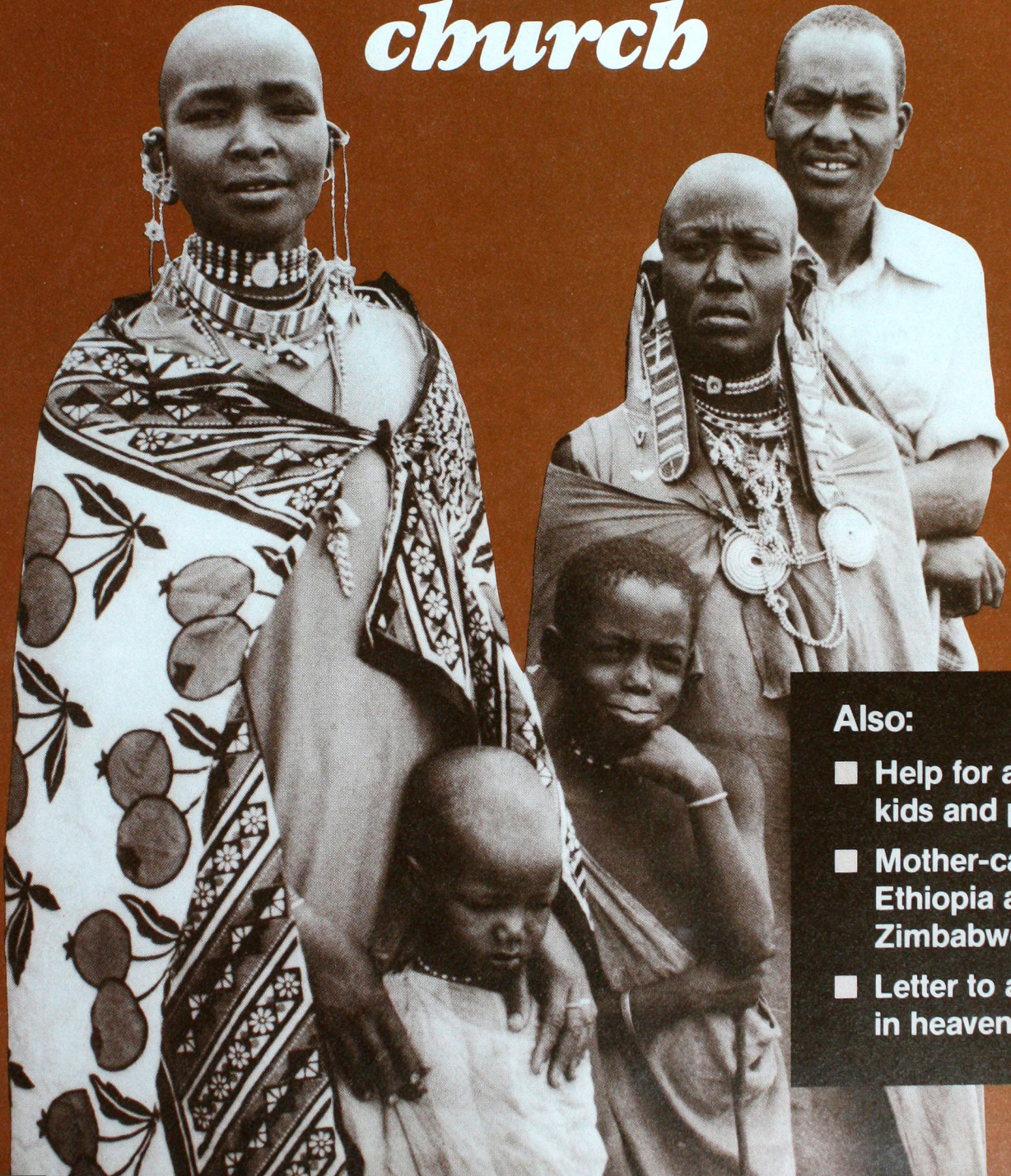


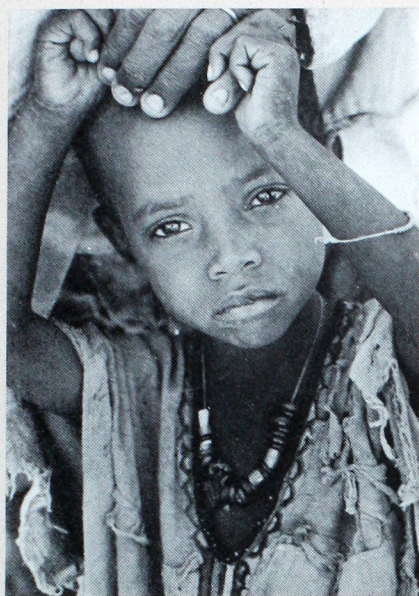
## *Jane's tree church*



### Also:

- Help for abused kids and parents
- Mother-care in Ethiopia and Zimbabwe
- Letter to a child in heaven





*Children are among those hardest hit by Ethiopia's famine. Thanks to World Vision donors, food and medical aid are being delivered. (See update on page 17).*

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PHOTOS—Akwas Agyeman-Dua: page 7. Jacob Akol: page 5 (left). Carole Allen-Baley: pages 10, 11 (upper right). Bethany Christian Services: page 16. Doug Dudley: cover, page 4 (left). Eric Mooneyham: pages 14, 20 (upper left), 23. Larry Nichols: pages 12, 13. Sanjay Sojwal: page 21. David Ward: pages 2, 3, 4 (right), 5 (right), 6, 17.  
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## Jane's tree church blossoms in Kenya

The only large tree in sight forms the sanctuary for an enthusiastic congregation. *page 3*

## For kids' and parents' sake

Caring Christians are dealing with the problems of battered children and their abusers. *page 8*

## Not what appears

A bereaved uncle reflects on death and eternal life. *page 12*

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# May days of prayer

**The month of May** brings you two days of emphasis on concerted prayer. Because you're an American, May 5 is your National Day of Prayer. Because you're a Christian, May 22 is your Day of Prayer for World Evangelization.

To open-eyed Christians across these United States, 1983 is unquestionably a year for something more powerful than perfunctory prayers. Given five minutes, you could list a score of reasons. The arms race. The homelessness and hunger of many unemployed. Child abuse. Rampant injustice and immorality. Government leaders' bewilderment. The crying need for spiritual solutions to our nation's basically spiritual problems. It's time for *mayday* distress signals to God. It's time for sincere repentance, simple faith, honest obedience to Jesus Christ.

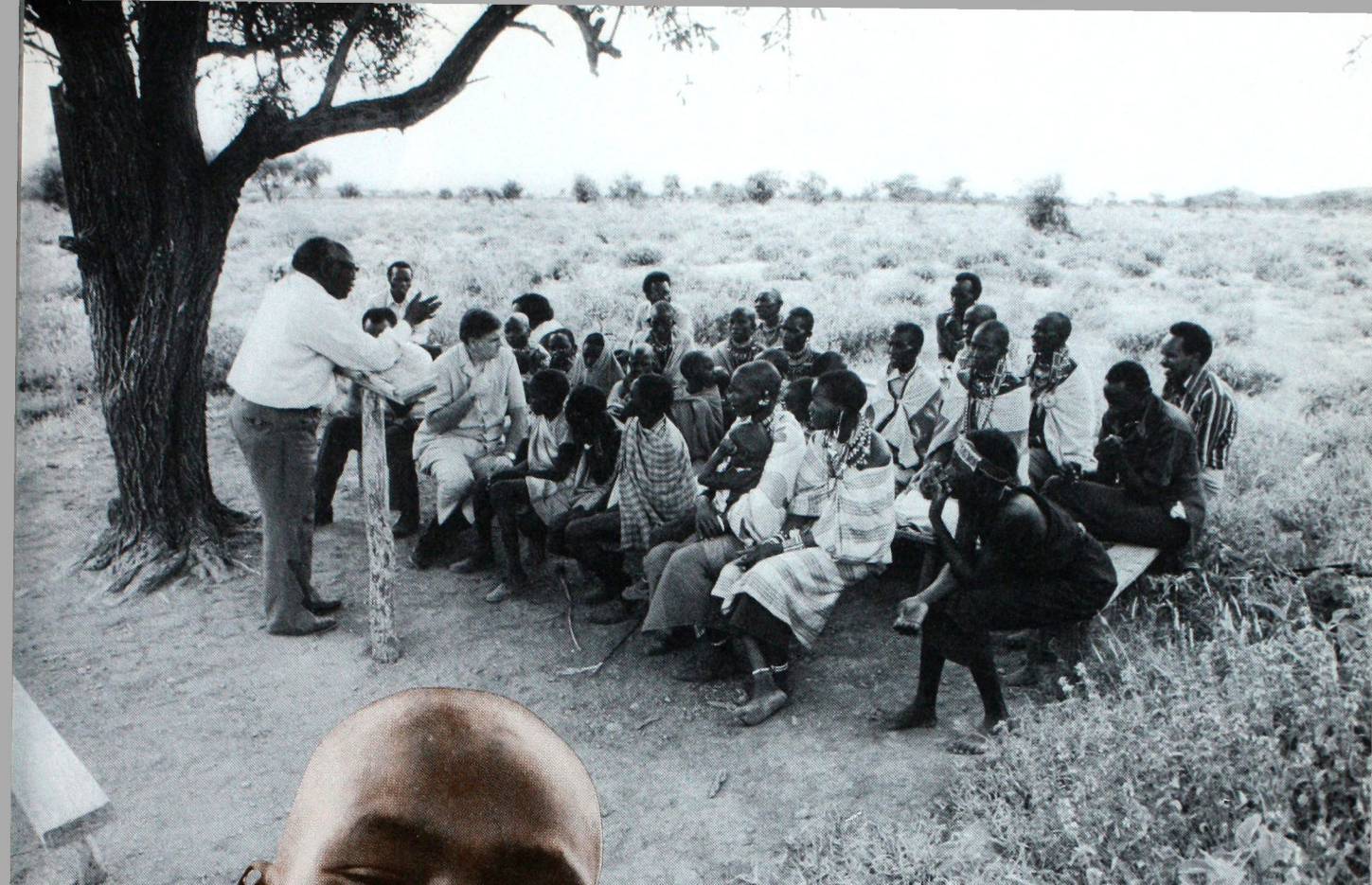
Globally, too, this is a year for more than perfunctory prayers. And if you view Earth from the standpoint of its people's need for Christ, you could in five minutes list overwhelming reasons to send *mayday* signals up to heaven. The shortage of witnesses for thousands of the world's peoples. The absence of Christian contact for two billion individuals. The illegality of the church in some places. The unused freedom to preach Christ in other places. The potential impact of the gospel where witnesses minister to the full range of people's needs. The limits of time.

