for the spiritual response** of many who have been touched by Christians' caring ministries.
- ☐ **for the nutrition and health workers** who will continue to serve the needy throughout the Christmas holidays.
- ☐ **for all who labor to reach** heretofore unevangelized people of the world.
- ☐ **for the faithfulness of believers** who continue to represent Christ in the face of threatened or actual imprisonment and other mistreatment.
- ☐ **for the national pastors** who attended a World Vision conference in Manipur, India.
- ☐ **for the remarkably effective witness** of believers whose churches are denied the privilege of corporate worship services.
- ☐ **for the way many Americans** are helping victims of Mexico City's earthquakes.
- ☐ **for the large number of new converts** to Christ in Central American countries ravaged by civil war.
- ☐ **for childcare workers**, meeting the needs of many abused or abandoned children in South American nations.
- ☐ **for the churches** with which World Vision serves as a partner in ministries among the needy.
- ☐ **for the abundant opportunities** your church can find to express God's love in tangible ways to the needy and lonely nearby.

## PLEASE INTERCEDE . . .

- ☐ **for the still-helpless hungry** in widely scattered regions of Sudan who will never see 1986 unless they can be reached swiftly with food and medical care.
- ☐ **for a continued outpouring** of assistance that will put thousands more on their feet again in Jesus' name.
- ☐ **for the emergency workers** who are using every feasible mode of transportation to get vital supplies to starving and malnourished people.
- ☐ **for nutrition and health workers** who will work long days through the season's holidays.
- ☐ **for the recipients of seed and tools** who hope to raise successful crops again now that rain has returned.
- ☐ **for all who seek** to bring the good news of Christ to the world's heretofore unreached peoples.
- ☐ **for pastors imprisoned** because of some governments' opposition to the gospel.
- ☐ **for the planners** of next year's seven overseas pastors' conferences.
- ☐ **for governments' official permission** for World Vision to conduct relief/development projects in areas not yet entered.
- ☐ **for families subjected to terrorism.**
- ☐ **for our Christian brothers and sisters** in countries officially opposed to Christianity.
- ☐ **for those who are helping** Mexico City's earthquake victims recover from long-lasting physical and emotional after-effects of the disaster.
- ☐ **for God's people who must live in war zones** or refugee camps.
- ☐ **for partner churches**, missions and other Christian agencies with which World Vision conducts ministries to the poor.
- ☐ **for your own church's outreach** to the needy and lonely in its vicinity during the holiday season and throughout the new year.
- ☐ **for God's guidance** for yourself and your family in seeking out opportunities to minister to immigrants or foreign students with whom to share the love of Christ.



# A CORNER TO DIE ON

by David Beltz,  
with help from his wife Rhoda

**O**n the corner outside my hotel, I see four teens. As a parent of a teen, I am aware that most of them are taken up with conversation about their peers: who said what, who was doing what, and so on. But these four teens aren't laughing, comparing notes or even talking. They are dying.

Dying not from violence, nor from drugs, but from nothing.

Nothing? Nothing to eat.

Lying on the ground, they are starving to death in Sudan's capital city, Khartoum.

Their protruding bones appear deformed, as if once broken and not properly set. Their stomachs are swollen potbellies, but not from over-indulgence. And other people are stealing any meager belongings right off their bodies, dissociating themselves from the victims except to take advantage.

These youths, like many others, walked from the countryside to the city in hopes of finding nourishment of some form. Instead, they became weaker and only found the corner to lie on and to die on.

The countryside is worse. People there haven't even the strength to walk to the city.

At home in America, my own teenager struggles daily to lose a few pounds by forcing herself to go hungry. How would these African teens react to diet pop, diet pills, lite this and low-cal that?

---

*Rhoda Beltz's writing is usually in the form of humorous greeting cards and poetry. She was moved to write this piece by her husband David's graphic account in a letter he wrote her while on a survey assignment in Sudan for World Vision. David and Rhoda live in Duarte, California, with their two daughters.*

Looking at the four Sudanese youths, I cannot isolate my emotions. Are they anger, fear, pity? Am I doubting God's existence? Where is He? How does He feel when He looks down at these teens crumpled on the ground, looking like skeletons upholstered with a thin fabric of skin?

I see only a few at a time. God sees the millions. How does He seek solace?

I'm here to help, but I can't help. The fact that I'm here doing a job is helpful—in an impersonal kind of way—but I feel so *unhelpful* because I'm only a few feet away from dying kids. I am not underweight, I have plenty, but I cannot save them. The lump in my throat feels the size of a golf ball. Would it help if I cried?

It is so hot! Today's temperature is somewhere between 110° and 115° Fahrenheit, with humidity of 30-40 percent. Air-conditioning, of course, is



non-existent. I'm always sweaty. Are these people so dehydrated that they do not sweat?

I'm so thirsty for a tall glass of crushed ice and water—even L.A. tap water. But these people drink only from muddy puddles, with their cupped hands. What is crushed ice? What's a glass?

Before I left for Sudan on this survey trip, I saw slides—lots of slides of similar situations, mostly in Ethiopia. The mourning mothers with children half their normal size in their arms. The pictures of naked children with flies feeding on their faces. The photos were stills; surely the children would shoo the flies off their faces; isn't that a natural reaction? How can I live knowing the reality is that flies don't just make rest stops on these faces—they *live* there!

Back at the office, we could walk

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**How do I go back  
to my own life and  
justify its fullness? All  
I can pray for is  
understanding.**

---

away from a slide-viewing to a dinner party or our favorite restaurant. Here, I can't turn the slide show off. The people are in front of me. Someone please turn the lights back on!

Right now, I'm angry with God. I am unable to pray. What would I pray for? Peace of mind? Food? Rain? I look up through the sand-filled air toward the sky. Forgive me, Lord, but this is unbearable. How do I go back to my own life and justify its fullness? All I can pray for is understanding. Help me, Lord, to understand.

I begin remembering how much Jesus suffered. He was not exempt from pain. I begin sorting out the meaning of living this nightmare and rejoining my family and friends. It brings a measure of peace to my heart to know that my being here will in some way make a difference. I cling to this. Instead of looking at the masses I cannot help, I must turn and look at those lives I am helping to save. I'm here to give these people life; they will never know how much they have given me. □



Providing immediate and long-range help for quake victims

# REBUILDING IN MEXICO CITY

**M**exico City's earthquake damage no longer claims front-page headlines, but the arduous tasks of clean-up, restoration and rehabilitation still remain.

