Ya Phala
Kampuchean Orphan With A Future
Ya Phala

Despite a brutal attack, this young girl now can dream of a brighter future. page 3

The story of Carlos

Tragedy marred his young life, but compassionate friends have brought him joy and hope. page 6

World Vision increases U.S. ministry

A look at World Vision’s role in meeting needs in the U.S. page 9

Child eyes

A Haiti visitor’s poem. page 11

Aid reaches many; dire needs remain

The agony of famine, drought and disease continues to drag on for thousands of Ethiopians. page 12

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A young Korean girl receives a visit from her U.S. sponsor family. page 15

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Please pray for . . .

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Entering

“The first time I saw one of your TV programs, I was moved by the way World Vision helps people all over the world, not only physically but spiritually. Right now, my heart and mind are confused about my own relationship with the Lord, and about life itself. I could use some kind of spiritual guidance. I would appreciate the booklet ‘Becoming a Christian.’ And I’d be grateful if you’d pray for me and my family.”

That’s one of the 125 requests in my last two weeks’ mail for the booklet we offer inquirers.

“After searching unsuccessfully for happiness in worldly things,” wrote another, “I’ve finally turned to the Lord—and I’ve found peace and joy in Jesus. My family can’t understand what’s made the change in me. Please send the booklet.”

Each inquirer can use a prayer lift toward

- understanding and heeding the word of Christ concerning life eternal which He gives to all who answer His “by grace through faith” salvation call
- finding fellowship with other Christians
- drawing daily sustenance from Scripture
- developing a vital prayer life
- enjoying assurance of salvation
- representing Christ well among family members, friends, associates
- becoming an integral part of a local church
- discovering and seizing opportunities to help hungry, sick, abused or displaced neighbors
- becoming a Spirit-filled world Christian, caring enough for this planet’s people to participate, as He directs, in the extension of His work around the globe.

Will you add your prayers to mine for readers of this magazine who have just entered the family of God, and for those now just outside the door?

David Olson
YOU CAN'T HELP LIKING A GIRL LIKE

Ya Phala

Ya Phala doesn't cry much anymore; just once in a while when she thinks of her mother, two brothers and four sisters being killed before her eyes by Pol Pot's soldiers. And her nightmares of that terrible time are becoming less frequent.

But Ya Phala doesn't smile much either. When she does smile, Ya Phala becomes, for a moment, a different child.

She smiles most often when she's talking with her best friend, Bun Thoeun, 13. The two are inseparable. They live in the same crowded dorm

Kampuchean orphan Ya Phala struck an immediate bond with Mary Ann Mobley when the actress visited the child's orphanage home. Ya Phala is the subject of this report on progress made possible through the new Childcare Partner Program.
Pol Pot's soldiers killed her mother, two brothers and four sisters before her very eyes—and ran a bayonet through her own body, too.

with 28 other children, including Ya Phala's six-year-old brother, Yoan, who is allowed to live with his sister in one of the dorm rooms.

Ya Phala and Bun Thoeun eat their meager bowls of rice and fish together. They take sewing lessons together on two of the seven sewing machines provided by World Vision. Everyone needs a "best" friend—especially in an orphanage—and these two girls have found each other.

Ya Phala, now 13, is finishing the fourth class in primary school. Next year she will continue into secondary education. She studies science, mathematics, language, geography and Khmer literature. She says she likes Khmer literature best of all "because it is easy to read and I want to know the stories of my people."

As one of 475 orphans living in Orphanage Number One in Phnom Penh, Ya Phala has shown interest in the folklore of her people by learning some of the national dances. She sings her nation's folk songs so well that she has performed three times on the national radio station.

When asked if she would like to be a singer on the radio station when she leaves the orphanage, she replied, "It all depends on the teacher." Then, with a quick postscript, she suggested that she would really like to become a seamstress. She probably has made a good choice—if it is up to her to make—because in developing countries such as Kampuchea, seamstresses are in greater demand than are folk singers.

But whatever she does, Ya Phala will someday need to leave the orphanage which has been her "home" since the 1979 death of most of her family. She is fortunate to have made it to the orphanage at all. She will always bear the scars of the bayonet that was plunged into her back.

The weapon's downward, forward
motion carried the cruel blade right through her body. Its sharp point, breaking through on the other side of her body, cut her brother deeply behind the right ear as she protected him in her arms from the savage attack. Miraculously, Ya Phala and her brother survived this ordeal. No doubt her falling forward, covering her younger brother, saved his life.

And what should have been a mortal wound doubtless convinced the soldier that she would soon die. But she didn't. And now for the past three years, World Vision has had the privilege of meeting some of her needs, thanks to the support of caring, sharing partners all over the world.

At her young age, Ya Phala still has some years left at the orphanage. She may not have to leave until she is 20 years old. Not that orphanage life is all that easy. Following Pol Pot's murderous reign of terror and genocide, the present government is burdened with the arduous task of nation-building with limited resources. The government can allot only 45 riels (US$11) per month per child for food and clothing. Each child receives three sets of pants and T-shirts every year, some donated by World Vision.

Yet, hard as it is, Ya Phala wants to stay at the orphanage until she is old enough to make it on her own. Last summer she had the opportunity to visit an aunt who lives near the Vietnam border. Her aunt's home is a long series of bus rides away from Phnom Penh. But after two weeks there, she was anxious to get back to her "family" at the orphanage and to the hope of better job opportunities in Phnom Penh when she at last has to leave the orphanage.

Maybe by then many of the fears that trouble Ya Phala now will have faded, and she will be able to smile more freely. If she does, it will be because many people around the world took an interest in her and her "family" in the orphanage and did something that made a difference in their lives.