Two days in May are none too many for concerted prayer. When those church bells ring at noon on May 5, and when they ring at whatever hour on May 22, let none of us simply say, "Lots of Christians are at prayer right now." Let's each *join* in self-giving prayer and keep up that caliber of praying until we can see what God will do because we've turned to Him in desperation and in one accord.

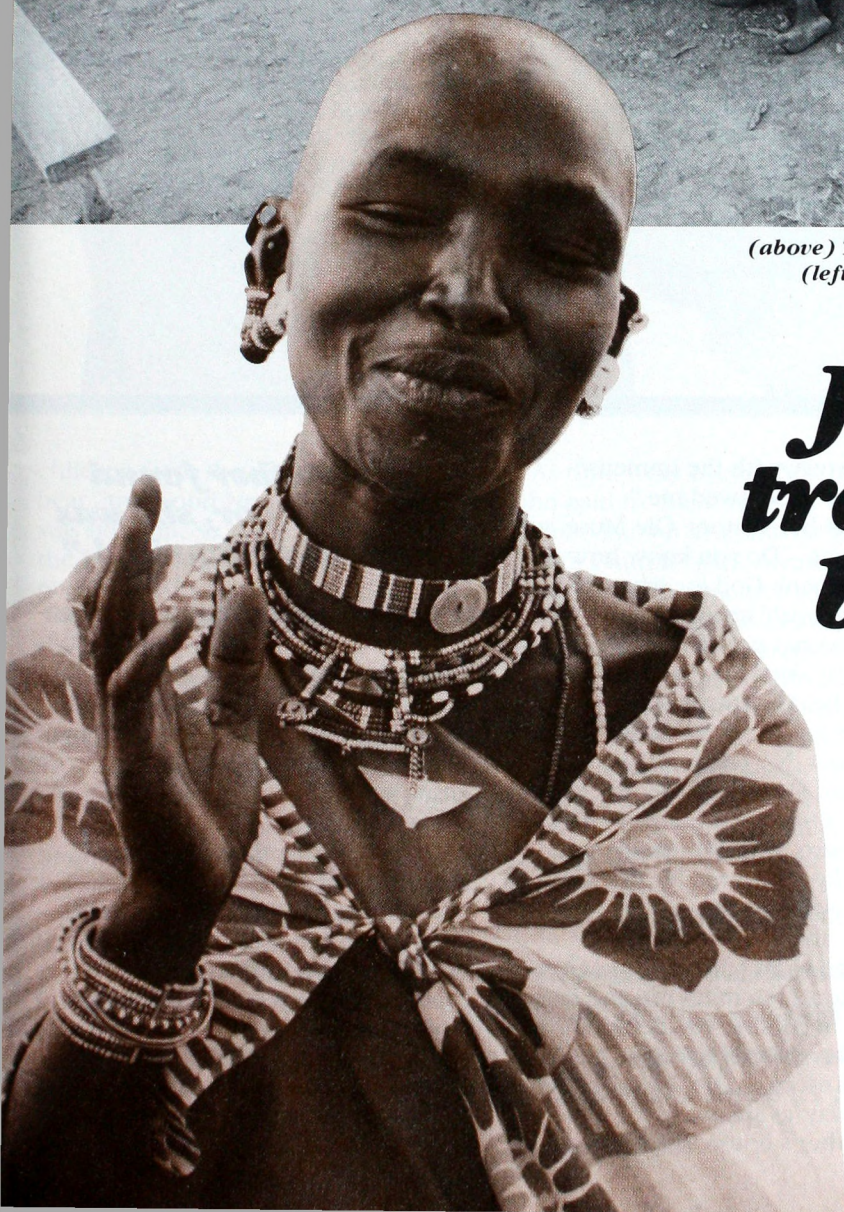
*David Olson*

**Cover photo: Jane with some of her family members (l-r): Koileken, Mulot, Menpei (Jane's mother) and Simon.**





(above) *The Rev. John Mpaayei preaches at "Jane's church."*  
(left) *Jane Nailante: the woman who began the church.*



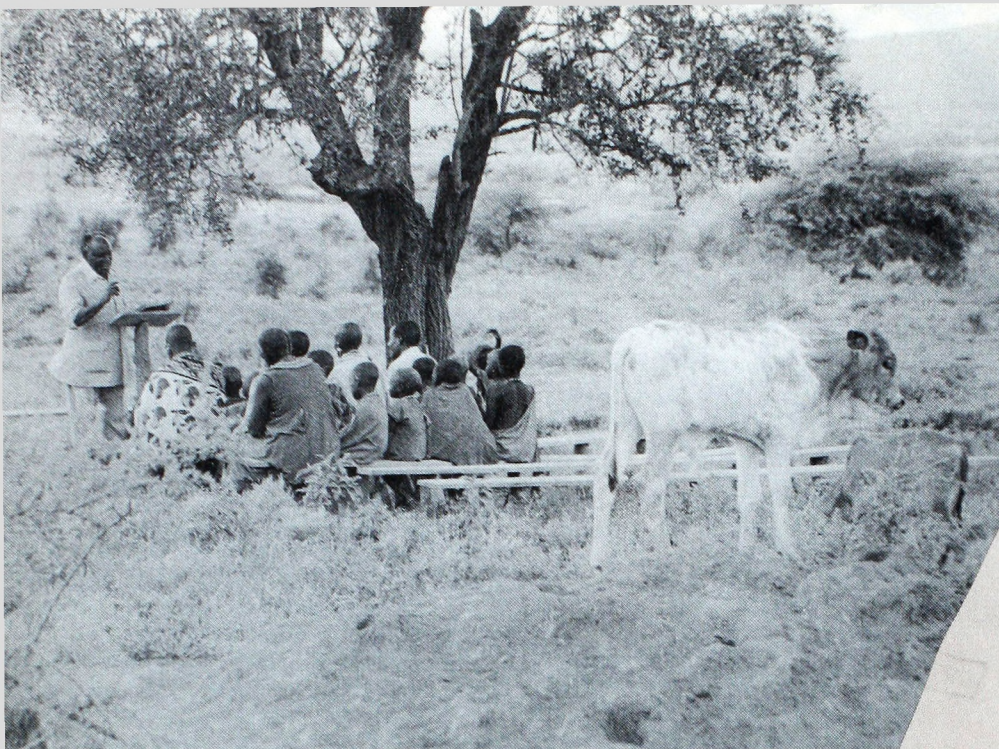
## ***Jane's tree church blossoms in Kenya***

***by Jacob Akol***

**At first glance,** Jane Nailante is the typical Masai woman: tall and graceful. She carries herself with the dignity of someone assured of her worth in society. A closer look reveals she is something more than just that.

Watch her tell her story of how and why she became a Christian—and what a story! She is a creature of





*Informal surroundings do not detract from John Mpaayet's message at "Jane's church."*

moods: reflective, engaging, demonstrative, exciting, charming. But above all, Jane conveys the impression of someone who has overcome death. For, in a way, she has.

During the much-publicized droughts in the Horn of Africa in 1977, Jane was so sick she couldn't turn herself over in bed.

Then, "One day," she said, "as I lay in bed, there was suddenly a bright, blinding light. I started asking God what was happening. It was very brief. When the light had gone and I could see again, I found myself leaning against the door. I could not remember how I had gotten up from the bed and over to the door. I was shaking all over.

"When Mother came in and found me at the door, she was completely surprised that I was not on the bed. She looked around to see if anyone was in the room. When she saw no one, she asked, 'Who moved you to the door?' 'God did,' I said to her without thinking."

That became her story. Although she was still weak, she told her mother she felt well. A few days after the incident she was able to walk without support.

Her recovery was so rapid that people from near and far came to see her and to hear her repeat her

simple story with the immense message: "God saved me."

One of her visitors, Ole Muse, was a Christian. "Do you know how to pray, to thank God for what He has done for you?" he asked Jane. When she answered no, he said, "Well then, pray with me. Lord, we thank you for healing this sister, who we thought was dead. We know that you healed her. No one else did. We thank you for that."

Soon afterwards, Pastor Daniel Ole Kusero, who is financially and spiritually supported by World Vision, visited Jane and she became a Christian.

Every Sunday, she walked 16 kilometers (ten miles) to and from a church in another village to worship with a few other Christians led by Pastor Kusero.