World Vision, like other relief agencies from around the world, provided emergency assistance immediately following the mid-September quakes which left more than 7500 people dead and thousands more injured and homeless. Initial assistance from World Vision was channeled mainly through the Salvation Army Rehabilitation Center, the First Baptist Church of Mina and the Sion Methodist Church, where quake victims received food, medicine, blankets and plastic sheeting.

The majority of the quake damage occurred in the central portion of Mexico City. More than 500 buildings, including hospitals, hotel and government buildings, were completely destroyed. No World Vision sponsor children were killed or hurt during either of the quakes, however.

Although most of the rescue work and removal of rubble took place in the downtown district, two lower-income neighborhoods about one mile away suffered extensive damage. In one area, colonia (neighborhood) Morelos, more than 500,000 impoverished people live in a 10-by-17-block area. Most of the residents live in "vecindads," single-family dwellings converted to accommodate as many as 30 families each. Ordinarily, a vecindad will have only one water source and toilet for all of the residents. Many of the vecindads in Morelos were destroyed during the earthquakes.

In addition to its initial emergency

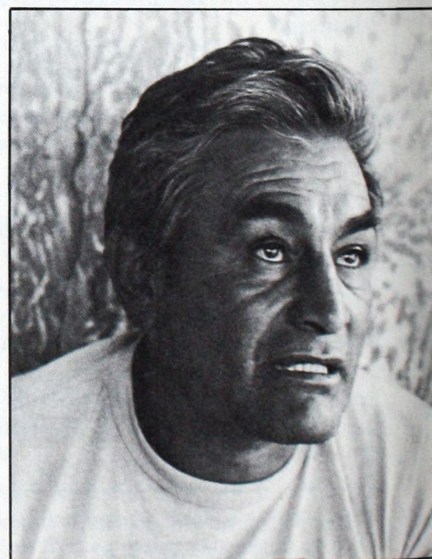
Food, tools and blankets purchased by World Vision are carried from a van into the Salvation Army Rehabilitation Center, where they were later distributed to victims immediately following the quake.



relief response, World Vision has undertaken a \$350,000 extended rehabilitation and development project slated to continue through June. The project will focus on the needs of families in colonia Morelos. Besides continuing to provide food, medical supplies and blankets, World Vision will also rebuild 100 multi-family dwellings occupied by 300 families, thus providing permanent shelter for as many as 3000 people.

Medical care is still among the greatest needs of the people living in the city. World Vision will provide

**In one stricken neighborhood, more than 500,000 impoverished people live in a 10-by-17-block area.**



"People have been very good to us," said 51-year-old Apriano Alvarez. "Volunteers pass by often. One feels like crying."



A cross and the name "Hugo" are painted on a crumbling concrete wall to mark the spot where one of the building's residents died.

Two-year-old Dulce Maria clings to her mother's hem as her family seeks temporary shelter.



**W**orld Vision will

- help rebuild 100 multi-family dwellings
- provide artificial limbs for 200 people
- compensate residents for reconstruction work.

World Vision's partners in its rehabilitation effort will include a Presbyterian and a Baptist church and the National Board of Voluntary Agencies. The Baptist church will sponsor an evangelistic program aimed at reaching earthquake victims. The project budget will include \$10,000 to assist less-affluent congregations repair their church buildings.

Jose-Maria Blanch, World Vision's director of communications for Latin America, toured Mexico City shortly after the earthquakes to assess the damage and help determine the nature of World Vision's response.

"The easy part of World Vision's work—the distribution of emergency relief commodities—is over," Mr. Blanch said. "The most difficult times are still ahead as we initiate rehabilitation efforts." □

artificial limbs for 200 people who were dismembered in the earthquake. The prostheses—costing \$300 each—will be provided at no cost to the victims. In addition, crisis counseling and legal advice will be available to those who experienced trauma and unusual hardship during the earthquake aftermath.

In keeping with World Vision's commitment to community involvement, colonia Morelos residents will be compensated for their participation in the recovery of their own neighborhood. For 90 days, World Vision will

pay 250 community members for their rubble-clearing efforts. This program will help offset families' loss of income that resulted when hundreds of businesses were destroyed by the quakes.

To further create employment in poor neighborhoods where the unemployment rate was high even before the earthquake, World Vision will work with partner agencies to initiate income-generating projects by January. Included will be a block/brick manufacturing program being started by the Salvation Army.

In addition to the Salvation Army,



Thanks to a World Vision Bangladesh development program

# KUDDUS GETS AROUND

by Ferdaus Daud Haider

**T**o **Kuddus Mollah**, a 15-year-old boy from the village of Char Hariram-pur, 92 miles southwest of the country's capital city of Dhaka, World Vision is something special.

"I am fortunate to have a friend like World Vision that takes special care of me," said Kuddus, who has flashing eyes and an irresistible smile.