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**Eagerly learning sewing techniques, Ya Phala dreams of becoming a seamstress.**

At her young age, Ya Phala still has some years left at the orphanage. She may not have to leave until she is 20 years old. Not that orphanage life is all that easy. Following Pol Pot's murderous reign of terror and genocide, the present government is burdened with the arduous task of nation-building with limited resources. The government can allot only 45 riels (US$11) per month per child for food and clothing. Each child receives three sets of pants and T-shirts every year, some donated by World Vision.
The story of Carlos
by Barbara Weisbrod

One Friday morning almost two years ago, my friend Julie Renner and I walked through the doors of Children's Hospital in San Jose, Costa Rica to meet a little boy named Carlos. Since that moment, neither of us have been the same. What struck us both immediately in that third-floor ward were his enormous brown eyes—eyes that looked at us with both sorrow and hope. They belonged to a little boy whose story I feel compelled to share.

When Carlos was a year old, he was living in a small house in Guanacaste, a rural area in Costa Rica. One morning he saw a coffee cup on a table, and, as one-year-olds will, he trustingly picked it up and drank the contents. The cup contained lye. That innocent act changed the course of his life as it burned and ravaged the tender tissues of his mouth, vocal cords and digestive tract.

I cannot imagine the pain and fear he must have endured those next days as he was rushed from one hospital to the next. The surgeon who first operated said he had never seen a child survive after suffering such severe lesions.

During the next months, Carlos went from surgery to crisis to stabilization, then back to surgery again and again. Finally stabilized, he was able to be fed through a tube into the stomach and breathe through a tracheotomy (an opening in his windpipe at his throat).

His mother, who had visited him only a few times during these months, received special training from the hospital in how to care for him. Carlos was released from the hospital shortly afterward and placed in his mother's care. Weeks later he was returned to the hospital, sick and undernourished. His mother, single and without supportive family and friends, was simply unable to provide the 24-hour care he needed, and consented to having him placed under someone else's care.

Carlos had been in the hospital 18 months when Julie and I came into his life. During that first Friday visit to Carlos, we discovered a little boy who loved life and who could make us laugh or cry without saying a word. Having no vocal cords, he pushed and stretched all the other means of communication he had at his disposal.

As we stood by his bed and said goodbye that morning, Carlos suddenly sat up and stared at Julie as if his life depended on her. Their eyes met and held for what seemed an eternity. A deep bond took place. Julie did, in fact, become Carlos' lifeline as she prayed daily for him for the next 18 months. Often she awoke early in the morning and found herself praying for Carlos.

We had rashly promised the doctors at the hospital that day that we would find Carlos a family. As I went home, I prayed simply that God would use my hands, my feet, my voice and my will to find him a perfect home. Looking back, the amazing chain of events God used to change his life (and ours) is clear. But as we went through it day by day, it was a walk of faith.

After six months of tentative queries to possible host families, letters to
social workers, prayer by family and friends around the world, and visits to Carlos, I received an unexpected letter one November day. It was from Jesse and Russell Running of Omaha, Nebraska. Yes, they had seen Carlos’ picture and read about him. They had eight children of their own, six now grown. They had two foster children, paraplegic and severely retarded. And yes, they wanted to adopt Carlos. There was one line in that letter I will never forget: “We have his room ready and would love to have him here for Christmas.” Not, “Send us more information and we’ll think about it…”; not, “Please let us know exactly how much time he’ll take each day”; but rather, “We have his room ready.” I didn’t realize it during that exultant morning, but we were only at the beginning of a seemingly endless bureaucratic labyrinth that would present us with many obstacles before we could finally place Carlos into the hands of his new family. And while we were winding our way through the maze of paperwork, Carlos was facing ups and downs of his own.

It had been difficult for me to visit him during the following months, as he had been transferred to a hospital in a town about four hours away from my home in order to undergo speech therapy. While he was there, the therapist made sure he got out and spent some time in the school near the hospital. He loved it. However, he took a turn for the worse while there, becoming very ill with the mumps. During this time he was kept in isolation—an experience that severely hampered his gradual improvement.

One rainy Thursday, in the midst of my concern with the bureaucratic proceedings, I received a call from Carlos’ social worker. “The hospital authorities have given up,” she told me. “I know you’ve promised that the Runnings are coming, but Carlos is in such a depressed state I really don’t know how much longer he’ll hold out.” Shocked, I told her that we would keep Carlos in one of our homes until the Runnings came. I called Julie, who was on vacation. In spite of a terrible connection she somehow understood what was happening and told me to call her friend Norma Brunson, the wife of a Nazarene missionary. Norma offered to help, and 40 minutes later the two of us were in a taxi in the pouring rain on our way to talk to the hospital authorities.

First, we went to see Carlos. I cannot adequately express what I felt when I saw him. Always small, he had lost 15 pounds. His eyes were sunken. He was standing in a corner and hardly responded when he saw us. I cringed inside. “Why hadn’t I been in to see him these last two months?” I asked myself. Carlos had, quite simply, given up. For one of life’s survivors, the unending hours, days and months on that third-floor ward were no longer worth living for. He had been promised a new mother. Where was she?

At 7 p.m. the next day we took Carlos down the elevator, out the front door and home with Norma and her husband. I began to understand the power of love as we watched Carlos come back to life: quietly watching a bee buzz around a rose; carrying his first possessions (crayons and a small car) around with him night and day; experiencing the simple, basic pleasures of life, and discovering moment by moment that we were not going to give up on him. He began to trust us and to live again.

With the physical pain he had
suffered, and the deep feelings of abandonment he had endured, Carlos was a walking minefield. During those first weeks that we were caring for him, we never knew what would trigger deep distress. One Sunday morning as he was soundlessly sobbing, he looked up to see Julie’s tears mingled with his. It was a turning point for him.

But the person most responsible for giving Carlos reason to hope was Norma. Through countless trips back to the hospital, Carlos clung to Norma. Her exceptional sense of humor sustained us all during those two months. She and Carlos could soon communicate to each other with a wink of an eye or a flip of the head in the kind of easy intimacy we all long for.

Julie’s children, mine and Norma’s, became for Carlos more than just playmates during those two months. They prayed for him, hoped for him, accepted him and grew to love him. My two-year-old son Christopher wanted nothing more than to be able to spit with the expertise Carlos exhibited. As he regained strength, Carlos would run and laugh and revel in the children’s rowdy antics. I remember one Sunday afternoon when he painted for two hours using large, bold strokes. We were winning.

