SUNBEAM IN A BANGKOK SLUM
QUESTIONS SPONSORS ASK
TERRIFYING DISEASE STRIKES CHILDREN IN KAMPUCHEA
If these girls don't fit your image of Bangkok slum dwellers, there's a reason. They and their entire neighborhood benefit from the ministry of the "Love Your Neighbors" project in their community.

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Cover photo: World Vision sponsored child Varaporn Somswat shares a smile with her mother on the steps of their home in a Bangkok slum.
**Sunbeam in a Bangkok slum**

by Terry Madison

This afternoon I traveled deep within the bowels of a Bangkok slum to the home of Varaporn Somsawat. I wish you could have been with me to meet this lovely 11-year-old with the contagious grin. She is one of 19,504 World Vision-sponsored children in Thailand.

More than a million people—at least one-fourth of Bangkok's total population—live in slums. Each year another 100,000 rural people migrate to the big city, only to discover that urban life means joining a burgeoning number of slum dwellers. Most either rent flimsy shacks from absentee landlords or become squatters in any unoccupied space they can find—under a bridge, alongside a road, between buildings or perched on stilts above one of the mucky swamps that traverse this Riverside metropolis.

To find Varaporn, my World Vision companions and I traveled through crowded middle-class neighborhoods and passed several of Bangkok's 3000 shimmering gold Buddhist temples. Then suddenly we entered another world—a jumbled patchwork of wood and metal shacks that thousands of urban poor people call home.

Following a maze of narrow concrete footpaths, we zigzagged along just a few inches from the oozing sewage that covers this waterlogged community. The gray, oil-slicked sludge on either side of the footpath was littered with a jumble of rusty tins, capless bottles and plastic bags floating like limp ghosts amidst the decay.

I can't imagine what it must have been like before footpaths were built. But the footpaths are so substantial, so permanent, so obviously engineered to last a very long time! Although intended to make life healthier and easier, those solid ribbons of concrete betray the sad fact that this slum may never die.

I marveled at the ingenious use of salvaged building materials. No two houses are the same. Some are two-story originals of peeling plywood and rusting metal; others are single-level two-room shacks of bamboo, corrugated metal, weathered cardboard, plastic sheeting and other odd bits of material. The wild assortment of angles, tilts, leans and wobbles challenged my Western notions of right-angled order.

Walking through the alleyways, I marvelled at the remarkable use of salvaged building materials.
felt a part of every house and family we passed. The little details tell the story: a soiled lace doily draped across the top of an old black and white TV; a young woman cradling a child and picking lice out of her hair; a fruit peddler ricocheting along the narrow footpath; wires and clotheslines hanging at crazy angles everywhere; cancerous blotches of rust relentlessly eating through a thousand metal roofs; flowers popping out of little clay pots, their bright colors contrasting sharply with the grayness and decay.

In the midst of all this, I found Varaporn.

She didn’t know I was coming, and she didn’t let my presence spoil the game of “school” she had been playing with her sister and a few friends. Sitting on a newspaper spread across wooden floorboards, the little girls continued their drills—writing the Thai alphabet on lined notebook paper.

I can still feel the shudder that went through my body when the rotten wooden flooring next to me broke under the weight of one of Varaporn’s playmates. Her bare left foot suddenly sank deep into the muck below. But with a giggle, she calmly extracted her leg from the sludge. Then, hopping on her dry foot, she made her way to the far corner where an earthenware pot of water was standing. Simply splashing her foot clean, she returned to the game.

Varaporn is one of 44 fourth-graders in her class at a government school located just one kilometer from her home. More than 2000 children attend that school. Varaporn studies language, science, social studies, mathematics, physical education and home economics.

She says she likes home economics best—especially the cooking lessons. Sometimes she practices what she has learned, making rice and noodle soup or some other meal for the family while her mother works in the evenings.

Varaporn lives with her mother and father, a younger sister (age 7), and an 18-year-old sister who attends high school. Two older brothers live away from home. One works at a gas station in Bangkok; the other lives in a province south of Bangkok where he has a job delivering large blocks of ice on a bicycle.

Varaporn’s father has worked for 30 years installing marble tile floors, a job which pays 110 Baht ($5.50) a day. He leaves for work at dawn, and often returns at 8 p.m. Lately, because of slowdowns in the construction industry, there has been little work.

Six days a week, Varaporn’s mother is employed as a housekeeper from 4 until 9 p.m. She leaves her children at home to care for each other until their father arrives. This troubles her, because robbery and drug abuse are serious problems in the slums. But she has little choice; the 500 Baht ($25) she earns every month is needed to make ends meet.

What does this hard-working mother hope for her daughters? “I hope they’ll be able to marry and
“Love Your Neighbors” is more than a name for the project that is helping Varaporn.

cal care. Hundreds of families have received instruction in nutrition, sanitation and other health topics. Social activities and job-skills training for young people have been organized by the project committee. And the project center doors are always open to children—whether sponsored or not—who need a clean place to read or play quietly.

The Christian motivation for the “Love Your Neighbors” project is clearly evident. A Christian project worker lives in the slum himself in order to demonstrate his commitment to the poor and to be an example to the community. And through home visitation, Bible studies, Christian education classes, special Christmas and Easter celebrations and a summer camping program, anyone who is interested can learn more about Jesus Christ.

To a casual observer, Varaporn Somsawat may seem like just one more poor little girl trapped by the muck and permanent footpaths of her Bangkok slum neighborhood. Not so. I’ve seen that Varaporn, her family, and many of their neighbors all have a head start on the future, thanks to World Vision sponsors around the world who have found a way to “love their neighbors” here in the center of Bangkok.

Varaporn Somsawat is sponsored by Ms. Audrey Orr of Granville, Ohio. Terry Madison is World Vision’s Asia region associate director for communications.
How can I receive personal information about my child?
During the times between annual progress reports on your child, our overseas staff will be happy to send you information about your child's health, education, family situation, likes and dislikes, or any other aspect of the youngster's life or the project in general. Writing to the California office for details about the child only adds to the time you'll need to wait for a response. Your mail to the staff at your child's project should be sent to the address that is listed on the inside of your picture folder. On the envelope, just insert "Attention: Sponsor Relations" after your child's identification number.