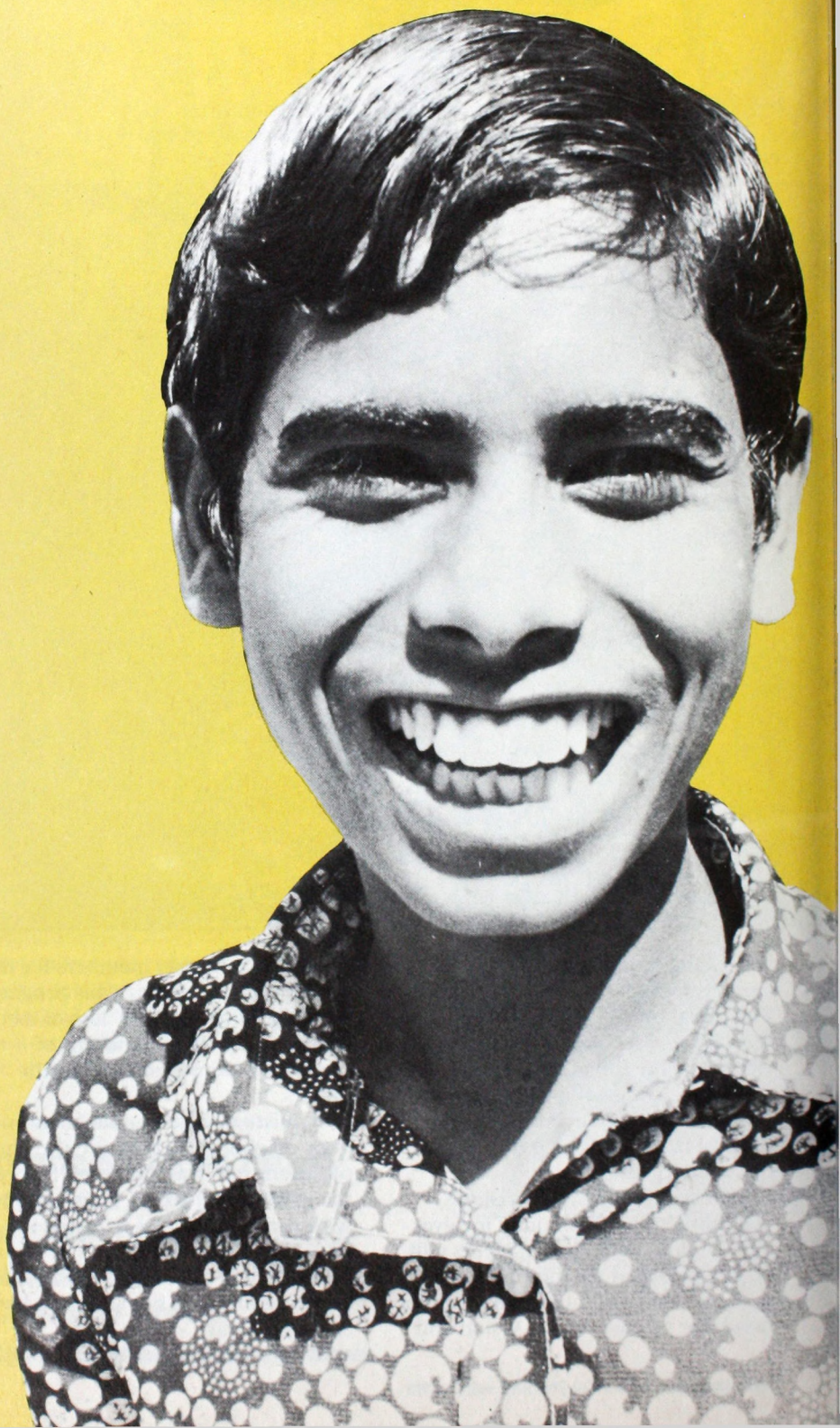
Because of the help given to him by World Vision staff, Kuddus now is able to walk. Four years ago he gave up hope of ever walking again.

Before that, he used to chase chickens, ducks—and other children—in his jubilation with life. Despite his parents' scolding, he spent a lot of time playing in the ponds or out in the rain, great fun for the growing boy. But when Kuddus was 11 he developed a high fever that lasted for several days. His parents say he had typhoid.

Since then he has suffered from frequent high fevers and rheumatic pain. He developed enlarged hip, knee and ankle joints.

His parents, tired of praying to Allah for a cure, took him to several local healers. Nothing beneficial resulted. "My own belief was that I would never be able to walk," said Kuddus.

Dudu Mollah, Kuddus' 45-year-old father, is a farmer who works the fields of landowners, since he owns none of his own. As the eldest son, Kuddus used to help his father in the fields, and it was assumed that he would someday become a farmer and help to



*Ferdaus Daud Haider is communications officer for World Vision Bangladesh*



support the rest of the family. He would like to have attended school, but could not during the years he worked the fields.

When he became disabled, Kuddus found himself without friends because he could no longer run and play. He had only his brothers and sisters to chat with. In his loneliness, Kuddus began to consider his *goru* (cow) to be his best friend. "I felt like crying because of my situation," he said sadly. "But is it my fault that I am handicapped now? I wanted to help my mother and father, but they told me not to do anything."

Help came to Kuddus in an unexpected way. After a deadly flood which struck his community in September 1983, World Vision sent in clothing and emergency food relief. Then in 1984, a development project followed the rehabilitation phase of assistance. The project is providing agricultural aid, small-scale business assistance, safe drinking water, sanitation and job training. Committed Christian couples are carrying out this project.

When World Vision project staff members visited the area, they saw Kuddus sitting in front of his house. The village people explained that although he was a good boy, he had no future because he could not walk well.

Kuddus Mollah today has a wide smile because he is once again able to walk. A disease he contracted while playing in damp weather at the age of 11 left him disabled. Thanks to medical attention and physical therapy, he is able to walk short distances.

## Four years ago he gave up hope of ever walking again.

Through the health services component of the project, Kuddus was taken to Dhaka for examination. The best doctors at the National Rehabilitation Institute and Hospital for the Disabled treated him and directed that he begin physical therapy.

The results were amazing. His condition is now much improved. He

can walk short distances well, and longer distances if he rests along the way. To provide him with incentive to exercise, he has been assigned the task of "special courier" between project members.

On his monthly visit to the hospital for check-ups, Kuddus always pays a call to the World Vision office in Dhaka. He walks proudly up the steps to the offices and greets his newfound friends. Sometimes he brings small gifts, such as fresh vegetables or fruit from his village. He is grateful because, as he said to his friends at World Vision, "It is you who helped me walk again." □



World Vision project worker Supid Halder checks the swelling on Kuddus' knees.



Fragile bones, but a resilient spirit

# A WINDOW ON THE WORLD FOR ELIAS

by Sally Adams

**H**e lives in a slum of Recife, a large seaport in the northeast of Brazil. Outside the dirt-floored shack that is his home, bantam chickens scratch in the dirt, boys play football beside open sewers, and women chat together, breaking the harsh monotony of impoverished lives.

Except for periodic trips to the hospital, Elias, a World Vision sponsored child, doesn't see much of what goes on outside the walls of his home. Elias is seven years old and has spent most of his life sitting in an upholstered armchair. He can't play outside, or even on the floor, because if he tumbled over it would mean another broken bone. Handicapped from birth with a fragile-bone condition—a type of disability intensified by poor nutrition—Elias has broken one leg five times, the other eight, an arm and his breastbone once each.

Unusually bright, Elias amazes

**E**lias doesn't see much of what goes on outside his home.

listeners with his intelligence when he talks. At the hospital, he questions all the doctors about each procedure, and "People gather round to listen and comment on his brightness," Elias' mother, Severina Laurencio do Nascimento, says.

*Sally Adams is a communicator for World Vision of Britain.*



Although Elias enjoys his glimpses of the outside world, he hates to be carried—partly, perhaps, because no matter how carefully he is held, it can mean another broken bone. But even more, one suspects, because it makes the courageous little boy feel dependent and helpless. Elias' mother prays that somehow he will be given help in becoming more mobile. "With a little wheelchair, he could see the world," Severina sighs.

As it is, Elias, unable to attend

school, sits all day in the house, playing with his toys, drawing, and watching an old black and white TV. Are eyebrows lifting? TV in a slum? Severina knows that giving Elias a little window on the world is well worth all the sacrifice involved in getting the battered set. Day after weary day is made a little more bearable as the TV shows him places where the little boy's fragile legs can't take him.