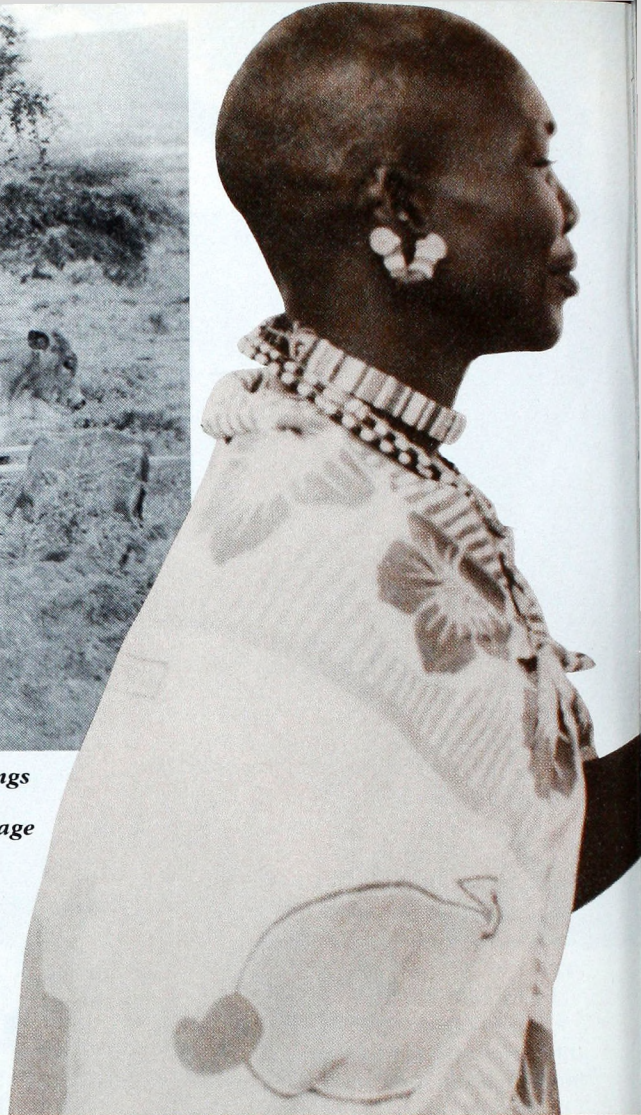
One day, as she sat in the shade by her mother's house, she had a wish:

***"When Mother found me at the door, she was completely surprised."***

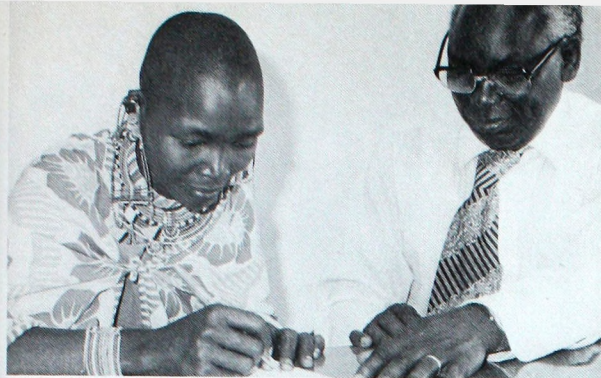
"God, if only you could give us someone to teach us here, I would not have to walk to the church—and our people here would come to know you!"

**The following day**, her older brother John came by with a Bible and a hymn book. "John," she said, "why don't you start teaching us how to pray and how to read the Bible? I will clear away the rubbish from under that tree if you agree to teach us."

John agreed and she prepared the ground in the shade of the tree. The







*(top center) Jane proudly demonstrates to John Mpaayei her ability to write. (left and right) Jane Nailante and John Mpaayei: two of the dynamic forces behind the surge of Christian growth in and around Lenyamu, Kenya.*



children from the village came to hear "the Good News." But there was no John. So she started singing the hymns she had learned from her previous visits to the church.

When her memory was exhausted she started composing. "One of the first songs I composed—and the one I like best," she said, smiling, "goes like this: *'What else do you want to be done to you? Lord Jesus loves you so much. He even died for you. What more can we do to make you understand?'*"

Children from other villages began coming in great numbers. They loved the songs so much that they often did not want to return to their homes. But Jane was so good to the children that their mothers didn't mind if they stayed the night in Jane's little hut. It was a pleasure for Jane to tell stories in the evening about Jesus' love for children.

As time went by, Jane's brother John paid frequent visits to what became known near and far as "Jane's Church"—the cleared space under the tree. Together with other roving evangelists like Pastor Kusero, they taught Jane's congregation hymns, they read the Bible and sometimes they showed Jane and the children the magic of the alphabet. Five years later (last January), Jane and her young students were in a position to proudly demonstrate to this reporter their ability to read and write.

What gives Jane the greatest satis-

---

***"God, if you would only give us someone to teach us here . . ."***

faction, however, is how her devotions to Christ have become a catalyst to the spiritual and physical development of her village—and to many other people as well.

It didn't come easily. The Rev. John Mpaayei, a prominent churchman and elder Masai leader, said of the Masai: "Our people are extremely conservative. They do not accept new ideas easily. It takes some convincing to get the Masai—especially the men—to accept any new ideas."

Imagine their surprise when, after having met Jane, a son of one of the leading Masai hereditary diviners began showing an interest in the gospel.

"These diviners," said Mpaayei, "are the most conservative and most respected among our people. Ole





(above left) Gen. Joshua Hamidu, standing center, speaks at "Jane's church," with John Mpaayei interpreting. Dr. Ted Engstrom, seated, listens. (above right) Jane's mother in doorway of her Masai home. (right) Jane greets Dorothy Engstrom.



Parasapayet's acceptance of Christ was the turning point in our struggle for evangelism in this area of Masailand. This was due to Jane's efforts."

It was undoubtedly the turning point in the young diviner's life. Said Mpaayei, "When he knelt down to be prayed for and to be admitted into the Christian church, he was so moved that he began to tremble. Kusero prayed for him and soon he accepted the Lord."

**The little church** which began with Jane's worshiping under the tree with children soon began to interest the women in the area. Then, with the conversion of the diviner's son, the men became interested too. Soon, several more young men Parasapayet's age became Christians.

Congregations sprang up in the villages. By the time Dr. Ted Engstrom, president of World Vision, visited Jane's Church in January this year, five other similar churches had been

established, four of them with schools attached.

Mpaayei believes some 5000 Masai in Jane's area have heard of the gospel. "Already," he said, "some 1500 have become believers. But

### ***"There was suddenly a bright, blinding light."***

really, it is not the numbers which count. The quality and influence of these new Christians is very high. Not only have they demonstrated their commitment to Jesus; their quality of life—such as health services—has improved. The question is not whether the remaining Masai believe or not, but how soon they can be admitted into the church."

Pastor Kusero has suddenly found his hands full with so many Christians needing his services—but no trained Christian leaders to help him. However, steps have already been taken to salvage the situation. With financial and spiritual assistance from World Vision, five other evangelists have joined Pastor Kusero, and two more are trainees.

Jane's younger brother Simon, also being supported by World Vision, is now learning to become an evangelist and teacher for an offshoot of Jane's Church at a place called Nyonyorri.

When asked what she thought of Dr. and Mrs. Engstrom's visit and their sharing in her church, Jane said, "This man! He visited our President (Daniel arap Moi, President of Kenya) and now he has come to share with us! Only God knows. I cannot describe my joy!"

What are Jane's hopes for the future? "I wish," she said, "we could afford to build a church. Then we could worship any time, come rain or thunder." □

*A church building is just one of many needs—some more pressing—that Jane, John Mpaayei and other Kenyan Christians feel keenly at this time. To assist them and other East Africans who need help in ministering to physical and spiritual desperation, please use the return envelope from the center of this magazine.*

*Jacob Akol, a Sudanese Christian, is communications director for World Vision's Africa regional office.*



# Resettling in Ghana



## Facts about Ghana

**Population:** 13 million

**Population growth rate:** 3.3 percent annually

**Area:** 92,100 square miles

**Population density:** On the average, 123 persons per square mile. In the southern half, where 70 percent of the country's population lives, 200 per square mile.

**Urban population:** 33 percent, with a growth rate of 5.2 percent.

**Capital:** Accra (Ghana's largest urban center).

**Major ethnolinguistic groups:** 44 percent Akan, 16 percent Mole-Dagbane, 13 percent Ewe, 8 percent Ga-Adangbe.

**Ethnic composition:** 99.8 percent Negroid African (major tribes: Ashanti, Fante, Ewe); 0.2 percent European and other.

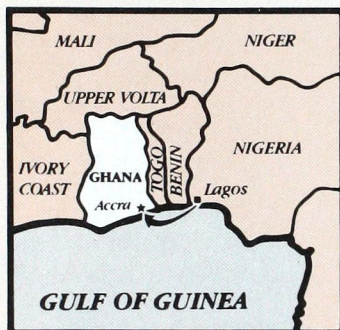
**Official language:** English. But there are over 100 tribal languages.

**Chief commercial products:** Cocoa, aluminum, gold, timber, diamonds, manganese.

**Religion:** 45 percent animist, 43 percent Christian, 13 percent Muslim. Many professed Christians continue to participate in traditional rituals associated with tribal religions. 71.5 percent of the Kwa tribe and 62.7 percent of the Akan tribe are listed as Christians.

**Economy:** Subsistence farming is still common in the northern part of the country. Agriculture is the mainstay of Ghana's economy; 58 percent of the country's total land use is in agriculture. Runaway inflation has brought serious

problems. Reduced rainfall and the aging of cocoa trees has affected the country's world leadership in the crop, lowering it from first to third place.



**History and government:** The 50 small tribal groups that live in Ghana are said to have descended from migrating tribes that moved into the Volta River Valley in the thirteenth century. Tribal members settled territorial disputes among themselves until 1470, when the first Portuguese sailors landed on the Ghanaian coast and claimed the country for Portugal. For the next three centuries, the English, Danes, Dutch, Germans and Portuguese controlled various parts of the country until the eighteenth century, when England took over. British soldiers fought with various Ashanti warriors until 1901, when Ghana (then called Gold Coast) was made a colony. Ghana gained independence in 1957, but its people have known little peace. In 1979, Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings seized control of the country. He allowed a brief period of civilian rule, but resumed full authority in 1981.