For answers to general childcare questions (or if your mail to a project is not answered after a few months), the California office will be glad to help.

I have a hard time deciding what to write to my child.
Children overseas are fond of brightly-colored postcards or greeting cards. The message does not have to be long or complex; in fact, it will be much easier to translate if the note you send is short and simple. You may want to share a specific event or just ask the child how his or her day is going. Remember the poverty in which these children live; your notes should accentuate the positive and make as little mention of material possessions as possible.

Why can't I send gifts to my sponsored child?
High import cost and staff time are the main reasons. It is important that the staff be free to spend as much time as possible with the individual children. At Christmas and on other occasions when a celebration is called for, the staff will not forget that the children are children. The loving support of a sponsor, the comfort of a caring staff and the prospect of a brighter future are the greater gifts that you are already sharing with your child. If you would like to send something extra in your letters, you may include a very small, flat, inexpensive item that will fit in an ordinary business-size envelope.

How often will I get a new picture of my child?
Once a year the project staff will send you a photo of your child. If more than a year goes by without a picture being sent to you, the California office will contact the overseas staff for you.

I would like my child to have a Bible of his own.
As a part of the childcare program, youngsters are given Bibles when the staff feels it is an appropriate time. World Vision is concerned that all children in the program receive consistent Christian instruction and opportunity to commit themselves to Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord. Childcare superintendents follow the ways best suited to the particular culture and situation in their project. In some countries the Christian message cannot be presented openly. There, Christian songs and Bible stories are also used to share a message. And of course, in every location, God's love is shown through loving service and personal witnessing by the project staff.

Is it possible to bring a sponsored child to the United States for a visit or schooling?
We're sorry, but for several reasons World Vision does not encourage visits of sponsored children to the United States for vacation or for study. An interpreter would need to accompany...
the child. The culture shock would be great (from a country with only the bare necessities to a land of comparative wealth and luxury). The language barrier would create uneasiness and would require the constant presence of the interpreter, and afterwards, real adjustment to the youngster's own lifestyle would be very difficult.

For these and other reasons, we feel that a visit to the United States would not be comfortable for you or for your youngster. However, if you wish, we would be pleased to have you visit your child. On request, the California office will send you a brochure containing general information on such visits.

**How long may I sponsor the same child?**

It varies. You may continue sponsoring the same child as long as he or she remains in the World Vision program. For any of a number of reasons, a child may cease to be eligible for World Vision sponsorship. The child may move away from the project. Older children may take full-time jobs or get married. Sometimes a sponsored student's parents will remove him or her from school to help at home. Occasionally World Vision must close down a project that is not being effectively managed.

Learning that it is no longer possible to sponsor a child who has been loved and prayed for is not easy for a sponsor. We do understand how the sponsor feels, and we too feel sad when a child must be released from the program. But we trust that sponsors understand that many of these situations are beyond our control and that we must do everything we can to make sure contributors' money is used wisely and for the purposes toward which it is given.

Usually there is at least a two-month lag from the time field workers learn of the change to the time we receive the information in the California office. This delay is due to the isolation of many projects, necessary paperwork, and delays in postal systems between various countries. When information is received, however, we contact sponsors as quickly as possible.

To give the sponsor of a child who becomes ineligible the opportunity to help another needy child, the partner relations department sends information on another child along with the news that the former child has left the program.

**How should I send in my contributions?**

All contributions must be processed through our California office. You should send your checks or money orders (no cash, please) at the monthly rate for each child. To help reduce processing costs, we encourage sponsors to make several-month contributions in lump-sum payments (quarterly, for example) when possible.

Please include the "return portion" of your receipt with your next contribution. This form has all the necessary information to process your gift quickly and accurately, allowing the most effective use of the sponsorship funds.

**My child's progress report said his health was "fair." Is he sick?**

We understand your concern. Our field staff members use the term "fair health" to describe children in normal health for their age and for the area in which they live.

**Is it still possible for me to sponsor an additional child?**

Yes. Several thousand children still await World Vision sponsorship. Write to Rosalyn Ross in our partner relations office at Box 0, Pasadena, CA 91109.
"I know I'm doing something important"

By John Hatton

By night 19-year-old Nadja Maria de Deus Santos is an exuberant young college student at Brazil's Sergipe Federal University in Aracaju. By day she manages a sponsorship project that assists nearly 80 slum children and their families.

There are easier ways for a college student to earn money than by teaching children's classes, advising poor parents, keeping records, buying food and other project supplies, and performing dozens of other time-consuming tasks. But Nadja has a special reason for working at Dom Pedro I project. Until recently, she was herself a World Vision-sponsored child living in a slum area of Recife, a large city north of Aracaju.

"Since my family was fortunate to receive so much help," she explains, "I also felt the desire to help others. When I was given the opportunity to work in a World Vision-sponsored project, I accepted without any hesitation."

Without the aid of the Dom Pedro I project's tutoring activities, many of the deprived children it assists could never go to school. An estimated 60 percent of Aracaju's primary-age children do not attend school. Most of these children are raised with minimal supervision by abandoned and single mothers who work long hours at menial jobs, trying to earn enough to support their families.

Nadja is intimately acquainted with the hardships such women and children endure. She never knew her father, and she knew all too well the difficulties her mother faced as a single parent raising children in her Recife slum.

When Nadja was three, the struggling family began receiving help from the Baptist Goodwill Center, an outreach of the department of social work of the Southern Baptist Seminary in Recife. Later, when Nadja was 11, the center became affiliated with World Vision's childcare program and Nadja was assigned a sponsor. "I felt very important," she remembers with a smile. "I used to read my sponsor's letters over and over and carry them with me to show to my friends."