Severina Laurencio do Nascimento earns a meager living washing clothes in the small yard behind her house.



Elias and Eliene Laurencio do Nascimento spend almost all of their waking hours in these armchairs. Playing on the floor or outside would risk more broken bones.



Children at Manuel Machado School line up to wash their hands before eating. They know the rule: No wash, no soup!

## **“With a little wheelchair, he could see the world.”**

bone condition even more severely than Elias. And as a result of having meningitis in her infancy, she is also brain damaged.

Severina receives no pension, and although she is fearful for the children's well-being whenever she leaves the house, she has no choice but to be away while picking up or returning the bundles of laundry which are her means of earning a meager income. Severina always hurries, getting back home as soon as possible, then washing the clothes in her backyard “laundry.” For each large bundle, she is paid about 53 cents, out of which all needed laundry supplies must be paid for before any money is available for family needs.

Visao Mundial (World Vision Brazil) and caring sponsors have made life far more bearable for Severina's little family, providing needed food for the children and paying the taxi fare for trips to the hospital. Elias and Eliene's condition

makes travel on public vehicles dangerous.

Especially welcome also is Visao Mundial's project, recently approved, to make the Laurencio do Nascimento's home safer, more comfortable and more healthful. The slum in which Elias and his family live is built on a swamp, and during high tides their house regularly floods. Repair and rebuilding to eliminate this problem will soon be underway.

Those who know Elias wish that he could be a part of the days at the World Vision-supported Manuel Machado School. A happy, lively place, the school is administered by project manager Maria José Viera who sees that the students receive a good education, nourishing food and practical training in hygiene—so important in an area where diarrheal disease and a variety of internal parasites are commonly encountered.

Whether in or out of school, the children whose lives are touched by Visao Mundial's ministry also learn about Jesus and the gospel story, the brightest hope of all for the poor, the sick and the heavy laden of the world, like Elias Laurencio do Nascimento and his family. □

Whatever else is going on, though, Elias' eyes tend to follow his mother whenever she is in the house. She in turn, while loving all her children, senses something special about Elias, with his quick mind and brave spirit locked into a body so frail it can literally be shattered by a touch.

Widowed, Severina is the mother of four children (two more have died), but only Elias and his older sister Eliene, 9, now live at home. Eliene, also sponsored, has the same congenital



## The letter connection

# 22 AND STILL IN TOUCH

by Elberta Linscheid

**O**ur World Vision "child,"

Kwok Horn Lum, was 22 years old in July, but we still keep in touch!

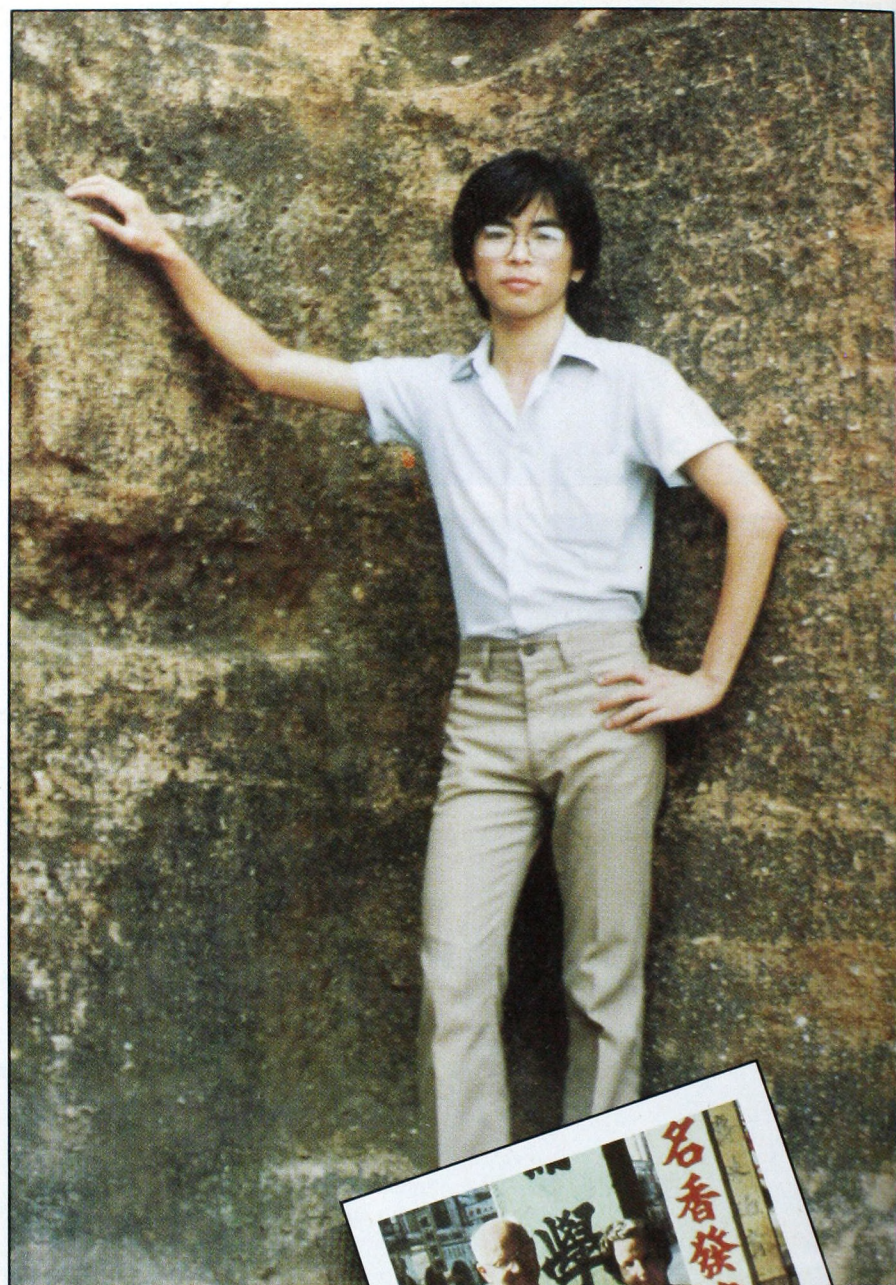
Our friendship began in the summer of 1968, when my husband Gust and I decided to sponsor a 5-year-old boy in Portuguese Macau. That fall, on a round-the-world trip, we visited him, reaching Macau by hydrofoil from Hong Kong. Horn Lum ("Kwok" is his surname) was in kindergarten at the World Vision Cumberland School. A dear little boy, he was so overwhelmed by the presence of strangers he never smiled or said a word, even after receiving a new suit and toy truck.