**Ghana's million-plus returnees,** who have weathered a harrowing journey from Nigeria, now face awesome challenges of resettlement.

World Vision, working in conjunction with the Ghana Christian Council, provided emergency relief assistance to many of the Ghanaian laborers as they arrived in their country. However, while the emergency relief needs have subsided, the long-term needs for resettlement assistance have just begun.

Recognizing the importance of meeting some of the needs that would continue in the aftermath of the massive homecoming, World Vision is implementing a \$180,000 repatriation project. The project includes four elements: transportation of 400 people from border and transit centers to their home villages; supplementary feeding for one month for the most vulnerable people in the transit centers; medical attention for 6000 people, and personal evangelism by World Vision and partner agency staff members. As before, World Vision is working with the Ghana Christian Council in these efforts.

Ghana's economic situation was tenuous at best before this recent influx of mostly unskilled laborers. Now, with even more demands for employment, the burden on the country will be significantly increased.

It is hoped that through long-term assistance such as World Vision's repatriation project, some of the strain can be lessened. However, the task of resettlement is sure to continue for many months. □







# For kids' and parents' sake

by Carole Allen-Baley

**Cowering in the corner** of her bed, four-year-old Melissa, unable to sleep, listens to her mother and father scream at each other in the next room. They've been arguing for over an hour this time.

Melissa, terrified at the sound of her father's powerful rage, climbs out of bed and creeps to her bedroom doorway.

"Daddy, be nice to Mommy," she pleads.

Her father, enraged because he has already spent his paycheck on nights at the bar, and frustrated that the rent is overdue, storms into Melissa's room and orders her back to bed.

"No!" the little girl cries. "I don't like you when you're mean—just go away!"

At that, something snaps within the young father. Without thinking, he pulls his belt from his trousers, wraps it around his fist and heads for Melissa.

**Many child abusers** have never learned the basic principles of parenting and are unable to draw the line between a spanking and a beating. Confused by memories of their own childhoods, some parents remember when their fathers or mothers severely beat them to enforce family rules. These "traditions" are then passed to the next generation.

For Kids Sake, in Brea, California, is trying to change such family traditions. Together with his staff, Jim Mead, the organization's founder and executive director, has tried to make the center a haven and a place of healing for abused children. And

when possible, for their parents, too.

Begun in 1974, the center offers the Greater Los Angeles community such services as: counseling for individuals and families; multi-county, 24-hour hotlines; parent education programs; public education materials and programs; a research library; professional consulting and training; community network development, and crisis intervention.

Cold facts of child abuse in the United States are listed in public education materials distributed by the center. According to their information, a minimum of one million children are abused or neglected each year; five thousand children die each year from abuse; one in five families is involved in some form of child abuse; 95 percent of prison inmates were abused as children, and one in three girls is sexually misused before she reaches high school. Such abuses cut across all socioeconomic, ethnic and cultural lines in society.

Even such grim statistics as these may come across as dry and hollow to our jaded, news-weary minds. But for the staff at For Kids Sake, they take on flesh-and-blood reality.

"Quite often we get hotline calls from mothers who have had all they can take from their kids," says Mead. "Sometimes over the phone you can hear the kids screaming in the background. One woman told us she hadn't touched her kids yet, but that she was about to lose control. We invited her to just come down to the center, relax and have a cup of coffee while her kids watched television."

Happy to find someone who under-

Carole Allen-Baley is a newspaper reporter living in Monrovia, California.



stood her frustrations, the young mother of five later came back to be counseled in parenting skills. Through the counseling sessions she met other parents seeking help, and began learning the art of loving, Christian discipline.

Another woman, Elizabeth, a single parent, is being counseled by the For Kids Sake staff while her 11-year-old daughter Linda is living away from her under protective custody. Linda frequently had blamed her mother because her father was no longer at home, and her constant fault-finding finally got to the mother. Late one evening, after an extended yelling match, Elizabeth struck out at her daughter.

"About 15 minutes after the police walked out with my child, I was at the center, and there was someone there I could talk to and cry with," recalls Elizabeth. "If it wasn't for that organization, I don't know what I would have done."

Elizabeth admits she knew little about being a good parent. She had placed the same expectations on her daughter that had been imposed on her when she was growing up during the post-Depression era. The oldest of four children, Elizabeth had been expected to help her mother raise the family. Elizabeth assumed Linda would show her the same obedience. But she guessed wrong. With Elizabeth's strict upbringing and Linda's disobedience, the conditions for confrontation were ideal.

"My mom seems a lot happier now," Linda says. "She doesn't get upset at

***"It may sound melodramatic, but we save lives around here."***

me so much like she used to, and now she's even counseling other mothers at For Kids Sake. I think it's great the way things have worked out. We're becoming best friends, and I love her a lot."

"I feel I'm a missionary to families that have problems like these," Mead says. And well he may be. Ever since For Kids Sake was founded nine years ago, Mead has not drawn a salary for his work. He has mortgaged his home more than once in an effort to keep the center afloat, and he often works 60 or more hours a week to teach parents the proper way to discipline children.

***"It may sound melodramatic, but we save lives around here,"*** Mead says. "Our first hotline call was from a little girl who said her mother had just hit her over the head with a frying pan—then driven away.

Mead, a former police officer, has the gentle-touch attitude of a seasoned professional. Family squabbles and child abuse reports were part of his daily workload as an officer, and

they helped prepare him for the role of child advocate and family healer.

Mead's ministry can be described in a nutshell by Malachi 4:6, where it is written that John the Baptist would "... restore the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers."

Mead's calling is no less important. "We have to set our sights on doing the best job we can, and practice unconditional love to these kids *and* their parents," Mead says. "Sometimes that's hard to do."

Mead and Executive Assistant Marie Heuer are helping to rebuild the lives of one family that had been completely shattered by incest. A "funny uncle" molested 15 children in his extended family, and almost lost his life when one angered father was ready to go gunning for him.

"When they all came in here for their first counseling session, it was like a 500-pound bomb had been dropped on the family," Mead says. "everyone was taking sides, and the family units were disintegrating."

It's been over a year since that family first came to For Kids Sake, but through counseling, prayer and patience, the children have learned to forgive their uncle.

Other people, however, have





gotten angry with Mead and his intervention work, and have threatened his life. One man, enraged that his wife left him after he beat their daughter, barged into the

***"We practice unconditional love to these kids and their parents. Sometimes that's hard to do."***

For Kids Sake office waving a gun around. He wanted to find and shoot the minister (a friend of Mead's) who had convinced his wife to leave home with their child while they were still alive.

"On days like that," Mead remarks, "I keep reminding myself what Jesus said to His disciples in Matthew 8:26 when He asked them, 'Why are you afraid, O men of little faith?'"

Jim Mead and his wife Pat also meditate on Psalm 121: "I will lift up my eyes to the hills. From whence does my help come? My help comes from the Lord. . . ." And sometimes, when things get too hectic, the Meads take a drive to the foothills for silent prayer.

"We are His workers. We're simply carrying out what He wants us to do," Mead says. "The man who came in here with the gun has been receiving counseling, and things are getting better for him. In a recent letter to us he said, 'I would hate to think where I would be without the counseling I've received during the trying events I've been through in the past few months. My counselor has been a blessing, not only emotionally, but spiritually as well.'"

"The For Kids Sake staff and I don't know how it will go for this man and his family," Mead remarks, "but we're hoping and praying that things will work out. We have a lot of confidence in God—and a *lot* of faith." □

love and tenderness are  
enough for Jim Mead,  
For Kids Sake founder and  
director, who has not drawn a  
salary from the center since it  
began nine years ago.



*An unending source of unconditional love abounds at For Kids Sake, as demonstrated by staffers Jim Mead, Marie Heuer and Eulajeon Sanson.*

## ***Disturbing facts***



- In the United States alone, more than one million children are reported abused or seriously neglected each year.
- Five thousand American children *die* from abuse each year.
- One-fifth of all American families are involved in some form of child abuse.
- Ninety-five percent of the nation's prison inmates were abused as children.
- One-third of the girls and one-sixth of the boys entering high school have been sexually misused.
- Projections based on the past decade's experience nationwide indicate that 90 percent of today's abused children are likely to become child abusers themselves.

Source: Dr. Charles E. Campbell, associate director of For Kids Sake and author of numerous books in the field, including *Educator's Handbook on the Prevention and Detection of Child Abuse*, FK Press, 753 W. Lambert Road, Brea, CA 92621.





# Not what appears

by Ray Seldomridge

**On a wet evening in January,** behind dripping stained glass, the softly lit sanctuary of an Episcopalian church in San Gabriel swelled with people. At the conclusion of the processional hymn, the rector moved slowly to the lectern. His face contorted, his voice full of anger and grief, he spoke the truth with horrible directness: "Amy Elizabeth Hixon is *dead*."

Even to write those words now seems a profanity. Amy was my niece, a bright, happy eight-year-old whose life had been stolen away by leukemia. Her death is still to me, three months later, an ugly, detestable *truth*. I cannot dwell on it long. I have seen death up close, and I hate it.

But that's not all. Amy's death is also a detestable *lie*. Yes, she suffered (and we suffered). She finally closed her eyes and left us (and we are alone). But *died*? That's the lie. Christ's resurrection makes it a lie.

In these last few months I guess I've celebrated—really celebrated—Easter for the first time. Not because Amy's experience gave me a lot of deep insights into Christ's, but because the simple hope of the resurrection was there when I needed it.