Nadja's family was helped greatly by the programs her sponsor's support helped make possible. The poor rarely have access to good health care, but the center's clinic provided first aid, medical care and a hospital referral service. The center also organized several other programs for the slum's residents, including manual arts courses, recreational and summer camping programs for the children, Bible studies, English classes and family counseling.

The encouragement Nadja received from her sponsor and through the center's staff and program helped her excel in her studies at school. Competition for admission to Brazil's tuition-free federal universities is stiff, but when Nadja took the entrance exam (along with 10,800 other hopefuls) she received the third-highest score.

Nadja speaks from personal experience when she says, "As a project manager, I know I am doing something important." Thanks to her work at Dom Pedro I, scores of Aracaju's children are receiving the same kind of boost that the Recife project once provided to her.

"I used to read my sponsor's letters over and over," says Nadja. Now a project manager herself, Nadja helps little Gilza read letters from her sponsor.
IN KAMPUCHEA:

The long road back to wholeness

by Marvin Raley

My first look at the Khmer workers in the World Vision-built pediatric hospital in Phnom Penh came in September 1980. Frail, frightened, incredibly unskilled and lacking initiative, they seemed convinced that they could do nothing right. The years under Pol Pot's regime had forced them to respond to life in that manner. Yet each day their skills grew and they worked harder.

The first change I recognized was among the construction workers. Each day I saw them become a little more artisan. One Khmer man cried tears of joy the day he was able to again practice his trade.

It was a significant time in Kampuchea. At that moment I knew we were not simply rebuilding a hospital damaged during the Khmer Rouge. We were helping to rebuild a people.

The day the hospital opened, the workers grinned, laughed, cried and stood for hours just looking at it. The hospital symbolized the rebirth of a culture and the possibility of making something beautiful, even after the devastation the Khmer people had experienced.

It was a work of God's Spirit. God so interwove the lives of the World Vision team and Khmer workers that instead of our becoming rescuers or victims, we simply became friends. The people rewarded our often incomprehensible labors by coming to care for and love us. This was our reward. Their reward was the gentle voice of the Spirit whispering, "This is good. This you did for yourselves. You can do more." At that point they began the long journey back to wholeness.

The story of Kampuchea is one of passing from plenty to famine, from a
The environment within the hospital is different because God's Spirit dwells there.

land of gentle smiles to unfathomable horror. I believe that the Khmer people will now live out the age stripped of their past human dignity, burdened with the fears that accompany war, poverty, and the possible return of the Khmer Rouge. An enormous spiritual vacuum is mounting, and something or someone will step into that vacuum. We must be there to exemplify the love of Jesus Christ.

We of the World Vision team can understand the Khmer's feelings of hopelessness, but we know there is hope. We have seen it transfigure the staff of the hospital and transform what would have been only another dreary institution into a place of light. We have watched a work which could have been only a brief, incredibly costly relief effort become instead a successful development project.

This is not to say that our work is done. Much training and logistical support are needed, and the organic needs still exist. Two major scientific studies (UNICEF and FAO) say that at least 55 percent of Kampuchea's children are dangerously malnourished. Our data are more compelling. Infant mortality is astronomical. Anthrax, malaria and tuberculosis run rampant. There are too few doctors and decent medical facilities.

In addition, our calling goes beyond relief and rehabilitation or even development. It has something to do with being the hope to the hopeless, the help to the helpless, whether the famine is physical or spiritual. We are offering wholeness.

And it is happening in a stringently regulated country at war! Where else in the world has God given one agency such a remarkable privilege and responsibility of bringing help in the name of Christ?

We may never fully know why World Vision was chosen. God created the work, making the impossible happenstance. God gave us three years where even three days were a miracle. He sowed the seeds with our hapless hands, worked them with our bungling efforts, brought His rain to fall on them so now we are astonished to see the harvest coming when we never thought we would see the planting.

In the hospital and the community, the people know and respect us. They want us to stay. They say we "have a heart for them." We have had a dramatic impact on the international aid community. The very fact that we are who we are and are still there, is evidence that even the government authorities have been touched by the spirit in which the work is being done. And people all over the world are praying for us. What more could we ask?

Were we to stop now, a demoralized, incompletely trained staff would have to attempt to practice medicine without the most basic resources. Children would suffer needlessly. For those who know Christ, we're a source of encouragement during a time of persecution and danger. We arrest their strong temptation to fold or to fade into anonymity. Because we are Christians and are there to care, they stay, growing stronger every day.

Our calling has to do with being the hope to the hopeless.
So why must we carry on in Kampuchea? Because it is the work that God has given us and it is not finished.

Much spiritual hunger is evident. Some people take serious risks to ask about Christianity. Many seem to have a burning desire to know God. Foreign delegations, other agency people and Khmer officials have often commented that the atmosphere within the hospital is unique and does not exist elsewhere in Kampuchea. They want to know why. The staff members relate it to the team. They say that they have been deeply moved by our efforts and have tried to follow the example. The team understands full well that the environment within the hospital is different because God’s Spirit dwells there.

We have been privileged to be the instruments through which God has acted out and is still acting out day-to-day miracles. God did not choose us because we were such flawless vessels, but in some part because we dared to go to a dangerous place to serve and to be in position whenever He might want to use us.

Conventional wisdom has always held us to be fools, wasting time and money. However, to date, that hospital has handled more than 250,000 patient visits and has given hospitalization and critical care to nearly 6000. Conventional wisdom said that we would be asked to leave Kampuchea within three to four weeks, and we have been there for three years. It said that no such sharing relationship with the people would be possible in such a tightly restricted political environment. But there too, the exception has proven to be the rule.

As for the next five years, it is likely that the occupation of Kampuchea will go on and the poverty will worsen. Throughout the endless litany of suffering, the Khmer people will search more and more for a way to get through all the grief and misery. The dream we need to get hold of is simple: We must refuse to be saddened by appearances or dazzled by international politics. We must try to stay as close as possible to the people. Then in His time God will create the space for us to help carry out His Kingdom strategy for Kampuchea.

We must have the courage both to dream the dream and then to be in a position so that when the space is created, we can step in to serve more fully.