Letters between us followed, at first written *for* him, and then eventually *by* him. He told us that he enjoyed looking at the pictures of our visit which we had sent him. Soon he was printing "GRANDPA AND GRANDMA LINSCHIED" in block letters above his Chinese characters (which were translated below by someone in the World Vision Hong Kong office).

In 1977 we made a second trip to the Orient. Ellen Lam, on the staff of WV Hong Kong, went with us to Macau. This time, Horn Lum was old enough to understand and look forward to our coming, and welcomed us warmly. Now 14, he was doing well at a local high school. We all enjoyed shopping for a new red sweater for him, and eating a fine Chinese lunch together.

Soon Horn Lum's letters to us were written in very neat English and no longer needed to be translated. Our happy sponsorship continued until he was 18 and had graduated from high school in the top third of his class.

Horn Lum then enrolled in a two-year x-ray technician course at a local hospital, and went on to work in that



Horn Lum at 21, in the ruins of an ancient church.

field. Adulthood and the end of our sponsorship didn't mean an end to our relationship, however, and we now write to him directly, sending small gifts of money or such things as a Living New Testament.

Last Christmas, on a beautiful card which he signed with "love and prayers" for us, he added: "Just being myself and accepting the Lord into my life is the most important aspect of my life."

After almost 17 years of caring and praying for Horn Lum, these words are a rich reward. □



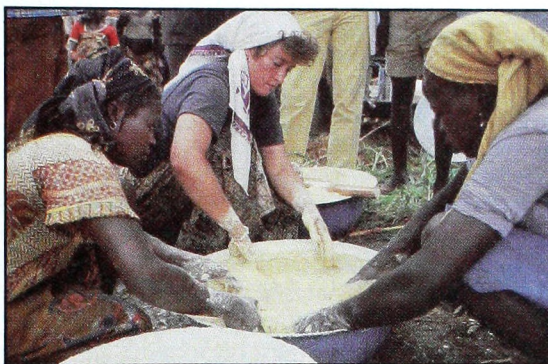
Gust and Elberta Linscheid of Victorville, California, with their sponsored child, 5-year-old Horn Lum, on their first (1968) visit to Macau.



# THE CHALLENGE OF CHAD

by Fred Messick

(right) American nutritionist Sharon Gonzales (center) helps villagers prepare "bouillie" porridge at a nutrition-health center.  
(below) A youngster pauses midway through a bowl of porridge.



**F**or generations, survival in Chad has been difficult. Recently, however, food and water shortages, combined with political and civil conflict, diseases, and extreme poverty have escalated the struggle between life and death.

Landlocked in north-central Africa, Chad has two geographic regions. In the north, the desert area including the Sahel is the inhospitable home of scattered groups of Arabs whose nomadic lifestyle reflects their ever-present concern with food and water.

Traditionally, Chad's greatest hope has been in the south. Fertile lands and abundant rains have made this area south of the Chari River the country's breadbasket, capable of growing enough millet, sorghum and other crops to feed most of the nation's five million people. Many of the fields are also planted in cotton, Chad's primary export crop and source of income.

In recent years, however, the landscape in the south has changed dramatically. The once-abundant rains became increasingly unreliable and infrequent. Lush vegetation disappeared,

crops withered, and lean harvests served as frustrating reminders that the margin of life was narrowing.

Fortunately, rains have returned to southern Chad, at least in the short-



Fred Messick



term. Yet food shortages continue because of a lack of seeds and tools. Many farmers "en brousse"—in the bush—have been weakened by the famine and are unable to return to work in their fields.

Government and relief organizations are trying to help. That help fails to reach many people in need, however. In the troubled south, food distribution is hampered by poor roads and security problems, including attacks by rebel groups known as "codos," some of whom are motivated by loyalty to the previous government, while others are simply bandits and thieves.

In this environment, World Vision has made a commitment to provide food for those most affected by famine: severely malnourished infants, children, mothers and the elderly.

World Vision nutrition-health



(above)  
American  
nutritionist Mike  
Finley shakes the  
hand of a young  
child he has just  
weighed and  
measured. (right)  
A mother waits  
patiently for  
food for her  
severely mal-  
nourished child.



specialists Michael Finley and Sharon Gonzales are providing help in the Moundou area of southwest Chad. In their first two months of operation, Michael and Sharon have conducted nutrition-need surveys in 49 villages in the Krim-Krim region, measuring arm circumference, and checking the height/weight ratio and overall health of more than 3000 children. According to these tests, as many as one-fourth of the children are severely malnourished. Even more are suffering from malaria and other diseases.

During my recent visit to Moundou I saw the opening of the first of six nutrition-health centers. The first step in this effort—as in all of our community work in Chad—was to meet with the village chief and his elders. As they gave us a gracious welcome, people from huts throughout the villages rounded up enough chairs for our meeting. Then, as we sat together in the shade of a tree by the chief's hut, Michael and Sharon explained the goals of the project and asked for villagers' support and participation. Later that day Michael told me, "We are committed to building relationships of mutual trust wherever we go. We feel honored that village chiefs welcome us to work with them in their villages. We are not simply helping them; they are also helping us learn new lessons about friendship and community."

During the course of my visit in the south, I watched Sharon train village women to operate the center and, specifically, to prepare a high protein mixture called "bouillie"—made up of corn-soy-milk powder, cooking oil, sugar, and boiled water. That first day, approximately 100 severely malnourished infants were fed.

It was anticipated that each center, furnished with enough "bouillie"

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**"We are not simply helping them; they are also helping us."**

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mixture to last until December harvests, would eventually provide a daily meal for as many as 300 village children and others in desperate need of food. Now, as we continue our commitment to needy villagers, we are looking ahead to rehabilitation and development efforts to help move people even closer to good health.

In the villages we work alongside local Christians such as Alphonse Natibe, a Chadian nurse who has lived in Krim-Krim for seven years. Alphonse, a key person in the operation of the nutrition-health centers, told me about the local needs. As the only medical worker in the area, he sees 2500 patients a week.

Many of the Krim-Krim people, says Alphonse, suffer from malaria and other effects of unhealthful water and poor sanitation. Frustratingly, he never has enough medicine to treat all those who need help. Yet he remains motivated to serve. "It's the Christian life for me to follow the word of God, to be faithful to God, to care for people physically and spiritually."