Since my first contact with them, everything I learned about the Runnings convinced me of the wisdom of placing Carlos in their family. They had never seen this little boy, yet their concern about every detail of his life was born of a deep love for him. Their unwavering faith that he would one day be theirs kept us going through the months of paperwork.

Their was not simply an idealistic yearning to help someone less fortunate. It was a genuine reaching-out based on years of experience with their own eight children, and the severely handicapped children they have fostered. “You’re an unusual person, Jesse,” I told her on the phone one day. “I can’t be,” she replied. “I have lots of friends just like me!” Special, nevertheless.

When she and Russell finally came to pick up Carlos in late September, we all went to the airport to meet them. Tears of joy flowed freely as Jesse held out her arms with a gentle, beautiful smile and Carlos went to her without a moment’s hesitation. I knew then that each of those who had touched Carlos’ life in the last three years—from the elevator man in the hospital who had loved him, to the family in New Zealand who had prayed for him nightly—were rejoicing. Carlos was home. For good.

Russell and Jesse Running delight in their new family member.
Alongside its constantly-expanding global work, World Vision is increasing its involvement in United States ministries. In close cooperation with local Christian leaders, it has begun work in two severely needy areas of San Antonio, Texas. And after its June board meeting it announced plans for other urban work in the nation's capital city and in some other major cities including Chicago and Los Angeles.

Interest in the plans and preparations is high. Below are some questions people ask, with replies by the three key leaders of the new efforts.

What's unique about World Vision's urban ministry program?

Charles Tisdale: What's unique is that through the leadership of World Vision, the church—at a local level where the rubber meets the road—is getting involved in ministering to people's whole needs, spiritual, physical and social.

Also, the people who have the responsibility for directing and operating local organizations will know that there's a support base they can draw from. Just knowing the church is there to complement their efforts is something we've never had before.

Our plan is to develop examples of a neighborhood that works, with the church as a lead agency. We want to be able to show examples that others can replicate.

The church as a lead agency is necessary for two reasons. Obviously it provides the spiritual dimension so desperately needed. In addition to that, people—especially the poor—have other needs, physical needs. Many of those needs can be met through the church. On any Sunday morning, you find the corporate leader, the institutional leader, people from all kinds of backgrounds sitting on the same pew. When you look up and down the aisles there are all kinds of resources. And if you can integrate those resources into a plan to enhance the growth of individuals in the neighborhood, then you're onto something great.

I think that's what's unique about what we're doing. We're linking caring, resourceful Christians with people in need.

Paul Landrey: The church is the key factor basically because it already exists in the very neighborhoods where people are hurting. Some of them are little storefront churches; they may not have a whole lot of resources, but they're there. While they may not have all of the financial or "idea" type of resources, they've got fantastic resources on how to survive in the midst of an
view of what your role is in the community. It sees itself as an aid and assistant to the local church, to empower the church community to make the kind of transformation needed in the broader community.

World Vision understands that proclamation of the gospel is vital, and that it must help empower the people to meet the needs of their community. But beyond that, World Vision understands that evangelism means restoring people's dignity in every aspect of their lives: work, community, environment. I would like to think that those who are touched by evangelism will see themselves as having to help their neighbors. Part of the mandate of the gospel is to help those around you. And it's happening.

Charles and Glandion, would each of you give a brief overview of what your role is in the U.S. Ministries program?

Charles: I work with Field Ministries. Specifically, the task is to form local Christian development organizations, with an emphasis on community development. When you compare the objectives of a local Christian development organization with the private sector, the private sector is obviously interested in monetary profits. And often they'll come into an area and actually rape an area of its fruits and transfer them some other place.

Now local Christian development organizations have basically been consumers and not producers. We're saying that in order to meet people's whole needs, you have to become producers. Well, that's usually done in order to make a profit. The difference, however, is that the profit is channeled through the local Christian development organization and re-invested in the same community in which it's made. Let's say we buy a house, then sell it for a profit. The profits from that will go into fixing up the next house for another family. The profit for those Christian development organizations is in having the healthy families, not from having healthy bank accounts. My task is to help people package that. It's not a World Vision program. It's something that they have to identify with, to organize, to make their own. We are just there to provide some technical assistance.

Glandion: My role is to assist the spiritual dimension of this ministry, to create models of attractive evangelism and to help provide training for pastors in the urban centers. It is to assist Charles in the field with the kind of communication and motivation needed to help pastors, community leaders and lay people get involved in their community.

I really believe that when Satan has hold of an urban community, he flaunts it and says, "This is my community." How many times have you driven down the street of an urban community and seen kids who are not in school, running in the street? How many times have you seen the derelicts and the drug addicts and the prostitutes that invade a community? How many times have you seen the broken-down, dilapidated housing? All of that is a visible manifestation of evil. And yet, in virtually every community, there is a church. I see my role as helping the church bring community transformation and visible grace to its own.

What are some of the root causes behind these manifestations of evil in the urban community, and how should the church respond?

Charles: When you analyze the conditions within urban areas, you find that many of those conditions were caused when white Christians and others left the urban areas. They took with them the jobs, the industries, the support. And too often the reason people left was because of racial attitudes.

We work with white churches that are metropolitan and we work with urban churches, many of which are black or Hispanic. We bring them together. In that process, humanity is rediscovered.

Paul: Somehow the church must become "salt" and "light" within the urban center. It needs to demonstrate to people how to change that situation. That calls for crosscultural skills. The kinds of things Christian development organizations have (continued on page 19)
Child eyes

Child eyes
laugh,
sparkle,
As they run to greet the tall white stranger;
Wondering at his ways;
Playing with his hand;
Always gay, alert, alive.

Child eyes
desperate,
tear-swollen
From the pain of hunger;
From the demon they can’t understand;
Filling a role they didn’t choose,
Wouldn’t choose, Must endure.

Child eyes
probe;
burn.
Why do you have so much, Mister?
And I have so little?
Am so hungry?
Am so thirsty?
Am so naked?
Why?

Child eyes.
When did we see you, Lord?

by George K. Heartwell, Jr.