How can anyone, I thought,

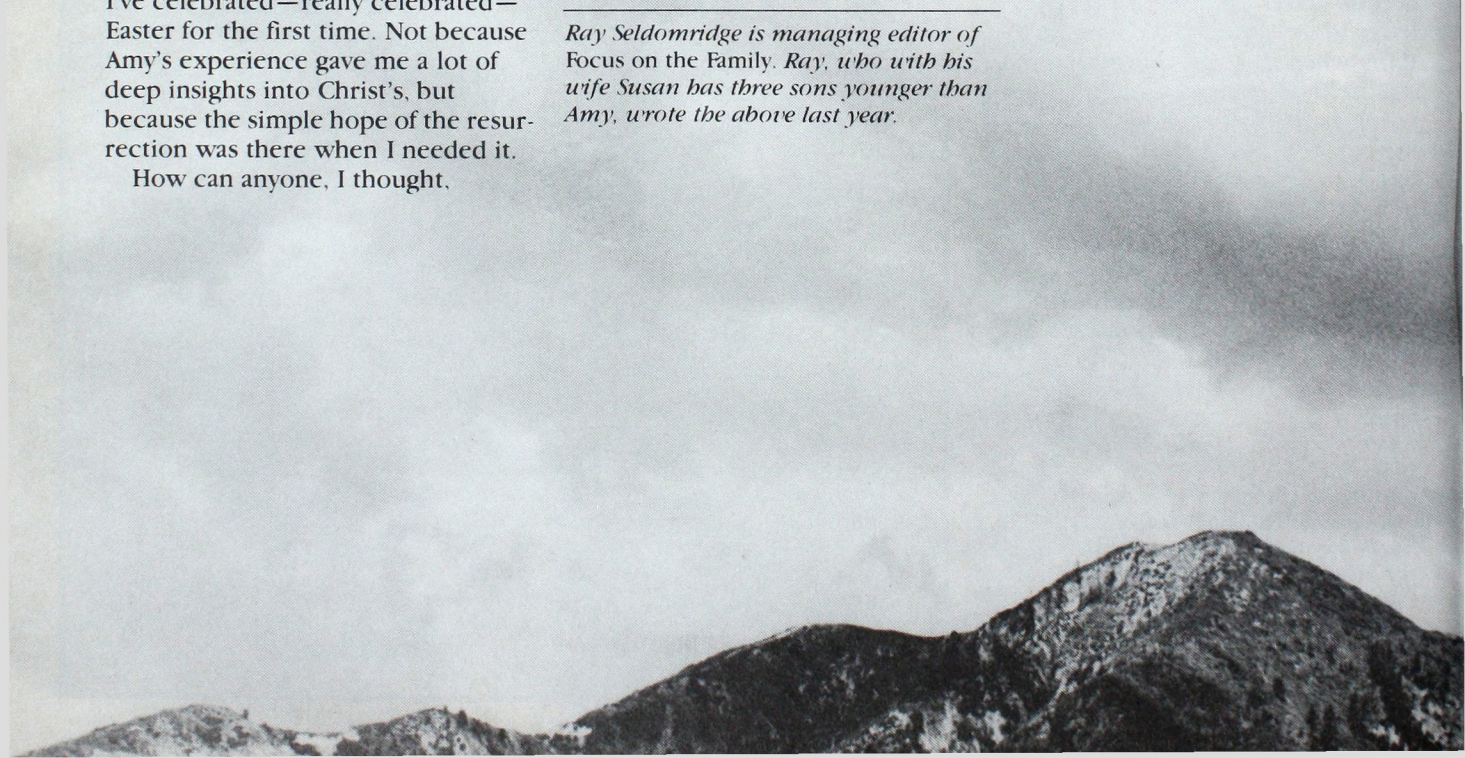
endure such a loss if he or she has no vision of the life that is to come? If death—Amy's or anyone's—is what it *appears* to be, why not be done with this charade here and now? Why not push the nuclear button and finish off this sick joke called life? I don't see how anyone can be anything but a Christian or a nihilist. If death is what it *appears* to be, then World Vision is wasting its time prolonging a farce of an existence for millions of people.

Thank God, appearances are not the reality. Even my own five-year-old son seems to know that. When I told him that Amy had died, he said, "How is it like to die? I don't know because I haven't died for five years!" We come from God—we return to God. Death is not our destruction but our renewal. Jesus' own death and resurrection made it so.

The day after Amy died, I wrote her a letter. Maybe sharing it will bring the truth of resurrection home to you.

---

*Ray Seldomridge is managing editor of Focus on the Family. Ray, who with his wife Susan has three sons younger than Amy, wrote the above last year.*





Dear Amy,

I feel awkward writing you like this—not because you're beyond the letter's reach, but because you have *changed* so since I last saw you. Three days ago you were a frail, weary little girl ravaged by a terrible disease. Now you are, quite suddenly, a perfected saint, a daughter of the King, who has the good fortune of being in His very presence. Three days ago you were barely hanging on to existence; now you are vibrantly alive. You were struggling with pain and with the meaning of your life as best as an eight-year-old can. Now you have earned a great reward; you have stood the test and endured. And your questions are all being answered as you look into the eyes of your Creator.

Looking back now, I see that you were far more than a sick little girl these past months. By your courage and patience and faith—enduring test after test, losing your hair repeatedly—you had already become strong in our God. For your example I owe you thanks—I who was supposed to have been your “godparent,” your mentor. You have turned out to be the teacher, I the student.

And you were the pioneer. Death seems less terrifying to me now that you have led the way. Something deep in me says, *Now that Amy has shown how to make that journey, I will not find it quite as difficult to go that way myself when the time comes.*

Pray for us, Amy. We who are left behind here in the shadowlands will miss you. You were a part of us that can never be restored until we all gather at the Supper of the Lamb. Your journey is over; ours continues.

The Father has wiped away your tears. Will you ask Him to help us with ours?

Love,  
Your Uncle Ray





# Zero excuse: 'I didn't know it was you!' by Kenneth L. Wilson

**The story of judgment** in Matthew 25:31-46 is one of the best-known and most-used passages of Scripture. Many chiding sermons and successful charitable appeals have been based on the King James word "inasmuch" (verses 40 and 45). But there is something more in this great parable of compassion, something that examines personal motivation, that exposes personal priorities, that speaks to our sinful readiness to embrace commitment in general and to avoid commitment in particulars.

Look at the story. Here are two groups gathered before the King, facing their ultimate moment of truth. The sheep, for the purposes of this story, are the good ones and the goats the bad ones. (Sorry about that, goat-lovers; it appears that goats have had a bad press.) But something that deserves attention is that *the surprised response of the sheep and the goats, the rewarded and the condemned, was exactly the same.*

The righteous said, "Lord, *when* was it that we saw you hungry and fed you, or thirsty and gave you drink, a stranger and took you home, or naked and clothed you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and come to visit you?"

The unrighteous said, "Lord, *when* was it that we saw *you* hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and did nothing for you?"

Equal surprise! Both groups were

saying, "We didn't know it was you!"

But see the difference:

What the righteous would have been willing to do if they *had* known, they were willing to do even when they did *not* know.

What the unrighteous might have been willing to do if they had known, they were *not* willing to do when they did not know.

The righteous were doing what their compassion and caring led them to do, and Jesus translated that caring as obedient service to Himself. "When did we see *you*?" they asked, meaning that they had not seen Him. They had done it anyway.

The unrighteous were doing what their *lack* of compassion and caring led them to do, and Jesus regarded that as a denial of Himself. They, too, were surprised. "We didn't know it was you!" they said—rather huffily, I suspect. Their attitude added, "Why didn't you say who you were, Lord?" By their words and attitude they condemned themselves.

Today we echo their lame excuse. "We didn't know it was you, Lord."

The point is, we don't have to know! We don't have to ponder whether it is right to do right. We don't have to convene a committee or a convocation or wait for a consensus. Why get bogged down in developing reasons for doing things when need itself is the sufficient reason?

Why is it that so often it seems more "spiritual" to talk about doing what we cannot do where we are not, than it is to do what we can where we are? Jesus is not talking about pie in the sky, but about bread on the table. There is no place to live out one's faith but in specifics.

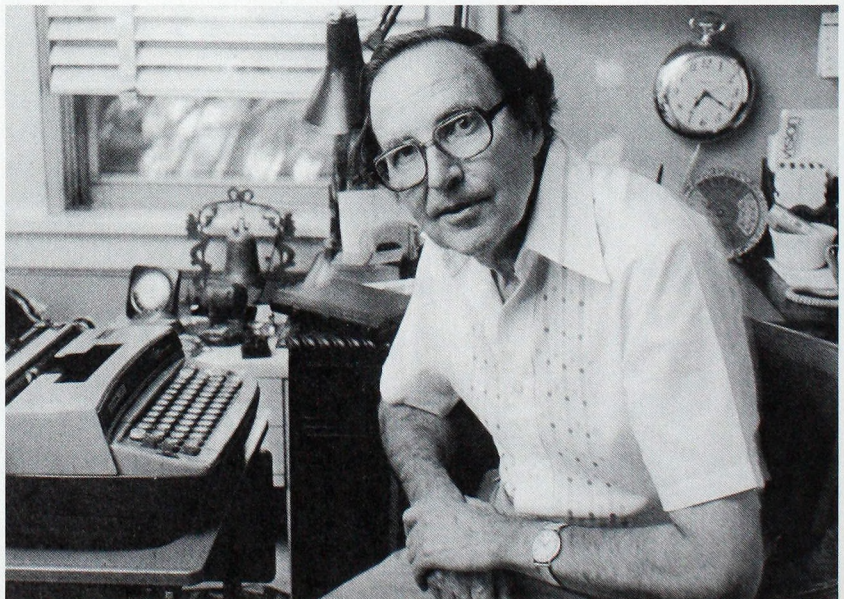
In a gift shop on a wall full of plaques I saw one that read: *All the kind words/And all the good*

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***Why are we so long on wishes in general and so short on help in particulars?***

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*Ken Wilson, retired former editor of Christian Herald magazine, has visited and written about World Vision field projects in numerous countries. He and his wife Juanita live in White Plains, New York.*





## Are you seeking inner peace?

**You can have** peace of mind and heart in spite of all the causes of anxiety around you. That's a promise Jesus makes to all who give themselves to Him.