In Chad I saw a country beset by a multitude of problems. Yet I saw evidence of new rains, prospects for a better harvest, and a commitment from the World Vision partnership to care and to help. I saw in many of the villages—and in the faces of villagers themselves—hopeful signs of a healthier future. □

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*Fred Messick is a member of World Vision's communication resources staff.*



# Samaritan sampler

SOME WAYS PEOPLE ARE HELPING  
OTHERS IN THE NAME OF CHRIST



**Zambia's President Kaunda shakes hands with MCCer Ruth Thiessen at Appropriate Technology Fair in Lusaka.**

**An Appropriate Technology Fair** organized by Mennonite Central Committee workers in Lusaka, Zambia, displayed low-cost items made largely of locally available materials. A reflector oven, rope and washer pump, solar food dryers, brick and mud stoves and a cooking box insulated with hay were some of the aids designed for daily-life use. Other displays included weaving, spinning and a small printing press on which a local co-op produces a magazine using block printing. For information write Mennonite Central Committee, 21 S. 12th St., Akron, PA 17501.

**Worldwide opportunities for Christian service** are listed by the Interdenominational Foreign Mission Association (IFMA). Their roster of more than 65 member missions includes such well-known organizations as the Africa Inland Mission, Far East Broadcasting Company, Overseas Missionary Fellowship and U.S. Center for World Mission. For information write Interdenominational Foreign Mission Association, Box 395, Wheaton, IL 60189-0395.

**A new publication from the Navigators** is designed to help people become effective small group leaders. *The Small Group Letter* speaks to those

who want to conduct lively, thought-provoking, spiritually dynamic small group meetings; to lead others in applying more of God's Word to their lives, and to understand and help those who are hurting. Charter subscriptions (10 issues a year) are \$17. Write *The Small Group Letter*, Subscription Services, P.O. Box 1164, Dover, NJ 07801.

**Maintaining a positive Christian influence** on the nation's public schools is a central purpose of Christian Educators Association International. CEAI offers educators the opportunity to support each other in prayer and fellowship, to better inform churches of specific needs and to share helpful insights. Christians who are public educators are invited both to become part of CEAI and to register for Holiday '85, a year end conference and celebration combined, in Pasadena, California. For information contact CEAI, Box 50025, Pasadena, CA 91105; (818) 798-1124.

**Solo, a magazine for singles**, has been phased out and replaced by *Spirit!*, a new magazine aimed at young Christian adults. *Spirit!* does not focus on marital status, but on an age group and lifestyle. For information write Jerry Jones, Box 1231, Sisters, OR 97759.

**Reaching street kids** in an area that is a magnet for runaways is a primary focus for Centrum of Hollywood, a ministry of Youth With a Mission (YWAM). Now in its ninth year, Centrum is seeking to expand its ministry with a Scripture distribution campaign, an annual evangelism sweep ("S.O.S. Hollywood"), and an increased emphasis on year-round "friendship evangelism" that includes taking the initiative in offering practical help to street people. Two current needs are crucial: first, a large home to provide crisis shelter for more than eight individuals (the present housing capacity); second, funding, establishing and staffing a crisis pregnancy center for young girls who now see abortion as their only option. For information contact Centrum of Hollywood, P.O. Box 29069, Hollywood, CA 90029; (213) 463-5576.

**Lively, well-told accounts** of what some "grass roots Christians seeking social justice" are accomplishing, make encouraging, idea-generating reading in *Salt* magazine. Approaching problems from an individual perspective, *Salt* "offers suggestions for small, incremental changes . . . in readers' way of life." Visiting prisoners, tutoring inner-city kids—and being a family peacemaker—are some of the challenges undertaken. Published by the Claretian Fathers and Brothers at \$10/yr. Write: *Salt* 221 W. Madison, Chicago, IL 60606.

**A multicultural ministry** of a different kind keeps InterVarsity staff worker Meri McLeod constantly working with new groups of students.

The American Graduate School of International Management (AGSIM) near Phoenix, Arizona, offers a high-intensity one-year program in international management. One-third of the students are from foreign countries and most of the American students have already either studied or worked overseas and are largely bi- or trilingual. Members of the I-V chapter at AGSIM are strongly involved in evangelism and in applying Christian faith and lifestyle to their chosen careers. One of the most exciting aspects of working with AGSIM students, says Meri, is their potential for influencing people in many parts of the world.

**Southeast Asian refugees** have received a warm welcome from the Church of the Nazarene. The denomination now has 111 churches involved in ministry to these new residents and a full-time national consultant for Southeast Asians, Mrs. Nancy Clark. In addition to the usual helping services provided for Asian refugees, an active church-planting ministry is carried on. Newly established is a Cambodian church in Columbus, Ohio, home of an estimated 4000 Cambodians. Many of those on the church-planting team were Cambodians themselves, some from churches planted as recently as two years ago. The Columbus church was the 27th Southeast Asian church that Nancy Clark and her team have been instrumental in planting.



# Questions sponsors ask

## What does child sponsorship do?

Your sponsorship provides needed support for a child in a less developed country. Your child has faced an uncertain future because of poverty, illiteracy, physical handicap or other adverse circumstances. As a sponsor you provide the child with a new future through programs of education health care and spiritual nurture, and by helping his or her family and community develop.

## How does it work?

Concerned people like you are each linked with a child for whom they provide monthly support. That's your child to love and pray for. No other sponsors will receive the same child's photo and story.

## Are these children orphans? May I adopt the one I sponsor?

The majority of sponsored children live with parents or extended family members. Some, however, are orphaned and do live in special facilities. Our purpose is to help children, whether orphaned or not, to become useful citizens in their own culture rather than be adopted into another culture. Therefore, we are not an adoption agency.

## 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 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 living at home, the child 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/health 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 do you mean by "holistic approach"?

The word "holistic" implies a broad approach to a given problem or discipline—aimed at the whole

problem and not merely at one aspect of it. "Holistic" ministry to the child helps the family to a better way of life. It changes values and affects the total person. Christ fed, healed and preached to the people. His was a holistic ministry.

The word also conveys the idea of completeness, of totality of life, of the wholeness of God's creation. It concerns the fullness of a person's life in society; it concerns justice and liberty; and it concerns the restoration of a person to fellowship with God. It concerns the release of gifts and possibilities latent in men, women and children. It keeps us from thinking about people or communities in fragmented terms.

## How is my sponsorship money spent?

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



# RUNAWAY RECONCILES WITH FAMILY

by Bernard Gomes

*World Vision Bangladesh Communications Officer*

**I cannot believe my eyes,"** exclaimed 70-year-old Zahed Ali, tears streaming down his face. "My son Tara Miah is standing before me!"

Six years earlier the blind, nine-year-old boy had run away from home after a particularly severe beating from his stepmother. Zahed Ali left no stone unturned in his unsuccessful search for his son. Finally the father sought out a fortune teller, who declared that Tara Miah was dead. Zahed Ali and his family believed the man.