That space will be a function of God’s enabling grace. And since grace is most clearly related to miracle, we should not be surprised if our meager efforts find us years from now realizing that in that tiny, unpretentious children’s hospital, we stood upon holy ground. I believe that in struggling to be a source of hope to a crucified people, we will have set the spark that burst into flames, turning a dying branch into a burning bush in the heart of Kampuchea.

...
"Never in their lives have the Khmer hospital staff had to cope with the level of hysteria they’re now seeing in parents," reports Dr. Marv Raley, recently returned from the World Vision-assisted National Pediatric Hospital in Phnom Penh. The hysteria has come as anguished parents have helplessly watched their children die of hemorrhagic fever in the epidemic currently sweeping Kampuchea’s capital.

"It’s a terrifying disease," explains Raley. "For reasons no one understands, children who are developing an immunity to dengue fever, common in Southeast Asia, frequently develop this extremely dangerous complication. The virus causes the children’s blood to become discoagulated so that throughout their bodies they develop ‘bleeding points,’ many of which are hidden. We have seen some children bleeding from every orifice in their bodies, even to the point of shedding tears of blood. The youngsters die bleeding, burning up with fever and convulsing with stroke-like symptoms."

While in Phnom Penh, Raley visited one three-block neighborhood where in early July, during the peak of the epidemic, 80 children had died of the fever. "Most of the youngsters in the capital have malaria a few times a year, and may have six to eight bouts of fever a year. So fever per se would not cause a

Children actually cry tears of blood.
mother to bring her child to the pediatric hospital, especially when she knows that generally 900 people are waiting to be seen on any given day."

Although hemorrhagic fever begins much like any other fever, it quickly turns deadly. In the current outbreak, many of the children are suffering hidden internal bleeding. The heavy loss of blood sends them into shock; if they don't receive treatment, the result often is death.

"It's a very difficult disease to combat, because there's no vaccine and no definitive treatment," Dr. Raley notes. "But with good, supportive care, most of these children can make it. If we can get them through the first few days after the hemorrhagic rash appears, then they're usually out of danger."

Intravenous fluids are a vital part of this care. "We've gone through literally thousands of IV bottles, which cost $2 each," says Dr. Raley. "A child with complications (and, due to space limitations, the hospital admits only the most critically ill) typically needs from 12 to 15 bottles to get through the crisis. The hospital staff must also administer expensive drugs to treat shock."

So far, the hospital has used more than $32,000 worth of the intravenous fluids and special medicine (shipping cost, $13,500). "On the average, it takes over $100 worth of medicines to treat each child who has these serious complications," Dr. Raley adds. "This does not include the cost of transporting the medicines from Singapore. Without this care at the hospital, half to three-quarters of the children admitted would die, instead of the current relatively low rate. The treatment is very limited, but it works. During the five weeks I was there, we lost only ten children, and most of those came into the hospital too late: they were already in shock."

Hemorrhagic fever has proved itself to be no respecter of persons. "In the hospital," says Dr. Raley, "one may see the child of a very poor couple lying next to the child of a doctor or high-ranking government official. The disease does not discriminate."

The current crisis has filled the hospital to more than twice its capacity. "I ran a check a few days ago," says Dr. Raley, "and found our 70-bed hospital had 200 inpatients..."
plus their families, who generally stay at the child's side. In that tiny hospital, that means you can't walk through!

Even in "normal" times, the pediatric hospital—the only such institution in all Kampuchea—rarely has an empty bed. "I think most American hospitals would consider themselves in a lot of trouble," Dr. Raley observes, "if they were occupied at full capacity year-round. But this hospital is always full, and now for months there have been relentless demands upon its staff. Earlier in the year, there was a widespread outbreak of bacterial dysentery. Next a typhoid epidemic hit, followed by a wave of hemorrhagic fever and a cholera outbreak."

Despite their being exposed to so many contagious diseases, the expatriate staff has remained well. "By all scientific parameters, this should not be," marvels Dr. Raley. "None of our expatriate staff have resistance to dengue; they are as vulnerable as those children. But although several of them have been bitten many times by mosquitos, not a single one has come down with this fever—or typhoid or cholera. We've been extremely fortunate in that our expatriates' health problems have been limited almost exclusively to exhaustion."

Senior medical advisor at the hospital from September 1980 to March 1983, Dr. Raley himself returned to Kampuchea in late June to help fill in for Dr. Douglas Mendoza. Dr. Mendoza had collapsed from exhaustion after months of working 12-hour days.

Raley, Mendoza and others hope that the hemorrhagic fever epidemic will begin tapering off over the next several weeks. "Mosquitos transmit the disease," says Dr. Raley. "Due to the drought situation in Kampuchea this year, there have been many more of the shallow pools of water in which they breed—hence more mosquitos." But rains are expected soon; and several international agencies such as UNICEF, Church World Service and CIDSE (Coopération internationale pour le développement socio-économique) are flying in insecticides and equipment for spraying.

Meanwhile, the National Pediatric Hospital is doing all it can. "As much as I grieve over the situation," Dr. Raley concludes, "it's an incredible testimony to the determination of the staff."

"With good, supportive care, most of these children can make it."

"This hospital is always full."
Imagine yourself as one of the 4000 registrants from 133 nations during the first-ever global conference of itinerant evangelists (July 12-21). More than two-thirds of the attendees are from Earth's poorest countries. And although most have already been leading people to Christ for years in the remote villages or crowded cities where they travel about by foot or bus or bike or beast, nine of ten have never before attended any such conference. Some are barely literate, though others hold advanced academic degrees.

For some, the flight to Amsterdam is their first-ever air travel; for others, it's at least their hundredth time to fly. All alike seem overjoyed by the opportunity to sit for a while at the listening end of Bible preaching, and to fellowship with others who share their calling.

Ten-language simultaneous translation service brings the impact of the preaching to many who know little or no English. What will the sermons stress? You soon find out. Billy Graham, whose organization sponsors the historic event, opens with a message on the conference theme, "Do the work of an evangelist" (2 Timothy 4:5). Then, day by day, each speaker ties in another message on which the attendees are from Earth's 4000 registrants from 133 nations gathered in one place for mutual inspiration, counsel and encouragement. But here they are at Amsterdam's huge RAI convention center.