Shortly before His ascension to heaven, Jesus told His disciples: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid" (John 14:27).

The context of that promise is His discourse on the Holy Spirit, whom He calls the Comforter, the Counselor. And it's as dependable for us today as it was for those who heard it from His lips.

If you lack—but seek—real inner peace, we at World Vision recommend that you

change the focus of your quest. Instead of merely seeking peace, *seek God through Jesus Christ*. For only in that way can you find the inner peace you crave.

For more light on this subject, read today the fourteenth chapter of the Gospel of John. And then why not the entire Gospel? We urge you also to talk with a pastor or other member of a Christ-centered church in your community. And please write the editor of WORLD VISION magazine, 919 W. Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016, if you would like helpful literature on knowing Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. We'll be delighted to send you a copy of a booklet called *Becoming a Christian*. □

*wishes/Cannot replace/Help with the dishes.* We Christians are often long on wishes in general and short on help in particulars.

"Lord, I didn't know it was you. You were wearing rags that were dirty. You were weeping, coughing, starving. Your sores were repulsive. But if I had known it was you, Lord, of course I would have done something."

And the King says, in effect, "You didn't have to know. You didn't have to ask, 'Are you Christ?' All you had to ask was, 'Are you hurting?'"

It was to those who did not wait to validate their helping with an intellectual rationalization or even a Scripture verse, to whom the King said, "Come, ye blessed of my Father." It was to those who had not so stylized, formalized, credentialized their faith that they had no buoyant spontaneity of the Spirit left, that the King said, "Inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

And to those who thought that religion had nothing to do with the immediate, with starving children and lonely men and women, with grieving mothers and discouraged fathers, the King said, "You did it not for me."

This is a hurting world. In so many needy places, the cast of characters is unclear. But we can be sure of this: Where there is hurting, Christ is there. To apologize, "Lord, I didn't know it was you," is no apology at all. □

*Interaction with "Piece of Mind" essays or any other WORLD VISION magazine articles are welcomed by the writers and editors. Please address your letters to The Editors, WORLD VISION magazine, 919 W. Huntington Dr., Monrovia, CA 91016.*

## Pierce award nominees sought

**Nominations** for the 1983 Robert Pierce Award are now being solicited from Christian leaders around the world. Recipient in 1982 was Mr. Fritz Urschitz, serving in Papua New Guinea.

The award, which includes a \$20,000 grant, was established by World Vision as a living memorial to Dr. Bob Pierce, who founded the organization in 1950. Pierce served as president until 1967; he died in September 1978 at the age of 63.

Nominees for the award should be persons who—

1. have focused on a specific need, generally in one locality, and who have dedicated a significant portion of their lives to accomplish their mission;
2. have been combining

humanitarian service with evangelism in a rounded ministry;

3. have been working with minimal means and assistance;

4. are involved in an unusual service or mission;

5. have been directly involved with people, not just with conceptualizing;

6. previously have not been honored internationally;

7. are primarily ministering overseas, in lesser developed countries, or among minority cultures.

Persons wishing to nominate someone for the award must obtain information and forms from Mr. Ralph Plumb, World Vision International, 919 W. Huntington Dr., Monrovia, CA 91016. Deadline for completed submissions is June 15, 1983.



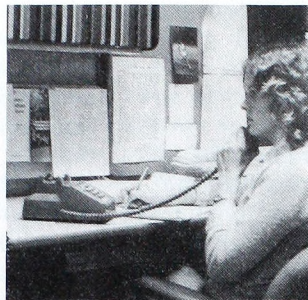
# Samaritan sampler

**Bethany Lifeline** is a toll-free hotline for women with unplanned pregnancies. Volunteers trained in crisis pregnancy counseling offer callers guidance in seeking alternatives to abortion, and provide referrals to counseling services available in their areas. Bethany has offices in ten states; counseling services are free. More information can be obtained from Gordon Ellens, Bethany Christian Services, 901 Eastern Ave., NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503. The toll-free hotline number is 1-800-BETHANY.

**TwentyOneHundred Productions**, the multimedia ministry of Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship, is offering a summer training program in media production and evangelism. "The Art of Seeing and Hearing" will be held June 13-July 17 in Madison, Wisconsin. Media skills training and faith-sharing techniques will be offered. For a brochure and application, write TwentyOneHundred Productions, Summer Project Coordinator, 233 Langdon St., Madison, WI 53703.

**Prison Fellowship's 1300** volunteers conducted 166 in-prison seminars (Bible studies and discipleship training for inmates) in 1982. Plans call for 236 such seminars in 1983.

**Christians for Urban Justice** (CUJ) has developed a network of nearly 100 inner-city churches aimed at helping the poor in their own communities. Through seminars, home-weatherization training, internships,



retreats and publications, CUJ teaches Christians to work with the needy in a program of church-based economic development. For more information write Christians for Urban Justice, 563A Washington St., Dorchester, MA 02124.

**ACMC** (Association of Church Missions Committees) will explore the theme "Supporting World Missions in an Age of Change" in their 1983 North American conference, scheduled for July 21-24 at Wheaton College in Illinois. Geared for pastors, missions committee members and concerned Christians, the conference will offer workshops on exploring creative missions support methods. More information is available from ACMC, P.O. Box ACMC, Wheaton, IL 60187.

**John Milton Society** for the Blind is offering free Braille materials, large-print books and "talking-book" records for the visually impaired. Braille New Testaments, hymnbooks, Sunday school quarterlies and devotional magazines are available. For a brochure write to 475 Riverside Dr., Room 832, New York, NY 10015.

**Sixty-three students** from Wheaton College in Illinois spent their spring break in a 14-day relief effort in Honduras. Sponsored by World Relief, the group helped build 200 homes for storm victims, construct a milking barn at a vocational farm school for peasant boys, and assist in relocation efforts for Miskito Indians living in a refugee camp in Mocoron. The students raised necessary funds themselves.

**NAE** (National Association of Evangelicals), in its 1983 convention, announced expansion of its ministries to the poor in the U.S. Working through its regional World Relief offices, NAE will channel most of its efforts through local church and community volunteer networks.

**Voice of Calvary Ministries** (VOC) is helping young men and women in Mississippi realize their potential as Christian leaders by first helping them learn to read. Students learn via a 6-12 month computerized tutoring program that enables them not only to improve their reading, but also to acquire technical skills in operating a computer terminal. For more information write Voice of Calvary, P.O. Box 10562, Jackson, MS 39209.

**IMPACT**, a new Mennonite Central Committee program, provides minority and disadvantaged youth an opportunity to develop vocational skills through career training. IMPACT trainees receive job training,

Christian nurture and long-term career development assistance through their choice of urban or rural programs. For more information contact Mennonite Central Committee, 21 S. 12th St., Akron, PA 17501.

**Involving the disabled** in church life is one of the "Joy in Caring" seminar subjects offered in Christian Endeavor's 1983 international convention (July 4-8). For information write Christian Endeavor, Box 1110, Columbus, OH 43216.

**"Metro Foodshare — Food First and for All"** is a metropolitan food drive that has involved a network of 1250 churches and synagogues in collecting and distributing some 200,000 pounds of food to the needy in the U.S. The Pillsbury Company agreed to match all donations of food pound per pound. Ninety percent of the collected donations are helping Minneapolis-St. Paul area food shelves; ten percent will help economically hard-hit areas of northeastern Minnesota.

**Is There a Better Way?**, a Prison Fellowship booklet prefaced by founder Charles Colson, offers a Christian perspective on American prisons from one who has been there. It explores the concepts of justice and punishment, how prisons foster more crime, the failure of rehabilitation, and alternative forms of punishment. Copies (15 cents each) and more information can be obtained from Prison Fellowship, P.O. Box 40561, Washington, DC 20016.



# Famine relief brings hope in Ethiopia



**Famine-weary victims** in Ethiopia's Gondar administrative region are beginning to reap the welcome fruits of World Vision's relief efforts there, as food and supplies continue to be flown to some of the region's most remote areas. Food, water and medical attention are returning sustenance, health and hope to many in dire need—especially nursing mothers, young children, the sick and the elderly.

World Vision's Twin Otter airplane is continuing its eight to ten flights per day transporting relief goods from the Gondar airport to the village of Zui Hamusit. The bulk of the cargo usually consists of wheat, although Faffa, biscuits, blankets, clothing and other relief items are also delivered.

The World Vision medical team stationed in Zui Hamusit has seen approximately 200 people a day since it began work there in January. The illnesses seen most are anemia, eye diseases, malaria, parasites and various conditions resulting from malnutrition.

The need for water remains critical in Gondar and other drought-stricken regions of Ethiopia. In response to a portion of this need, two wells have been dug near the Zui Hamusit distribution site. The wells are meeting the daily requirements of a large number of people who previously had to travel up to 15 miles to collect water. World Vision is providing two hand pumps for the wells.

Although the efforts of World Vision and other agencies working through Ethiopia's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission are alleviating the suffering for many, thousands more still must be helped. And officials predict the present famine conditions will persist for several months. □



*(top) Crates of medicine are unloaded from the Twin Otter for the World Vision medical team at Zui Hamusit. (middle) Grain is measured out handful by handful for the hundreds of families who wait patiently in the hot sun at Zui Hamusit. (bottom) A precious scoop of water quenches the thirst of this malnourished child.*

*To share in the Gondar relief project, please use the return envelope from the center of this magazine.*





## ***Zimbabwean mother***

**Widowed nine years ago**, Ellen Mundeta heads a family of six children and 24 grandchildren. She lives in Chikore, Zimbabwe, the African country formerly called Rhodesia.