Mr. Heartwell, a Grand Rapids, Michigan, businessman, wrote these lines during a visit to Haiti, in which he saw and touched sponsored LaGonave children.
IN ETHIOPIA

Aid reaches many; dire needs remain

by Randy Miller

No letup is in sight for those forced to endure the grip of famine in Ethiopia. Drought, failed crops and lack of food brought them to their present situation. Continuing arid weather means little hope for food production in the near future. Days of thirst, hunger, disease and death multiply, and the agony drags on.

At the same time, there has been no letup in aid from World Vision. Along with other international relief organizations, World Vision has helped channel a steady stream of assistance to those suffering the most critical needs. Grain and nutritional supplements have been distributed widely, and World Vision’s mobile medical team has...
brought relief to thousands suffering from disease and severe malnutrition.

To meet the ever-increasing needs brought on by the famine, World Vision has stepped up its relief program in that country. Assistance in the Gondar region, where World Vision has expended most of its famine relief efforts to this point, has been boosted by an allotment of $198,000, bringing the total Gondar relief program budget to $998,000. Beyond this amount is the money allocated for the Twin Otter airplane, which is being used extensively in transporting food and medical assistance throughout the area. World Vision's relief program in Gondar is providing, in addition to the medical team itself, pharmaceuticals and medical supplies, food, clothing, blankets, road and airstrip construction, and shallow well digging.

To the east of the Gondar region lies Welo, also an area of critical needs, where World Vision has begun a new relief program. World Vision's involvement there is aimed at providing 9000 families with their major source of food over a six-month period. The primary input in that region will be in the form of donations of grain and high-protein biscuits from the Australian government, which will be transported by World Vision to Ethiopia. Gift-in-kind support will meet the costs within the country for trucking, storing and distributing the food.

Mission Aviation Fellowship pilot Don Craig, who has flown the Twin Otter in Ethiopia for over a year, says that witnessing the crisis there and seeing World Vision's response to it have been life-changing experiences for him. "The situation I have experienced here has shocked me with the reality of intense suffering..."
faced by many in the world today. It has been especially difficult to see children suffering from the effects of starvation and disease. “This has been my first exposure to life in a developing country,” Craig adds, “and it has been both a rewarding and a challenging experience. Challenging because the experience has brought me into direct contact with more physical and spiritual suffering than I have ever seen before. Rewarding because I see many of the needs being met through the ministry of the World Vision medical team and aviation program.”

Commenting further, Craig says, “It has been a tremendous privilege for me to have labored beside members of the World Vision Ethiopia team. Their courage, compassion and steadfastness, displayed even when working under difficult conditions, have been extremely inspiring. I feel I have been blessed to have lived and worked among these people and to have been involved in such an effective program.”

Your help throughout these people’s long, hard famine is immensely appreciated. Please continue to remember them in prayer. You can help save lives by using the return envelope from the center of this magazine. On behalf of grateful Ethiopians, Thank you!
It was Hee Jin's day

by Pearl Mead

Excitement soared as we neared Song Jook Orphanage in South Korea. Seven-year-old Hee Jin, the little girl we sponsor, was now only a short distance away!

Until today, letter writing had been our only method of getting acquainted. Now, finally, we were riding through the crowded streets of Seoul to visit Hee Jin.

Mr. Doo Chil Kim, administration director for World Vision of Korea, had graciously provided us with interpreters—and a driver to guide us through the heavy traffic—after showing us around the World Vision field office in Seoul.

Our son Bob, his wife Margaret and our grandson Brandon were as excited as we were as we neared the orphanage. We hoped Hee Jin would like the books and other things we were bringing her. And we hoped our enthusiasm would not overwhelm or frighten her.

Although my husband and I had been contributors to World Vision for many years, “sponsoring” a child was relatively new to us. My mother, after raising eight children of her own, had sponsored children through World Vision for many years. When she passed away several years ago, we decided to sponsor a child as a memorial to her. We wanted to become an extension of her love, and in so doing we joined a brother and sister whose families have been child sponsors for years.

When asked why we send money for children in other countries when there are children in the United States who are needy and abused, we answer that World Vision helps save lives in the United States as well as in other countries. For example, it helps abused children through support of "For Kids Sake," a Brea, California-based nonprofit program founded for child abuse prevention by our son Jim and his wife Pat.

When the car turned in at the orphanage grounds, there was little Hee Jin, whom we recognized from her picture. She was shy, but not afraid of us, even though she had never seen Caucasians before.

Neither language nor age was a
Hee Jin and three-year-old Brandon were instant friends.

Neither language nor age was a barrier between Hee Jin and our grandson. She and Brandon hugged each other and ran around, delighting all of us with their unabashed and genuine liking for each other.

Invited into the superintendent’s office, we took off our shoes, as is the custom in Korea, and entered a small room with a desk and some chairs. There, Hee Jin sat beside us, and our son helped her with a “push-out” cardboard farm set. She learned quickly to do the push-outs herself. Other children of the orphanage pecked in at us with big smiles.

We were served tea and cookies. Our hostess was the superintendent of the orphanage, a lovely Korean woman with whom I immediately fell in love.

While we were visiting and asking questions, Hee Jin left the room. Soon she returned, having changed from her play clothes into a pretty little dress. She was also wearing the silk beads our daughter-in-law had given her. She was happy and proud. It was Hee Jin’s day!

She showed us the room she shares with three other girls. I asked where the beds were, forgetting the sleeping customs of Koreans. (Mats are used for sleeping.) We learned, among other things, that all the children in this particular orphanage were girls.

As we prepared to leave, we asked if we could take a few pictures. Everyone followed us outside. All except the very shy ones seemed eager to be included in our pictures.

Later, we visited the demilitarized zone, the ancient capital city of the Shilla Dynasty, the royal tomb in Tumuli Park, the Folk Village, Chang-duk Palace and other interesting places. But dearest to our hearts was our visit with Hee Jin Kim at Song Jook Orphanage. It made us feel our monthly contributions are more than worthwhile.