The young boy spent many years as a beggar before finding his way to Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity Home of Compassion in Dhaka, Bangladesh's capital. There a World Vision staff member saw him and arranged for Tara Miah to be admitted to the World Vision-supported Blind Boys' Home, also in Dhaka.

Upon learning of Tara Miah's situation, Bangladesh Director Paul Jones arranged for him to return to the village of Surjanarayanpur, some 20 miles from Dhaka, for a reconciliation with his family, which took place in June.



As soon as he heard that Tara Miah had returned, elder brother Yusuf Ali (right) rushed to the World Vision car waiting outside the village Union Council Office.

"Words cannot say how happy I am today to have my brother back in the family," said Tara Miah's eldest brother, 40-year-old Yusuf Ali, as tears rolled down his cheeks. Tara Miah's tear-filled eyes told me he felt the same way.

After spending several days with his family, Tara Miah returned to the Blind Boys' Home to continue learning skills

in chair-weaving, bamboo and cane work, and gardening.

His days as a blind beggar are behind him. And the broken bridge between him and his family has been repaired. With World Vision's assistance Tara Miah's life is now channeled in a new direction where there is hope and love. □

## LUNCHTIME IN TEGUCIGALPA

**O**n a rutted street in one of Tegucigalpa's crowded barrios sits a small white building which draws throngs of Honduran children every weekday at noon. The attraction at Proyecto La Pagoda is lunch—a hot meal of meat or fish with beans, rice or pasta and bread or corn tortillas. For many of these children, the meal represents their only balanced daily nutritional intake.

La Pagoda is one of 93 World Vision projects in Honduras. Seventy-eight operate nutrition centers that serve lunches planned by professional nutritionists to a total of 4750 children previously diagnosed to be malnour-

ished. The children range in age from one month to seven years.

In Tegucigalpa alone, 14 nutrition projects serve 700 youngsters. World Vision Honduras has been providing children with health-building meals since its first nutrition project opened in 1977. At La Pagoda, \$2.50 will feed one child for a week.

**With the help of World Vision donors, this happy youngster and others like him are assured of nutritious meals at least once a day.**





## Mini-message

# THE GREAT GIFT EXCHANGE

**Not only at His birth** but throughout all 33 years of His life on earth, Jesus Christ was more than sinless; He was—and is—The Righteous One. Yet He demonstrated unmistakably that His birth, His life on earth, His death, His resurrection, His ascension—all were for the sake of sinners.

Months before His birth, an angel told Joseph that His name was to be Jesus *because He was to save His people from their sins*.

Before He began His public ministry, His cousin John referred to Him as one "the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie." Then, when Jesus came walking toward him and his listeners, John exclaimed, "Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29).

Although Jesus, like John, warned that sin spells death and that sincere repentance is required, He bore the best of news to penitent believers. "God so loved the world," He declared,



In the film *Jesus*, listeners contemplate our Lord's words.

"that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

That message, meant for all humankind in every generation, is clearly meant for you and me today. The Son born in Bethlehem, who grew up in Nazareth, walked and taught in Judea, Samaria and Galilee, then died at Golgotha just outside Jerusalem but rose again, appeared to many and ascended to the Father in heaven, now continues to offer Himself to *you*, contingent only on your opening your heart to receive Him through repentance and the kind of faith that says sincerely, "I give myself to *You*, Lord Jesus."

If you've experienced that gift exchange with Him, you know the delight of complete forgiveness and fellowship with the Son. If you've *not* experienced that gift exchange, today is not too soon. Read, openheartedly, the Gospel of John. Respond to the One of whom it tells. For, as its author says, "These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (John 20:31). □

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

## Is God calling you . . .

to work where your efforts will be directly related to saving lives and spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ? Consider these opportunities for service. If you think you may qualify for one of these positions, send your resume to World Vision International, Human Resources, 919 W. Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016.

### Latin America Field Development Office Facilitators

Six facilitators needed with technical expertise in health care, agriculture, non-formal education, evangelism or development. Requires M.A. or equivalent experience in one of the technical fields listed; five years experience doing development projects, preferably in the Two-Thirds World; good verbal and written skills; written and spoken fluency in Spanish. Involves 40% travel. *Contact: Mel Loucks, Overseas Employment Coordinator.*

### Facilities Manager

To support the work within the World Vision International office in California

by supplying to the staff effective, well-maintained work environments, furniture, equipment and communication tools. Will develop five-year plan for facilities management, prepare and monitor department and facilities services budget, forecast and plan for short-term space requirements, and act as primary communicator to WVI employees regarding facilities issues. Requires knowledge of systems furniture products, construction practices, planning, scheduling and project management techniques as well as familiarity with accounting and purchasing methods and procedures. *Contact: Kent Stock, Employment Supervisor.*

### Africa Short-Term Contract Positions

Positions in West Africa, Chad, Sudan and Ethiopia require appropriate qualifications and experience including previous Two-Thirds World experience. French language required for Chad/West Africa positions. Must be flexible and adaptable to a variety of living conditions. Six month minimum contract required.

Logisticians  
Project managers  
Nutritionists  
Public health nurses

Agriculturalists  
Mechanics  
Medical doctors  
Water sanitation engineers

*Contact: Karin Hubby, World Vision U.S.*



## I MUST TELL WHAT I SEE

**Try to feel it** as you read.

A just-opened nutrition center sits on a piece of almost barren ground in Sudan. In three weeks, 3000 people have crowded in; hundreds more arrive each day.

A few scraggly bushes dot the plain but offer no relief from the 105-degree heat. The overpowering odor of sickness permeates the atmosphere; flies constantly light on everything.