Mrs. Mundeta is a hardworking and determined Christian woman. She has survived many tragedies in her 63 years. Not only has she lost her husband, but five years earlier she also lost her right leg. After developing gangrene, the leg had to be amputated above the knee.

Then came Zimbabwe's war for independence. In 1976, Mrs. Mundeta and the five grandchildren who live with her were forced into "protected villages." They were given two weeks to build a small hut in the village before evacuating their home. They had to live in that hut through-

out the rainy season while the opposing forces battled.

Their original home was destroyed by auxiliary troops, and their fields by roaming cattle. During the fighting, no one was permitted to leave the protected village for days on end. Sometimes this meant they did not have enough to eat. Mrs. Mundeta was forced to sell her cattle at giveaway prices to buy meal for the family at local markets.

After independence was gained in 1980, Mrs. Mundeta and her family left the protected village and rebuilt their home at its original site. But without adequate supplies such as plows, seeds or fertilizer, they could not produce a good harvest.

In spite of her past difficulties and present handicap, Mrs. Mundeta is hopeful about the future. World Vision donors are helping her family and others like them in Zimbabwe rebuild

their homes and reestablish their livelihoods. Maize seed and fertilizer are being provided for farming. Special training is offered—through the Chikore Youth Training Center—on planting, weeding, reaping and storing crops. Twenty-five-day-old chicks are also provided, along with courses on poultry raising. And there is training in cattle-fattening and crafts.

Because of Ellen's special skills in handicrafts, she has been given material and loaned a sewing machine to make clothing to sell at the market. Soon she will have enough money to buy her own machine. She is using her weaving skills to make baskets and mats that she sells through community Women's Club





*Ellen Mundeta weaves baskets to sell in the market.*

eaders in the marketplaces of Salisbury, Umtali and Bulawyo. She is also raising chickens, provided by World Vision, for income, meat and eggs.

Mrs. Mundeta and her neighbors are dedicated to working hard to improve their community and to provide a better future for their children and grandchildren. They are thankful for World Vision's help and are eager to learn more about the Christian faith.

To help them learn, World Vision is providing them with Bibles, hymnbooks and other Christian literature. Home Bible studies, Sunday schools and revival meetings also help to nurture Christian growth and fellowship. With God's guidance, the people's determination, and a little help, the Chikore community is well on its way to achieving self-reliance.

*Konny M. Thompson*

## QUESTIONS PEOPLE ASK

### **What is an "unreached people"?**

More than two billion members of the human race have never had an opportunity to receive a direct witness of Jesus Christ. Another billion have for some reason not responded to the gospel message. Add others who are nominally Christian but show few evidences of the Spirit, and you see that world evangelization is a huge task.

Perhaps you are accustomed to thinking about world evangelism country-by-country, but the tremendous differences between groups of people within each of the approximately 222 countries of the world make a common approach to all the people of any one country impractical.

To speak of reaching the people of India, for example, means reaching 14 official language groups, 300 local language or dialect groups, scores of castes, hundreds of religious groups, urban and rural poor, university intellectuals, the military and more.

Countries are complex patchworks of many different kinds of people, each of whom requires a somewhat different approach with the good news. Some groups are responsive to the gospel; some resist it.

In every country there are groups of people who share common ways of life, education, language, ethnic background, occupation or geographical location. Because of the life situations they share with one another, the members of each such group can be viewed as having common needs which can be met together through the ministry of concerned individuals and agencies. The reaching of each people group opens the way for reaching individuals with the

gospel to which each may personally respond.

Groups known to be less than 20 percent practicing Christian are called unreached peoples. World Vision's Missions Advanced Research and Communication Center (MARC), along with many other Christian organizations, has identified thousands of such groups (many of which are less than one percent Christian), and has helped numerous churches and missions to plan and conduct evangelism efforts appropriate to the life situations of each group.

### **What is the purpose of the Pastors' Conferences that World Vision sponsors overseas? And how are the locations chosen?**

The primary purpose of World Vision-sponsored Pastors' Conferences is to provide pastors of all denominations in a country or region of a country with a refreshing time of inspiration, fellowship around the Word of God, recommitment to their ministry call, and an opportunity for learning from each other.

The conferences are held in countries where pastors have little opportunity to share, encourage each other, discuss common problems or receive such instruction and renewal.

One hundred and fifty such conferences have been conducted during the last 30 years. At the request of pastors in each of some 50 countries, Dr. Samuel Kamaleson, a vice-president of World Vision International, directs World Vision's Pastors' Conferences ministry. Nationals of each host country provide regional leadership.



# People & projects

*Olga Robertson ministers to her prisoner congregation.*



## Prison celebration

Olga Robertson, founder of the prison ministry at Bilibid prison in the Philippines, celebrated her 25th anniversary of service in February. International Prison Ministries sponsored the three-day silver jubilee celebration, which included worship services, special music, prayer and the testimonies of men who were led to Christ in Bilibid prison. World Vision helped Olga begin her ministry in 1957 with 100 inmates. Since then, World Vision donors have been faithful in helping Olga, whose work has led thousands of prisoners to accept Christ. Many have gone into the ministry upon release from prison.

## The greatest gift

Home for Mrs. Martha Cordell is a house built on stilts at the edge of a murky bay in the Philippines. There are holes in the roof, slats on the floor, and the walls are dark from soot. Yet when she was asked what she valued most from World Vision's work there, her

answer did not concern physical needs. Instead she replied, "The greatest thing we received was the opportunity to know and accept Jesus Christ."

Mrs. Cordell received loan assistance to purchase a pig, which she later sold. Out of her profits, she gave ten percent to the work of the Lord. Today the loan is fully paid and she continues to raise pigs. She also continues to give.

## Hopes become reality

Hope is the key word to describe the attitude of the people benefiting from the World Vision Momonup community training center in Papua New Guinea: hope for education, for jobs that can provide good incomes, for good health and balanced diets, and for an eternity with God.

The center is helping turn these hopes into reality through training in literacy, math, gardening, nutrition, cooking, animal production, building, hygiene and health care. Spiritual health is nurtured through Bible study and devotions.

## Food for families in El Salvador

Some 5500 rural families living in dangerous zones in El Salvador are presently unable to provide for their basic food needs. Thanks to the faithfulness of World Vision donors, they are now receiving supplies of corn, beans and rice. Gifts of seed, fertilizer and insecticide, along with the agricultural training needed for cultivating their own vegetables, will help provide food for the future.

## Flooding in Ecuador

Ecuador's heaviest rains in 60 years caused extensive flooding in that country last March, forcing more than 250,000 people from their homes. World Vision is assisting CENAD (National Evangelical Committee to Assist Flood Victims) in a relief program which includes the distribution of food packages to some 1000 families. The packages, delivered every 14 days, include rice, beans, milk and vegetable oil. Evangelism will be carried out by local Christians through Scripture distribution and personal witness.

## Family life in Indonesia

Agus Kogoya, his wife Martina and their two children live in the Konda Valley of Indonesia. While life there is difficult, it is now less of a struggle for the family, thanks to World Vision's involvement there. Agus works as a project staff member and attends the new World Vision-built high school. The family raises pigs, sheep and rabbits with skills acquired from the project's farmer training course. They have also benefited from training in nutrition, and are cultivating a vegetable garden with seeds provided by World Vision.





*A young boy enjoys a cool drink at the new village well.*



## Water for the drinking

The villagers of Suldiha, India used to walk long distances for water. Some families even had to purchase drinking water, quite a burden for those already living in utmost poverty. But now they have access to fresh water right in their own village. Suldiha is one of four villages in India where World Vision made wells possible as part of the Panchpada Sewa Sadan community development project. Other life-changing project activities include literacy training, health care, self-employment assistance and nutrition training.

## Cyclone disaster

Cyclone Oscar, which hit the Fijian islands in early March with winds up to 110 miles per hour, left 200,000 people affected by heavy flooding and wind damage to crops, housing and public buildings. The majority of Fiji's main vegetable and fruit crops were destroyed, and several villages were demolished. Working with the Methodist church in Fiji, World Vision responded with emergency food supplies, water tank repair, seed-crop replanting, household utensils, school materials, Bibles and Christian literature.

## Quite a difference

The book *Private Foreign Aid*, which last month's WORLD VISION said sells for \$124, is available from its publisher (Westview Press, Boulder, Colorado) at \$9.95.

## Please pray for . . .

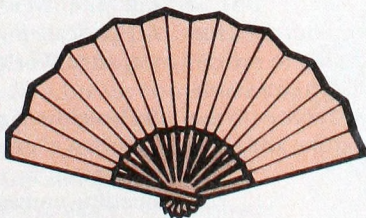
- **Jane's tree church** and similar new congregations in Kenya and other countries.
- **Battered children** and Christian workers such as For Kids Sake staff members bringing healing to troubled families.
- **Gondar's hungry people** and the bringers of relief supplies.
- **Widespread turning to God** throughout our own country.
- **All who apply themselves** to the task of reaching the unreached with the Word of Life.
- **Seekers** who respond to the "mini messages" that appear in each issue of this magazine.

## WORLD VISION 1983 SPONSORS' CIRCLE PACIFIC TOUR

August 4-27, 1983

Take the opportunity of a lifetime! Meet the special child you've been sponsoring and see for yourself how God is working in Asia and Pacific countries. Enjoy the company of other World Vision sponsors and experience the sights and sounds of the Circle Pacific tour. You will visit:

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Box O, Pasadena, CA 91109

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

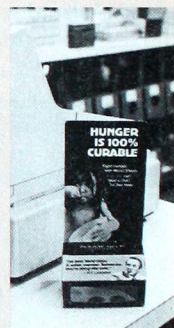
## GIVE SOME OF YOUR TIME TO HELP A HUNGRY WORLD.