Pearl Mead lives in West Covina, California, and is one of more than 170,000 Americans who sponsor needy children in 45 countries. World Vision has the names of 28,000 equally needy children who are without sponsors. To begin sponsoring one of these children or to contribute to a fund for their assistance, please use the return envelope from the center of this magazine.
Whether you agree, disagree or just want to add a thought, please do interact with what you read in this magazine—especially if you're willing to see an excerpt of your letter in print. Below is a sampling of the editor's recent mail regarding articles you may remember reading.

May days of prayer
Yes, the world is in a mess, and prayer is one way to deal with that. But I'll never pray at certain times or places just because some President suggests I should. Prayer should be made when the time is right, not when a President or a school teacher says so. God hears sincere prayers from the heart, but He sets His face against attempts by a nation to justify itself by making a show of prayer.

Mike Lix
Panama City Beach, Florida

Zero Excuse
Kenneth Wilson is right: "Where there is hurting, Christ is there." We believe that abortion, infanticide and child abuse also hurt Christ. To say, "Lord, I didn't know it was You," is a zero excuse for ignoring child abuse in or out of the womb.

Ramsey and Opal Ent
Brookville, Pennsylvania

After reading Kenneth Wilson's "Zero Excuse" essay, I wrote:

I recall the night my neighbor died. I joined the family as they cried. Brought them a cake, a wreath of flowers. Then tried to cheer their lonely hours.

Another neighbor died today. But it was very far away. It didn't mean a thing to me

Except I saw it on TV. He lay alone upon the ground. Filth, death and suffering all around. Some open sores were on his feet. I turned it off so I could eat.

Ruth Tweed
McHenry, North Dakota

Not what appears
I found the article on Amy Hixon's death beautiful and touching, with its strong affirmation of Jesus' resurrection and ours. However, I cannot overlook, as a literary vehicle, the request to Amy to "pray for us." First Timothy 2:5 says, "There is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." Henry Lewis Smith
Prattville, Alabama

Trust the risen Christ
I am a prison inmate. I have been studying the Bible and trying to find the Lord in a way acceptable to Him. An inmate going through his mail gave me your mini-message, "Trust the Risen Christ." I have read the New Testament twice and I've accepted the Lord into my life. He has really showed me His loving-kindness and mercy. He has pulled me through trying times. Through the help of my friends, family and fellow inmates, and also through my past experience with Him when I was a child, my faith in Him is now rising greatly.

I'm 26 years old. When I leave this cell I want Christ to be with me every day of my life, watching over and guiding me. I wish to live my life for Christ, and also to bring my wife and children closer to Him. Please send me your booklet, "Becoming a Christian." May God bless you for your work with the needy.

Name withheld
East Baton Rouge Parish Prison
Scottsdaleville, Louisiana

Spiritual hunger, too
It's examples such as the work of World Vision that keep Jesus Christ and His message to us all alive today. I'm a Christian in the process of becoming closer to Christ, but I do need help. Please send the booklet "Becoming a Christian." I've read the responses of others who've read it and would like to experience another step closer to the Lord.

Roxanne Larrabee
Salt Lake City, Utah

A church that draws in its refugee neighbors
The article on Laurel Bible Chapel's ministry to refugees was timely and inspiring to us who minister in an area of incredible influx of refugees of all nationalities. We're praying that this vision of reaching out and drawing in will grip our own church so God can lead us into a fruitful ministry in our neighborhood.

Julee Collins
Hollywood, California

Agony in Ethiopia
As a pastor I need to sense others' joy and sorrow. I must weep with those who weep. For weeks I prayed that God would teach me compassion for my congregation and for the world. When I read the stories in your June issue, tears flooded my eyes and joy filled my heart. I cried tears of compassion; God touched me and I was renewed. Pray for pastors. May God touch each one as He has touched me.

Edward E. Burkett
Marianna, Pennsylvania

I'm 20 years of age and a new believer in Jesus Christ. Today I received the June WORLD VISION, read it, and really absorbed what was inside. I am pleased with what you are doing. Although I'm unemployed right now, I want you to know you have someone here in Tucson who cares and prays for you.

Sergio Aldevoa
Tucson, Arizona

I have participated in some World Vision hunger projects. This really enlightened me as to the great problem world hunger is. I hope my contributions help. I'm praying with you every month.

Robin J. Fee
Easthampton, Massachusetts
Samaritan sampler

Joni Eareckson Tada

Joni and Friends (JAF) offers resources to help churches minister to the spiritual, emotional and physical needs of the disabled. Included are a Handicap Awareness Sunday package, adult Sunday school materials, a respite care training program packet, and materials for a JAF seminar. For information contact JAF, Box 3225, Woodland Hills, C A  91365.

For Kids Sake, a California-based organization for the prevention of child abuse, offers counseling for both parents and children involved in abusive situations. Services include films, displays, books and a 24-hour hotline (in southern California). For more information write For Kids Sake Inc., 753 W. Lambert Rd., Brea, CA 92621.

Thinking of college? You can get a free copy of the brochure "Have You Considered a Christian College?" by writing Christian College Coalition (an association of 70 schools of more than 25 denominations) at 1776 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20036.

Food First, a project of the Institute for Food and Development Policy, researches and identifies root causes of world hunger by focusing on the agricultural policies of governments and corporations. It then seeks to educate the public on the struggle for food security through books and pamphlets, action guides, radio and television programs, multimedia presentations and speaking tours. For a list of materials available write Food First, Institute for Food and Development Policy, 1885 Mission St., San Francisco, CA 94103.

Prisoners in U.S. federal and military prisons are receiving friendship and moral support from Prisoner Visitation and Support (PVS) volunteers. Volunteers also help their inmate friends maintain family ties, and PVS helps local citizens form prisoner support groups. For information write PVS, 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102.

Needy families in the U.S. and overseas are receiving food-producing animals and training in their care from Heifer Project International. H.P.I. animals—which include dairy heifers, goats, sheep, hogs, beef cattle, poultry, rabbits and honey bees—provide milk for babies, meat for adults, and income for families. More information is available from H.P.I., P.O. Box 808, Little Rock, AR 72203.