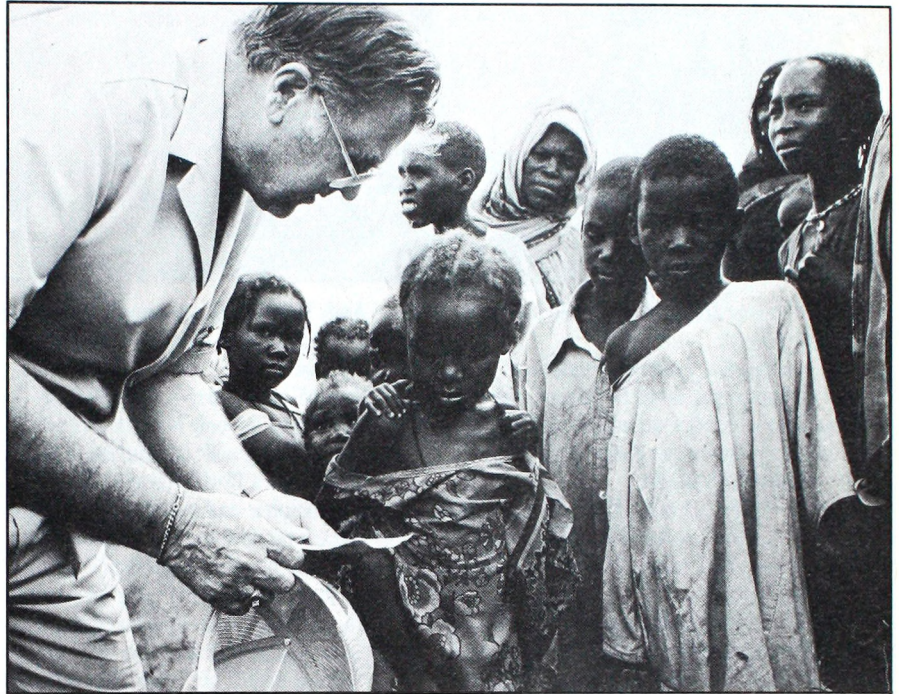
I stop to talk to a family of nine that has just arrived. They have no money, no bedding, no pots or pans or suitcases or tent. Nothing! Only the ragged clothes they wear.

I learn this as I talk to the grandfather who has five grandchildren. I tell him that I'm also a grandfather with five grandchildren. I want him to know that I hurt for him, but I recognize that I can't even begin to feel the pain he feels. Nor, I suppose, can he imagine the frustration I feel because I can't do more for him.

It's true, of course, that his family might have died had World Vision workers not been there. The old man and his family had walked all the way from Chad—who knows how many miles—looking for food. Word of nutrition centers spreads quickly throughout drought-stricken nations.

My senses soak it all up; I don't want to lose this sense of urgency when I get back home. I rehearse these painful images to fix them in my own mind, as well as to impress them on the minds and hearts of others. I have to do that.

When I see the workers in the nutrition centers—doctors, nurses, technicians, truck drivers and others—I



Dr. Engstrom in Sudan last summer

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**“Faith is only real when there is obedience.”**

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think, God has called them to their tasks; He'll give them the strength to do them. And God has called me to witness such grim disasters in Sudan, Ethiopia, Lebanon and elsewhere. He has told me to tell what I see as forcefully and effectively as I can.

Similarly, I believe, He has called others—perhaps you—to respond in

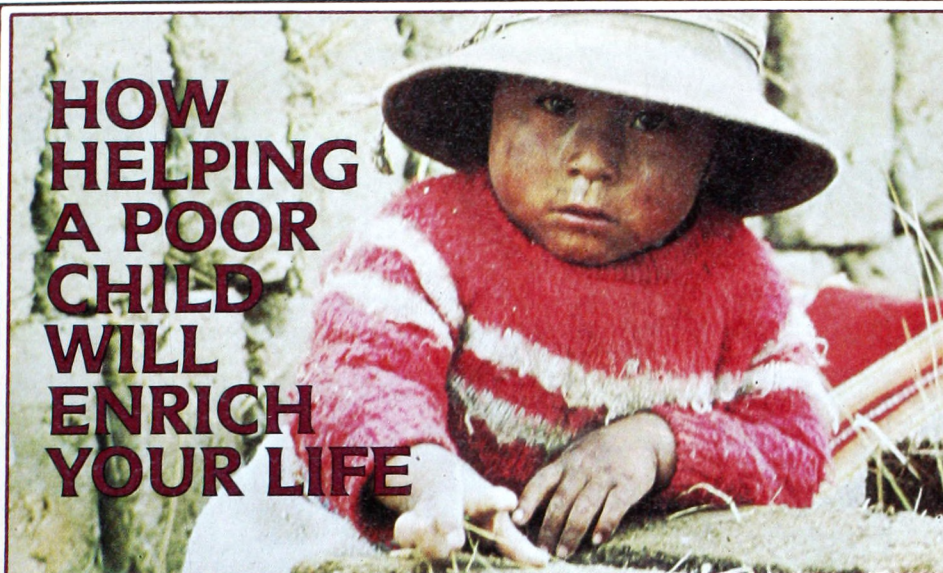
certain ways: to pray, to support, to spread the word, perhaps even to serve more directly.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, “Faith is only real when there is obedience, never without it, and faith only becomes faith in the act of obedience.” He's right about that. And that's why I write so much about what I've experienced. I hope you can feel it!

*Ted W. Engstrom*  
Ted W. Engstrom  
President



# HOW HELPING A POOR CHILD WILL ENRICH YOUR LIFE



You feel many things when a child suffers in desperate poverty.

Pity. Compassion. Frustration. Sadness.

But perhaps you've never considered how helping one poor girl or boy through World Vision's sponsorship program can enrich your life.

## It's beautifully simple.

You see a child's poverty. You help him or her rise above it. Then you feel that child's love... and you sense a new gratitude for the abundance God has given you.

**This refreshing alternative to today's growing materialism** is an experience that has been shared by thousands of compassionate people since World Vision began Childcare Sponsorship thirty-five years ago.

And now you can become a sponsor, too.

Your monthly gifts will give one child an opportunity to know the love of Christ—as well as regular nutritious meals and medical care, carefully administered by dedicated Christian workers.

You will receive a photo and background information on your child. You will also receive progress reports so you can be assured that your gifts are making a difference.

**And, best of all, you don't have to be materially rich** to sponsor a child through World Vision.

Only 65 cents a day—\$20 a month—gives a child perhaps the only hope he or she will ever have of escaping a life of deprivation and poverty.

To become a World Vision Childcare Sponsor, simply complete and mail the coupon below.

There's no need to send any money now. Instead, you'll receive a packet of information about the child who needs your love and care.

Then, if you decide to become a sponsor, keep the packet and mail your first sponsorship payment of \$20. If not, return the material within ten days and owe nothing.

Please act today. Thousands of poor children are waiting.

**By helping one, you'll enrich two lives.**



# WORLD VISION

Helping People Care

☐ Please send me information and a photograph today of a child who needs my help.

(I understand that if I decide to become a World Vision Childcare Sponsor, I'll send my first \$20 payment within ten days. If not, I'll return the materials so someone else can help.)

☐ I prefer to make my first payment immediately. I enclose \$20.

☐ I can't sponsor a child right now, but would like to contribute \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ 1000

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Your sponsorship payments are tax deductible.

**World Vision Childcare • Arcadia, CA 91006**

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