Never before had itinerant evangelists from Australia, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, India, Israel, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Madagascar, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Somalia, Sudan, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Tunisia, The United States, Upper Volta, Zambia and a hundred other nations gathered in one place for mutual inspiration, counsel and encouragement. But here they are at Amsterdam's huge RAI convention center.

session on the relationship between evangelism and social responsibility. Insights apply in places where the gospel is eagerly welcomed, where it is opposed and where it's virtually ignored.

You visit all 30 exhibit booths, talk with other evangelists you meet serendipitously in hallways and eating places. You are among those who fan out into the city to witness for Christ on Sunday afternoon. And you look again at the eight foundational thoughts on which the Amsterdam 83 conference is built:

1. God gives to certain people within His church the gift of the evangelist.
2. The evangelist is a herald of the gospel with a specific message to proclaim.
3. The evangelist's life needs to be a model of what is preached.
4. The Holy Spirit is the power source for all evangelism: the evangelist must be Spirit-filled.
5. Although there is one gospel to proclaim, there are many ways of proclaiming it. The preacher must know both the message and the people.
6. The evangelist needs to have a burning desire to reach the unreached.
7. The evangelist has a responsibility to build up and strengthen the local church, and the church has a responsibility to enable and support the evangelist.
8. The evangelist must be concerned about making disciples, preserving the fruit of the ministry, and multiplying and training other evangelists.

Going home is both difficult and easy. As you travel you think of certain individuals you've met. Like Edwin Otabil from Ghana, where a one-pound loaf of bread costs four times the minimum daily wage. Edwin often walks from house to house to tell people of his upcoming meetings, because he can afford no other advertising. "And when people come," he says, "all they talk about is food." Pressed, Edwin admits he often goes hungry himself. But of the conference (which he was able to attend because the Amsterdam 83 organization gave him a plane ticket) he says, "Being here and having the opportunity to meet other evangelists who struggle, even though differently, is a great encouragement."

"It's good," you sigh to yourself, "that Billy Graham and some of his colleagues are trying to think of ways to provide encouragement to the more than 7000 other itinerant evangelists worldwide who could not attend Amsterdam 83."

David Olson
Without a doubt, getting acquainted with our beautiful partners is the biggest blessing of my work as a World Vision regional representative. And meeting Mr. Raymond Huck was certainly no exception. While we sat in the lobby of the Wesley Willows Retirement Home in Rockford, Illinois, he told me how happy he was to be alive and to share with World Vision. He had entered the retirement home ten years earlier with an unusual form of cancer. But miraculously, he experienced total remission from the disease.

Mr. Huck explained, "I asked God to save me from the cancer, and I was so thankful when it left that I committed myself to a lifestyle of giving to others, through Christ's example. I really felt that I had been reborn. I'm 82 now and I'm bucking to make it to 100!"

He went on to explain some of the ways he is able to share with World Vision. "I refinish old chairs and furniture in the workshop here, and I explain to customers that any money I receive goes to World Vision." And pointing to his simple shirt and trousers, he said, "I'm able to get them at thrift shops and garage sales for 50 cents or a dollar. I don't need a big wardrobe; that leaves me even more money to share with others around the world."

Because of his special diet, Mr. Huck buys his own food and eats in his room, rather than using the cafeteria facilities. That saves him another $200 a month, which he also contributes to World Vision.

In addition, Mr. Huck donates his time repairing broken furniture and appliances at a retarded children's home about three days a week.

Not surprisingly, Mr. Huck claims as his life verse Matthew 25:40: "As you have done it unto the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto me."

"Giving away nearly everything brings me real contentment and allows me to have no fears," he says.

After my meeting with Mr. Huck, the phrase "cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7) began to take on new meaning. Here's a man whose greatest blessing is to share what little he has with those who have even less. He gives with a humbleness of spirit. I saw much of the spirit and selflessness of Christ in this man.

When I told Mr. Huck that I wanted to tell his story to WORLD VISION magazine readers, he was hesitant at first. Then he responded, "Well, if I can be an encouragement to others, then it would be worth doing."

Cory Trenda is a World Vision regional representative who lives in Hanover Park, Illinois.

Raymond Huck: "Giving away nearly everything brings contentment."

In the workshop of a retirement home, Huck refinishes furniture to earn money that he gives to help the needy.
Spiritual Counterfeits Project (SCP) is an evangelical clearinghouse on cults and new religions. SCP also provides a telephone information service referring callers to those in their area who can provide additional information or assistance. Call (415) 540-5767 or write SCP, P.O. Box 4308, Berkeley, CA 94704.

Zulu, Shona, Tsonga, Ovambo, Xhosa and Sotho tribes were represented when leaders from six of South Africa's 17 rival tribes worked together in an Evangelism Explosion clinic in September in Soweto, the largest black township on the continent of Africa. In the racially integrated but primarily black event, 40 pastors prepared to equip their people for lifestyle evangelism.

Do you have Jewish friends interested in learning more about Jesus? Issues, a magazine published by Jews for Jesus, is available free of charge to any Jewish person who desires to investigate the reality of Christ's deity. Designed to deal with specific questions such as, "Is Jesus the promised Messiah?", it is available from Jews for Jesus, 60 Haight St., San Francisco, CA 94102.

RADAS, a Christian radio program broadcast into the Soviet Union, is now being produced in an English version designed to reach the Western world. The program specifically addresses scientists and others who believe that God is either dead or irrelevant. RADAS challenges these views with data supporting the reality of God and the truth of the gospel message. Believing scientists are interviewed to illustrate that the Christian faith is compatible with the sciences.

**To help potential missionary candidates**, ACMC (Association of Church Missions Committees) is holding an East Coast Conference on Missionary Preparation (COMP). Scheduled for February 10-12, 1984, in Dresher, Pennsylvania, it is designed to provide potential missionaries with career guidance, and local church leaders with a basis for mission career counseling. For more information contact P.O. Box ACMC, Wheaton, IL 60187.