Urban Church Resource Center (c/o SCUPE, 30 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60610) has made available several bibliographies of value to inner-city churches. They include "A Biblical Approach to Urban Culture" ($2.25), "History of Urban Christianity" ($1.75), "Urban Evangelism" ($1.25) and "Housing" (75c).

Ghetto residents of all ages in Los Angeles and other cities across the U.S. are hearing the good news of Jesus Christ through World Impact. Staff members live in the inner city and minister to their neighbors through Bible clubs for young people, adult Bible studies, person-to-person evangelism and discipleship work. For more information write World Impact, 2001 S. Vermont Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90007.

Food for the Hungry is helping Christian groups fight hunger with its HOUR RUN, a one-hour jog/walk which raises funds for the hungry through sponsors. After the HOUR RUN, groups donate a portion of the money raised to Food for the Hungry (7729 E. Greenway Rd., Scottsdale, AZ 85260), and use the remaining amount to help the hungry locally or elsewhere.

Overseas ministry workers and students from any country can find exciting group study experiences by choosing one or more of the wide range of week-long seminars offered by Overseas Ministries Study Center (OMSC). For a new booklet about the unique center and a list of the 26 seminars offered from September to May, write OMSC Director Gerald H. Anderson, Box 2057, Ventnor, NJ 08406.

World Home Bible League's women's division has begun a new program to provide New Testaments and other Christian literature to prisoners and their families. Through the program, individuals or groups can purchase cartons of Scriptures for distribution among prisoners throughout the U.S. who have previously requested them from the Bible League. Each carton ($30) contains 30 Testaments, mailing envelopes, and labels printed with the names and addresses of those who have requested the Bibles. Contact Marion Injerd, World Home Bible League, South Holland, IL 60473.

The Neighborhood Works, a magazine published by the Center for Neighborhood Technology Inc., is a valuable tool for urban residents. It explores practical approaches to energy use, job creation, housing development, food production and waste management by examining policy issues and projects that impact communities nationwide. For more information write The Neighborhood Works, 570 W. Randolph St., Chicago, IL 60606.

ACAT (American Christians for the Abolition of Torture) is a nationwide movement of Christians committed to eliminating torture in more than 60 countries worldwide. They serve to educate the Christian community and urge Christians to participate in the struggle against torture through prayer, fasting, sponsoring refugees and writing government representatives. For information contact ACAT, 300 W. Apsley St., Philadelphia, PA 19144.
Cross over to life!

"Whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me," said Jesus, "has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life" (John 5:24, NIV).

The fallenness of all persons is a tragic fact. But God has provided a positive solution, which He spells out clearly in such books of Scripture as the Gospel of John. If you feel the weight of guilt in God’s sight and fear the consequences, your heart needs what you can find by responding to the message of the Gospel of John concerning the Savior-Lord.

Read and re-read John’s Gospel openmindedly and openheartedly today. Let God release you from eternal condemnation and let Him lead you in a life of joyful service with a future as different as day from night, and as endless as eternity.

And as you go on with Christ, meditate also on the entire Bible, worship God regularly in a Christ-centered church, and serve God wherever you are.

For a helpful free booklet called "Becoming a Christian," please write the editor of WORLD VISION magazine, 919 W. Huntington Dr., Monrovia, CA 91016.

U.S. ministries
(from page 10)

been learning to do in less developed countries of the world need to happen right in the urban centers of America.

The mental image we have of "downtown problems" are not "downtown problems"; they’re human nature problems.

We want people to come to know Christ as Lord. But along with that we also want people, ourselves included, to live out Christian values which reflect His Lordship. Our projects will be measured not just by how many come to an awareness of Christ’s Lordship, but in how we treat one another, how we care for one another, how we serve and forgive one another.

Glandion: Poverty doesn’t just happen. It’s the result of people’s greed. Stripping people of dignity and pushing drugs into their communities is not simply circumstantial or a social phenomenon. It’s an evil deed. We want to empower people to change their communities and give them the hope to believe that they can make biblical change a reality in their communities.

It’s not so much communicating to the powerless that’s the challenge (because they are ready to receive); it’s communicating to those who have power, having the patience to help them see the need. That has been my biggest challenge, and it’s an exciting one. It forces you to be compassionate and caring.

Charles: The problem is so severe in this country that it frightens us to talk about the seriousness of it or the size of it. It’s mind-boggling when you think of the 30 or 40 million poor people within our society. When you examine the reasons why we have such severe poverty, you find out it’s basically an institutional problem, and that the church has unwittingly been one of the major institutions that has created the situation. My observation is that we, the church, really need to address the problem because of its magnitude and because of the role we may have played in creating it.

Paul: All we’re trying to do is to work in effective partnership with people who have been working in urban communities and hurting neighborhoods for many years—learn from those brothers and sisters and participate with them shoulder to shoulder.

The effectiveness of the program depends upon how well we listen to each other and how well we integrate what we hear into a design that helps people tangibly.

In San Antonio, Texas, World Vision Senior Research Associate Doug Dudley and a KSAT-TV news reporter interview city councilwoman Maria Antoninette Berriozabal after a "Neighborhoods that Work" program kickoff meeting. Government and private leaders attended the meeting and learned with deep interest of the program undertaken by several local task forces assisted by World Vision.
A young girl prepares yarn for weaving in Jharsuguda, India.

Self-employment in India

Because of the faithful support of World Vision donors, families in Jharsuguda, India, are now more easily able to earn a living. Rickshaw pullers, carpenters, blacksmiths, weavers and tailors are among those receiving assistance from World Vision. Some families were given help to purchase bamboo for making baskets and household goods; some weavers were sold yarn at cost; three tailors were assisted with the purchase of a sewing machine; one woman was given some tools for use in her blacksmith shop, and some families were given chickens and goats to raise for the market.

Rabies scare

An outbreak of rabies was averted in the Homabay district of Kenya by a World Vision project there. When 90 persons became ill after eating a rabid cow, World Vision responded by vaccinating some 300 community residents, as well as any animals that could be susceptible to the disease. Because the project was undertaken by the local church, the community now has a new confidence in the church.