Now you can do something tangible . . . something effective . . . *right where you live!*

As a World Vision Counter-top Display Volunteer, you can spend as much time as you like placing our attractive counter-top displays in local places of business, such as restaurants and retail stores. Then, once a month, you simply return to collect the money and send it to World Vision.

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Jennifer Hankins  
Waco, Texas



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World Vision • Box 3138 • Arcadia, CA 91006

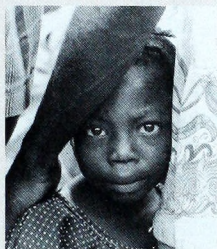


# Globe at a glance

NEWS BRIEFS FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND INTERCESSION

**Some 10 million refugees**, mostly in developing countries, are crowded into camps in various trouble spots around the world, according to the *Los Angeles Times*. About 2.7 million Afghan refugees living in Pakistan constitute the world's biggest current refugee problem, say United Nations officials. They list the 700,000 Ethiopian refugees living in camps in Somalia as the next most critical burden. Emptying refugee camps in Southeast Asia, the officials add, remains the top long-term priority.

**In Haiti** foreign aid does not trickle down to the poorest, according to a *Miami Herald* report. It stays in the hands of the wealthy. In spite of nearly \$1 billion in government aid given since 1973, "the life of the peasant hasn't been changed much," says Eldon Stoltzfus, Mennonite Central Committee representative in Haiti. Corruption consumes more than half of all aid sent to the country, where at least two-thirds of the citizens live on less than \$155 a year. "Haiti has become the graveyard of many wonderful programs and ideas," says Stoltzfus.



*In Haiti*

**Complete Bibles** had been published in 279 languages by the end of 1982—an increase of two from the previous year, says the American Bible Society. In its annual tally, the agency said there were 1763 languages in which at least one book of the Bible had been published by last year. This was an increase of 24 over the 1981 figure.

**In Ethiopia** the famine affecting many parts of the country continues to bring suffering, disease and death. Kebede Tato, head of the government's soil and water conservation division, says the seriousness of the plight this year is illustrated by the fact that people are abandoning their fields a month before the harvest. "Even if the rains arrive in May," he says, "people will have to be given seed . . . in addition to their food rations. Most of those affected have lost everything."

**In northern Mozambique** the number of churches has multiplied ten times in the last 21 years, according to retired missionary Gordon Legg, who recently returned from a seven-week visit to that country. There are now 450 churches in the area, with 44,000 baptized believers, 87 pastors and 1171 evangelists and church leaders.

**Worldwide military expenditures** total nearly \$600 billion annually, according to Ruth Sivard, editor of 1982 *World Military and Social Expenditures*. That amount is equal to the annual total income of about half the world's people—the poorest half. And, according to a *UN Chronicle* report,

"The world's military spends the equivalent of UNICEF's annual budget every four hours, while one child in four suffers from malnutrition and four out of five in rural areas do not have adequate water, sanitation or health care."

**Evangelists from around the world** will be meeting July 12-21 in Amsterdam to consider the most effective ways to spread the gospel. Sponsored by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, the conference is aimed particularly at training, inspiring and equipping evangelists working in developing nations. "If the message is going to continue in some countries," Graham says, "it will be only through national evangelists who are trained and equipped."

**Lebanese and Palestinians**, particularly in the poorer suburbs south of Beirut, are enduring severely deteriorated living conditions, according to the United Nations Disaster Relief Organization. Suffering was especially evident during the winter months when heavy rains and snow added to the burdens of the homeless and those with inadequate shelter. Urgent needs continue for fuel, baby food, milk and clothing.

**China's population** has topped the one billion mark, according to the 1982 census, reaching 1,008,175,288 people. In 1953, the country had 583 million people; in 1963, it had 695 million. The 1983 census indicates 20 percent of the people live in cities or suburbs, while 80 percent live in rural areas. It also reveals that 23.5 percent of the population is illiterate.

**Earthquakes** shaking the Yemen Arab Republic since December 13 have killed 3000 and made 700,000 homeless. Yemen officials say 21 villages were completely destroyed and 274 others damaged. Recovery assistance has come mainly from other Arab countries and from the Palestinian disaster relief agency, Red Crescent.

**A West German community group** is sending packages of food to families in Detroit, Michigan, in response to high unemployment and cuts in government aid programs in the U.S. The West Germans said they consider this a way to reciprocate for food and rebuilding aid they received from the U.S. after World War II.

**Salvation Army workers** report a growing ministry to America's "new poor" who have lost their jobs in the current recession. In 1981, 7.5 million meals were served to people needing emergency assistance, and workers estimate that ten million meals will be served in 1983. These figures do not include meals served at day care centers, to persons enrolled in rehabilitation programs, to those living in Salvation Army residences, to disaster victims, or in special nutrition programs for the elderly.





# In partnership with you

"BECAUSE OF YOUR PARTNERSHIP IN THE GOSPEL"

(Philippians 1:5)

## Our wholehearted commitment to evangelism

**Evangelism** is in the marrow of World Vision. Our founder, Dr. Bob Pierce, developed his early ministry at the beginning of a notable era in evangelistic history. A unique cadre of men and women was being stirred by the Holy Spirit to help spearhead a more effective penetration of the whole world with the gospel of Jesus Christ. I recall vividly how, during those days, God moved in and upon my life also. Along with Dr. Pierce, in 1948 I attended the first World Congress on Evangelism in Beatenberg, Switzerland. There I irrevocably committed my life to world evangelization.

In the late 1940s as a result of this movement of God's Spirit, many innovative ministries were begun to meet a wide range of needs. All, however, were in response to one central motivation: the Great Commission and the special authoritative charge given by Christ in Matthew 28. Bob Pierce was shaped by this dominant concern that each person in the world should come under the influence of the gospel of Christ in all its fullness, and that millions of new believers be incorporated into His church.

During the three decades since our founding, God's Spirit has repeatedly reminded World Vision of its evangelistic calling. In the late 1970s when our ministry was growing by as much as 25 to 30 percent per year, I was particularly concerned about our effectiveness in evangelism. Were we growing in that way also? I was asked to chair a special evangelism task force to document what we had done and to determine what more we should be doing.

Others on the senior staff were also deeply concerned. Graeme Irvine, in charge of our field ministries, issued a statement to all our

field directors in the fall of 1979:

"This renewed emphasis on our primary calling to help bring people to new life in Jesus Christ involves the support offices, the international office staff and the field ministries. It touches the whole family of World Vision. I want to affirm my own wholehearted commitment to it, a commitment I am sure you share. . . . I believe God wants to touch each of us personally, and all of us corporately, throughout the organization, in a new way by a renewed sense of spiritual direction."

And that is exactly what has happened. A fresh impetus given to us by God has over the last four years resulted in healthy changes in both our spiritual awareness and in practical procedures for evangelism.

For example, in our operations in the 86 nations in which we minister, each proposed project is required to have a defined goal for evangelism/Christian nurture—apart from and in addition to other goals. Also, there is a clear indication of the witness/evangelism strategy in the project. All this is an attempt to make sure that evangelism is not taken for granted, but rather that deliberate and prayerful plans are made to provide opportunities for all who are involved in our projects to know Jesus Christ personally as Savior and Lord.

This evangelism emphasis closely relates to a challenge I have been sharing with our staff and

board members in recent weeks, and which I share with you, our partners: "May the 'heavenly wind of God' always find us a people whom He can continually set in motion toward His purposes—which include evangelism—without having to resort to a violent blast or gust to get us going. I am utterly convinced that the Holy Spirit is moving mightily in these turbulent times. Let's move freely with Him!"

*Ted W. Engstrom*

Ted W. Engstrom  
President



Evangelism in Kenya



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with caring people like you—  
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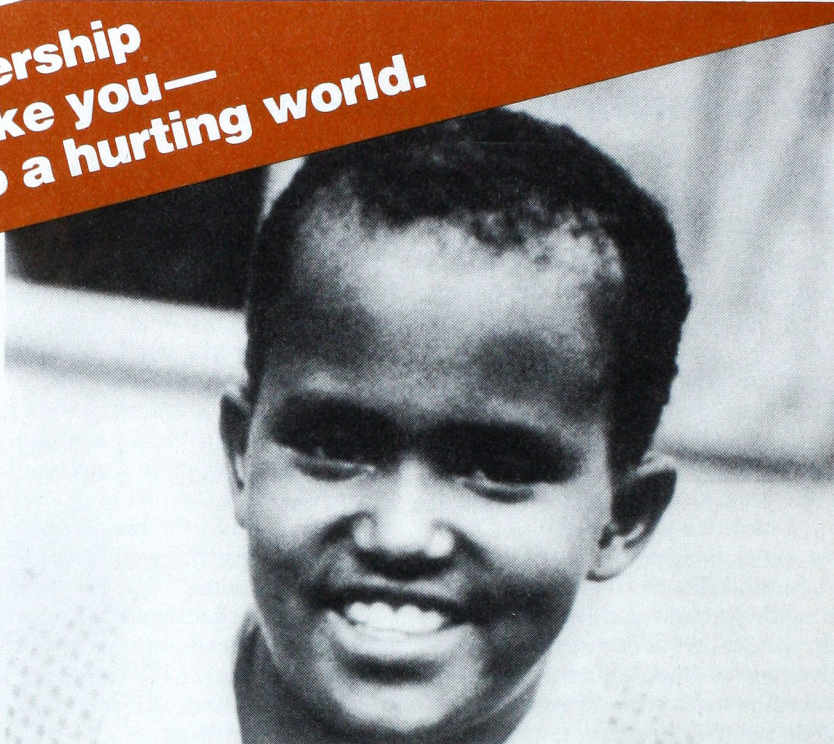
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