**Interested in working in China?** Friends of the Tentmakers offers job referrals to Christians seeking employment in China. The service provides job information, channels candidates to openings, and provides spiritual counseling for those preparing to go to China. More details can be obtained from Friends of the Tentmakers, 2606 Dwight Way, Berkeley, CA 94704.

**Inmates** who become Christians in prison need believing friends on the outside who can offer fellowship and encouragement. Through Prison Fellowship's volunteer programs, participants can write to or visit prisoners, attend Bible studies in prison, help find jobs for former inmates, or take part in a host of other tasks. For information write Prison Fellowship, P.O. Box 40562, Washington, DC 20016.

**"Waiting on the Outside,"** a play performed for maximum security inmates at Indiana State Reformatory by the Bridgework Theater, is part of a new project sponsored by the Mennonite Central Committee. Based on the true story of a woman whose husband was imprisoned, the drama portrays the burdens that prisons and prisoners place on women. It serves to help prisoners and their families work through conflicts in their relationships. For more information contact Bridgework Theater, 113½ E. Lincoln, Goshen, IN 46526.

**Hunger seminars** for church people will be conducted by Bread for the World in Lansing, MI, October 15; Denver, CO, October 28-30; Houston, TX, November 4-5. For details write Kathleen O'Pella, Bread for the World Education Fund, 6411 Chillum Place NW, Washington, DC 20012.

**Gateway Films**, in celebration of the 600th anniversary of the translation of the Bible into English under John Wycliffe, is producing a dramatic film reenacting the life of the famous translator. The film is being shot in England and, after four years in the making, is expected to be released in November. It is part of a collection of church history films on subjects such as Martin Luther and John Wesley. Contact Mark Tuttle, Gateway Films, Box 540, Worcester, PA 19490.

**Teen Challenge**, a ministry for young drug addicts, has begun a rehabilitation program for families torn apart by drug and alcohol abuse. The six-to-twelve-month program, launched last May, deals with marriage and family living. Bible study, self-discipline and accepting responsibility. For more information contact Teen Challenge, 44 Clinton Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11238.
Rioting in Sri Lanka this summer by the majority Sinhalese against the minority Tamils left hundreds dead and wounded, and brought widespread destruction to cities and rural areas. It is believed to have been the worst rioting the nation has seen since it gained independence in 1948.

Tension between the two groups increased in the late nineteenth century when the British, unable to find enough Sinhalese laborers for their tea and rubber estates on the island, began to import Tamil-speaking workers from India. But not all of the Hindu Tamils are poor agricultural workers. Many today are among Sri Lanka's key doctors, lawyers and merchants. This prosperity has earned them animosity from the majority Buddhist Sinhalese and from another minority group, the Muslim Sinhalese.

The spark that ignited the summer rioting occurred in July when 13 army soldiers were killed by a guerilla attack allegedly carried out by the "Tamil Tigers," a well-trained force feared by both the police and the army.

The rioting and burning lasted five days before the army brought it under control. And although order has returned, the Tamil people continue to live in fear for their lives.

An estimated 18,000 Tamil-owned homes were destroyed by fire. At one point some 64,000 Tamils had gathered in 17 camps in Colombo alone. This does not take into account the thousands of Tamils who fled to the jungle or found refuge with friends and relatives. Many Sinhalese opened their homes to Tamil friends, saving them from harm or even death.

More than 100 factories nationwide were destroyed. At least 100,000 people have been affected by the destruction of factories in Colombo alone. The ruined factories were owned by Tamils, but ironically most of the newly-unemployed are young lower-class Sinhalese factory workers. It will be months before they will be able to return to work.

A number of the tea estates were hit, and their "line" houses for Tamil laborers gutted. "Line" houses are rows of wooden rooms, built side-by-side and back-to-back (about ten feet square in size) where entire families live.

These laborers and their families fled to the nearby jungles, as did many of the other rural Tamils, where they hid for a day or two. Reports told of three babies born in the jungle without medical help. All three survived and spent their first few days sleeping on the cement floor of a displaced persons center set up in a Colombo university. They have since been provided with beds and mattresses. Other reports indicate an average birth rate of four babies per day per camp.

Paul Jones, World Vision's associate director for relief and rehabilitation in the Asia region, along with several World Vision of Sri Lanka colleagues, met with other Christians and Christian organizations to determine what World Vision could do to help. Need for even the most basic things is great.
The government stated that more than 300 people died throughout the nation. However, the toll is likely to be even higher. Here, displaced Tamil families wait to receive government-provided relief goods at a temporary camp on a tea estate in Colombo.

The burnings were very selective and accurate, clearly the product of highly organized planning. Some blocks of shops were completely untouched. In other blocks, many of the structures were gutted, often with undamaged Sinhalese-owned shops on either side of those burned.

Everyone in the camps had fled with only the clothes on their backs. Everything else was lost. They had no food, no cooking utensils, no clothing, no medicine.

Many Tamil Christians are having remarkable opportunities to counsel and encourage other Christians and non-Christians in the camps. The need for such counseling is urgent because Tamils—Christian and non-Christian alike—believe their lives are still in danger. They are afraid to leave the army-protected camps.

They fear for the future. They now have no homes, no businesses, and in many cases, no jobs to go back to. They are stuck in the camps with nothing to do and nowhere to go.

Ajith Fernando, Sri Lanka director for Youth for Christ, sees the flight of the Christian Tamils to other parts of the nation as being parallel to the dispersion of early Christians from Jerusalem. He prays that the displaced Tamil Christians will see themselves as “missionaries, not refugees.” Many of the Christians are fleeing to areas where YFC has hoped to start work in five or six years. It may now be possible to begin work in these communities almost immediately.