A revived community

As recently as 1980, the South African community of Emmaus was a difficult place to live. Families barely survived by subsistence farming, no sanitation existed, and many children died from malnutrition and related diseases. World Vision responded by providing 200 undernourished children with daily meals of milk, soup, bread and peanut butter. Mothers were taught nutrition, child care, sanitation and handicrafts. A weekly Bible study was begun, demonstration gardens planted and toilet facilities built. World Vision also conducted soil tests, plowed lime into the existing soil and provided farmers with a more suitable strain of seed. Today their crops are flourishing and the entire community is well on its way to achieving self-reliance.

Christian camps in Sri Lanka

Seven hundred fifty young people living in Sri Lanka will have the chance to hear and respond to the gospel of Jesus Christ this summer by attending Christian camps. World Vision is providing subsidies for the young men and women to attend 11 camps sponsored by Youth for Christ and church groups in various parts of the country. Local Christian youth groups will provide follow-up for those making steps of faith.
Living in a sugar mill

Some 300 Salvadoran families, displaced by the armed conflict in their country, are living in an abandoned sugar mill on the banks of the Rio Lempa. Most of them are women and children; an estimated 50 percent of the men have either disappeared or been killed. Working with the Evangelical Committee for Relief and Development, World Vision is providing these families with not only food, but also seeds for growing produce such as radishes, lettuce, carrots, tomatoes and corn.

New World Vision publication

A new quarterly journal of Third World perspective will be published by World Vision International starting later this year. Designed for those involved in holistic Christian ministry, the new publication will focus on four main areas: development, mission of the church, interpretation of Two-Thirds World reality and wholeness in evangelistic ministry.

Theological training in Zimbabwe

The African Independent Churches Conference (AICC), comprising some 20 congregations in the Masvingo province of Zimbabwe, offers training in theology and administration to church leaders and interested believers. World Vision is helping AICC by printing theology textbooks, training students by correspondence, and providing bicycles for traveling lecturers. And to help AICC achieve self-reliance, World Vision has assisted in the purchase of a 3000-acre farm where maize and cattle will be raised for profit. The funds generated by the farm help support AICC and will eventually release it from dependency on outside support.

A helpful book on refugees

Great interest has been expressed in The Refugees Among Us, a book produced by World Vision’s own MARC department. This valuable book provides specific information on many of the world’s refugee groups, and also shows how creative local churches and Christian agencies are reaching out to their refugee neighbors with the love of Christ. Included are detailed accounts of the efforts of selected churches, a listing of publications on refugees and unreached peoples, and the names, addresses and phone numbers of refugee-related organizations. It is available at $9 per copy prepaid from MARC, 919 W. Huntington Dr., Monrovia, CA 91016.

A doubled harvest

Ruben and Editha Ballano are farmers in the Philippines. Through the loan assistance made possible by World Vision donors, they were able to buy farming equipment which helped them double their crops of corn, peanuts and rice. The resulting increased income ensures that their children will be able to attend school. In addition, the entire Ballano family is able to receive medical and dental care through the WV project there. Ruben and Editha report that they now look to the future with confidence.

Please pray for . . .

- American churches now preparing to minister more fully to neighbors whose needs are economic as well as spiritual.
- Ethiopia’s famine victims and the relief/rehabilitation workers who are providing direly-needed food, medical supplies and the means by which people displaced by the drought can begin to earn a livelihood again.
- The hospital staff in Phnom Penh and the hundreds of Kampuchean children needing medical and spiritual care.
- Viewers of the “Great Hour of Caring” TV special, “Children: Running Out of Time,” who will consider adding their support and prayers to yours for World Vision ministries in Ethiopia and Kampuchea.
- Itinerant evangelists from the less-developed nations who will attend the global conference in Amsterdam this month.
- El Salvador’s children and displaced persons, and the World Vision workers who conduct ongoing ministries to them in spite of extreme danger.
- The Brazil Pastors’ Conference to be held in Recife the last week of July.

Harvesting radishes grown from seeds provided by World Vision.

Ruben Ballano plows his field in preparation for corn planting.
**Globe at a glance**

**World population is now 4.7 billion**, according to the Population Reference Bureau, which estimates that the figure will be 5 billion by 1988 and 6.1 billion by the year 2000. Nearly half of the world’s population lives in four nations: China, India, Bangladesh and Pakistan.

**The nuclear age** is an era of moral as well as physical danger. We are the first generation since Genesis with the power to virtually destroy God’s creation. We cannot remain silent in the face of such danger.” So stated the U.S. Roman Catholic bishops in their pastoral letter, “The Challenge of Peace: God’s Promise and Our Response,” approved recently by a vote of 238 to 9. “We speak as pastors, not politicians . . . . We feel that our world and nation are headed in the wrong direction.”

**Doctors** in more than 40 U.S. cities have started giving thousands of hours of free or low-cost medical care to the unemployed, according to an American Medical Association official. Some authorities estimate 20 million Americans may be without medical coverage as a result of unemployment.

**Chile** is struggling under the burden of an economic depression brought on in part by world recession and a foreign debt of $18 billion. The country’s economy shrank 14 percent last year, and, in the Santiago area, unemployment has nearly tripled to an average of 22 percent. The rate is said to be even higher in the southern agricultural provinces. Real income for the average citizen—the amount earned after inflation—has dropped 27 percent since August 1981.

**Religion is “very important”** in their lives, say 40 percent of American young people queried in Gallup Youth Surveys from 1977-82. An additional 41 percent say it is “fairly important”; 12 percent say “not at all important,” and one percent registered no opinion. Findings varied no more than three percentage points in any category in the four surveys taken during that period.

**American church life** shows signs of both life and death, according to a report by members of a World Council of Churches team which recently toured the Western United States. Members said they met many Christians who provided food and shelter to the homeless, helped refugees resettle and were interested in peace issues. They also noted the absence of young people in many congregations, and an unawareness of events happening outside the U.S.