“Restoring peace and harmony between the Sinhala majority and the Tamil minority should be the desire and the duty of every right-thinking citizen, religious group and organization,” says Dustain Fernando, acting director of World Vision of Sri Lanka. “Many Sinhala people have gone out of their way to befriend, feed and shelter their thousands of Tamil compatriots who were attacked. Even from this tragedy, good has emerged. Many are finding new feelings of compassion and love, regardless of race and religion. This must be promoted in the days to come. And that is where we Christians in particular must play a major role.”
Dr. Geoffrey Atkinson and his assistant Sanum Chaiwong review progress made on their translation work.

Translating health care

Where There Is No Doctor, the village health care handbook by David Werner, is being translated into the Thai language. The book covers a wide range of topics, including nutrition, first aid, sanitation, dental care, family planning, and the recognition and treatment of common illnesses. This new version will be used throughout Thailand for training paramedical workers.

Still walking

Bob Wieland, the legless veteran who fights world hunger, is continuing his "walk" across America. Bob, who is making the estimated six-million-step journey on his hands, completed his first million steps July 21. He has had to face difficult weather, rugged terrain and vandals so far on his quest, but the city of Wilcox, Arizona, provided a friendly welcome for him. Not only did local restaurant owners feed him free of charge, but townspeople also offered him free lodging and gas for accompanying vehicles. He will complete his journey in Washington, DC. Five hunger relief and development organizations are designated to receive a portion of the sponsorship donations Bob raises through his walk.

A hope renewed

For the people living in the remote Doh Dohn community of Korea, World Vision means renewed hope through the fostering of self-reliance. Through medical assistance as well as training in agriculture, nutrition, sanitation and health care, their physical environment is improving. The children are being helped physically through immunizations and dental care, and academically through a library stocked with books. The establishment of a credit union is benefiting the entire community, and Christian nurture through Bible study and evangelism is strengthening their spiritual lives.

Alternative Christmas giving

More World Vision supporters than ever before helped needy children overseas last year by giving some of their American friends "in your name" contribution cards instead of other gifts. This year, even more supporters are likely to do so. (For information on the alternative Christmas gift plan, see the back cover of this magazine.)

Helping hospitals help others

In Madagascar, the Malagasy Lutheran Church runs four hospitals and five primary health care projects. Due to last year's declining economy and rising administration costs, the hospitals gradually became unable to meet the needs of the 2500 people who came for help each year. But through the response of World Vision donors, the hospitals are once again meeting the medical needs of their communities. Administrative support, training for village health workers, medical supplies, and nutrition and hygiene training for villagers have helped make this possible.

Going hungry for the hungry

Thirteen Christian youth groups from Castro Valley, California, raised $9,478.90 through World Vision's 30-hour "Let it Growl" weekend fast. Calling themselves
the "This is it! Network of Youth Ministries," the 250 young people spent their famine time in worship, singing, recreation, service projects, prayer, discussion and fellowship. The money raised was used to meet the needs of Egyptian children living near Cairo, in Zarayeb.

**Passing with flying colors**

Peter Muiruri was the youngest in a family of seven children growing up in Kenya, East Africa. He attended school for seven years, but failed his final exams and was unable to continue his education. Then he learned about the industrial training center sponsored by World Vision in the nearby town of Thika. After completing masonry training there, he took and passed the government trade test. Today he is a masonry instructor at the Thika Industrial Training Center. And as a result of the spiritual encouragement he received at the center, Peter has developed a deeper faith and relationship with Christ.

**New Engstrom book**

*Your Gift of Administration—How to Discover and Use It* is the title of the most recent book by World Vision President Ted W. Engstrom. Just off the press (Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville/Camden/New York), the 172-page hardcover delivers biblical, experience-tested counsel under three sectional headings: (1) Administration as a personal gift, (2) Administration as an office or function, (3) Growing in administrative effectiveness. Readers of this book will gain some of the insights that Dr. Engstrom and Ed Dayton pack into their Managing Your Time seminars, plus other pointers particularly useful to anyone carrying Christian leadership responsibility either in a local church or in a larger organization. It is available in Christian bookstores at $9.95.

**Record-breaking “famine”**

Some 145,000 New Zealanders took part in the World Vision "40-hour Famine" which ran from 8 p.m., March 25 until noon on March 27. Many civic dignitaries took part, including His Excellency the Governor General and Lady Beattie. The more than $1,400,000 raised has been designated for relief and development work, mostly in Ethiopia. Some $24,000 will go toward rehabilitation in Fiji, where Cyclone Oscar caused widespread damage.

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**Please pray for . . .**

- **Kampuchean children** suffering with hemorrhagic fever.
- **Medical workers** laboring day and night to treat the patients in the overcrowded National Pediatric Hospital.
- **Famine victims** in Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Mindanao, Bolivia, Peru and other countries affected by severe drought.
- **Relief/rehabilitation** workers distributing food in famine-plagued areas despite almost insurmountable difficulties.
- **All make-Christ-known efforts** wherever World Vision works.
- **The American supporters** giving sacrificially of their means to make World Vision’s ministries possible.
- **Pastors’ conferences** providing strong encouragement to those who lead churches in developing countries.
- **Churches’ anti-hunger work** on World Food Day (October 16).
A silent vigil in downtown Buenos Aires is held every Thursday by Madres de la Plaza de Mayo, an organization formed by mothers of young people who disappeared in the middle and late 1970s when the military government began to intensify control over the Argentine people. Human rights groups estimate the number of victims at 30,000, although only 7291 cases have been fully documented. While some of the disappeared have been found dead, others may still be alive in secret camps or prisons.

Japan's government polls indicate that only 30 percent of the population today claims to have any personal religious beliefs. Christianity now has relatively fewer Japanese adherents than it had in the decades after Francis Xavier, a 16th-century Jesuit and pioneer Christian missionary. Of a total population of 119 million, there are currently only about 950,000 Christian believers, split almost evenly between Protestants and Roman Catholics.

Of the half million Guatemalan peasants uprooted during the last three years, about 150,000 have sought refuge in Mexico. Three-fourths of the refugees are children. All under age five show some signs of nutritional deficiency. Help from the Mexican government and the United Nations has increased, but only for those concentrated in one of the 36 camps situated along the border.