**Diarrhea** is the most pervasive health problem in underdeveloped nations, according to the *New York Times*. It is the biggest killer of children; some four million to five million die each year from dehydration caused by severe diarrhea. Studies indicate that one billion to two billion cases of the malady occur annually. Virtually every child in developing countries will have the problem more than once in his or her lifetime.

**Measles** continues to be a major threat to children in Africa. Death rates due to the disease are 400 times greater than in the West, according to *South Magazine*. The shortage of qualified personnel to administer vaccines is a key problem.

**One million beggars** work the streets of New Delhi, India, and some of them make a better living than if they were employed. Government programs aimed at getting beggars off the streets by teaching them skills have had little impact on the problem. While trainees can earn 10 to 15 rupees a day ($1 to $1.50), they can average 20 rupees a day begging.

**Hong Kong**, considered a way station by Vietnamese refugees traveling to other countries, has changed its open-door immigration policy. Since July 1982, a program of “human detention” has been adopted. Arriving refugees are placed in closed camps by Hong Kong’s prison authorities. Government officials say the colony is running out of room, and arriving refugees are not being immediately absorbed into other countries because of strict quota limitations.

**Most of the American poor** forced off welfare in October 1981 prefer to support themselves rather than receive public assistance. A study of records in 40 counties and 27 states by the Research Triangle Institute in North Carolina shows that only 15 percent of former welfare recipients had reapplied for benefits one year later.

**AIDS** (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome), a disease which attacks the body's immune system, has struck 1300 Americans and killed a total of 489 since 1981. Fewer than 14 percent of AIDS victims have survived more than three years after being diagnosed, and no one has ever fully recovered. Although homosexual men account for 72 percent of the cases, intravenous drug users and their children also have contracted the disease.

**Providing sanctuary for refugees** from Guatemala and El Salvador is something the United Methodist Church’s Board of Church and Society is urging member congregations to consider. The board declared that use of a church as a haven against deportation “is an expression of compassion, a symbol of resistance against injustice.” Congregations offering sanctuary to refugees could face federal felony charges. So far, however, there have been no arrests of church people providing such sanctuary.
An event for hidden heroes

Someday Christians may refer to the period in which we are living as the Golden Age of Evangelism. As a generation, we have the privilege of participating in great convocations that focus attention on doing what it has always been the business of the church to do: "Go and make disciples of all nations."

I think, for example, of the pace-setting World Congress on Evangelism which took place in Berlin in 1966. And then the International Congress on World Evangelization in Lausanne in 1974; the regional Consultation on World Evangelization in Pattaya, Thailand, in 1980; the American Festival of Evangelism in Kansas City in 1981.

Not only was there freedom to have such meetings, but for the most part, freedom for delegates to attend. They came not to be told by somebody else what to do, but to tell how they were doing it. And most of all, they came to share their faith and witness.

World Vision, our organization born out of evangelistic compassion, was involved in each of these landmark assemblies, the results of which are still being felt.

The most current such event will take place in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, July 12-21. That international conference will bring together for ten days of fellowship, inspiration and training some three thousand itinerant evangelists under the sponsorship of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. The event is designed for the doers, the faithful unsung men and women who go into the world's byways with the gospel, often at risk and always at personal hardship. Many of the participants work without the state-of-the-art technological tools for communicating. They do their preaching and winning the hard way, one by one, step by step, mile by mile.

Few of these hidden heroes of the faith have ever had an opportunity to attend such a meeting. Many of them have little if any financial support. Christ-proclaimers from many less-developed nations will meet each other for the first time this month.

They can get to the Amsterdam conference only if they are given assistance.

The importance of such evangelists cannot be overestimated. Despite all the vaunted modern inventions, despite communications satellites and all the rest, an estimated two billion people throughout the world have never heard the gospel. Many of that vast number will never hear except through the faithful, patient witness of traveling evangelists.

Further, several countries have closed their borders to foreign missionaries. If in the future the gospel is to go out in some countries, it will have to be taken by nationals. As Dr. Billy Graham, honorary chairman of the conference, says: "It is imperative that we offer now whatever counsel, help and assistance we can to these men and women who will be carrying the message of Jesus Christ to the next generation."

The Amsterdam event is a unique kind of conference. Every part of it will need your prayers. Even finding the people who should come has been a tremendous task. There is no mailing list of lesser-known but vitally important evangelists, no directory this side of heaven in which their names are listed for easy reference. For those who are located, it costs about $2000 to bring them to the conference.

I know of no more worthy focus of prayer just now than the Amsterdam conference. Thanks to your partnership in the gospel, and guided and warmed by the Holy Spirit, the event can leave its mark for good beyond our time. Please do pray for the participants.

Ted W. Engstrom
President

Ted W. Engstrom
President
Meet My Friend
John Louie

I met him in a remote mountain village in Haiti. That little smile you see is rare. John Louie doesn’t have much to smile about. Two other children in his family have already died from disease carried by contaminated water and poor sanitation.

Poverty is a way of life here. John Louie’s mother makes about 80 cents a day. There has been no work at all for his father.

John Louie doesn’t understand poverty. All he knows is that there is little to ease the hunger that gnaws at his insides day after day. His parents love him very much. But when your child is hungry, hurting and cold... sometimes love is not enough.

But recently, a miracle came to John Louie’s little mountain village. And it came through the World Vision Childcare program.

World Vision Childcare sponsors brought sparkling clean water to John Louie’s village by digging a deep-water well. His father is learning how to raise chickens for a new source of family income.

And this family is also learning to believe in a personal God who loves and cares—and in the process, they’re learning how to love, understand and appreciate each other. Those are things money can’t buy.

If you can sponsor a child for just $18 a month, I hope you will, because, believe me, there are thousands more like my little friend John Louie who desperately need help.

You will receive a brief biography and photo of your child, plus plenty of opportunities to share special times together by exchanging letters and pictures. But more important, you will get the tremendous personal satisfaction of knowing that you’ve really made a difference in someone’s life.

So please... fill out the coupon below and mail it today.

WORLD VISION CHILDCARE

Art Linkletter