The Berlin Wall was penetrated by 82 East Germans fleeing to the West during the first half of this year, according to a West German human rights group. Another 1027 escaped via third countries such as Yugoslavia. Last year the number of escapes totalled 2565.

Compilation of secret dossiers on pupils is part of a secondary school teacher's job in East Java, Indonesia. The regional office of education requires that teachers complete questionnaires for each student, answering questions about the political activities of the student and parents. Such dossiers may affect a pupil's later chances of employment, particularly with the civil service.

The chances of nuclear attack victims receiving any type of medical attention are "next to nil," according to the World Health Assembly. In the event of a full-scale war, about 1.15 billion would die, with another 1.1 billion injured. Medical resources would be overwhelmed and rescue work only makeshift. The death rate of health workers would be greater than that of the general population because of their exposure to radiation and other hazards.

National controversy in South Africa erupted recently when an abandoned two-week-old infant was taken to a hospital in Pretoria. By law, every South African citizen must be assigned to one of four racial categories—white, black, colored (mixed race) or Asian—on the basis of appearance, habits, education and speech in general. However, while the infant's complexion was dark, the other standard criteria could not be applied. As police searched for the parents, outrage mounted over the classification policy, sparking more debate over the apartheid issue in South Africa.

The Soviet Union's population reached 272.5 million as of July 1, according to a report issued recently by the government's central statistical board. The figure, which shows an increase of 2.5 million over last year, is well above the U.S. population of approximately 227 million.

Many Czechoslovakian youths, depressed by their government's repressive rule, have turned either to religion or to Western rock music. Neither alternative is acceptable to authorities, who are cracking down on popular priests and criticizing the music. The Communist party offers sports and recreation clubs, but a provincial party secretary reported that young people's interest in joining has dropped by half.

The cost of rearing a child in a developed country such as the U.S. averages $50,000 for food, clothing and education until age 18. In underdeveloped countries, however, a child is seen as a source of net income. Results of a survey by a population institute in Hawaii indicate that 80 percent of women in Peru, for example, said they had children chiefly for the economic and practical help they gave. In comparison, only five percent of U.S. women gave that reason. They cited companionship and happiness as their primary reason.

Vietnam's Orderly Departure Program now allows about 1500 people to leave the country each month. Since 1979, some 27,000 have left. Another 43,000 have applied for exit visas and 50,000 have permission to leave but are waiting for countries to accept them. The U.S. takes between 50 and 60 percent of the Vietnamese released under this program. Another program for Amerasian children (those fathered in Vietnam by military personnel), seeks to arrange one flight per month to America with 200 children and their escorts.

The Afghans, the world's single largest refugee population now being served, total nearly three million. Their massive influx into Pakistan is due to Soviet intervention in Afghanistan since December 1979. The ratio of refugees to Pakistani inhabitants is 1 to 28, and the annual cost of assisting them is $500 million, most of it from the Pakistani government.
"Overhead" is a respectable word

"How much" of my contribution actually goes to the purpose for which the charitable organization exists, and what part is used to pay the cost of soliciting and managing my gift dollar?" In other words, what is the percentage of overhead?

A fair question which always deserves—and demands—a clear and accurate answer. At World Vision, management and fund-raising costs together currently are 23.5 percent.

A less-sophisticated follow-up question is sometimes voiced: "Why does any of my contribution have to go for overhead? Why can't my favorite charity operate without overhead—the way my church does?"

The answer is that no church functions without overhead. Overhead is the cost of "doing business." The expense of maintaining the property, salaries for the staff—whatever it takes to provide a place and to cause something to happen when churchgoers get to that place—is overhead. The non-overhead part of the church budget is called benevolence—what is spent to take the whole gospel message beyond the church pew, both overseas and at home.

Churches simply don't operate without overhead, nor does any organization, charitable or otherwise. Somehow, bills have to be paid. But many churches and many charitable organizations ought to be upgrading the percentage of their funds that go beyond overhead to help others.

Perhaps this is something for individual Christians to think about, too. The biblical standard of giving sets ten percent for God. This allows for a personal "overhead" of 90 percent, which some people think is impossibly low. For many, the personal overhead figure is more like 95 or 98 percent!

The most important overhead-related variable within any charitable organization—and, incidentally, within any secular corporation—is management. Some Christian organizations thrive and grow and maintain a low overhead cost because they are blessed with good leadership and good management. Some organizations enjoy a dynamic leadership but have mediocre management; they, too, thrive and grow, but their overhead costs are high. Still other Christian organizations have poor management; the commitment of their managers to our Lord Jesus Christ may be sincere, but their knowledge of business management leaves much to be desired.

Unfortunately, a few organizations—very few, I think—are not run efficiently and with integrity. The resulting adverse publicity throws a cloud of suspicion on all. Five years ago, World Vision became a founding member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability, to which approximately 150 organizations now belong. Member organizations are required to meet high standards.

Overhead is a fact of life—personal, business, church, charitable. When we go about our Father's business, we need more than ever to be good business leaders.

Ted W. Engstrom
President

ECFA's seven standards of responsible stewardship

1 Every member organization shall subscribe to a written statement of faith clearly affirming its commitment to the evangelical Christian faith.

2 Every member organization shall be governed by a responsible board, the majority of whose members shall not be employees/staff and/or related by blood or marriage to such, which shall meet at least semi-annually to establish policy and review its accomplishment.

3 Every member organization shall obtain an annual audit performed by an independent public accounting firm in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards (GAAS) with financial statements prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP).

4 Every member organization shall have a functioning audit review committee appointed by the board, a majority of whom shall not be employees/staff and/or related by blood or marriage, for the purpose of reviewing the annual audit and reporting its findings to the board.

5 Every member organization shall provide a copy of its current audited financial statements upon written request.

6 Every member organization should conduct its activities with the highest standards of integrity and avoid conflicts of interest.

7 Every member organization shall ensure that its fundraising appeals clearly identify the purposes and programs to which the donations will be applied and shall ensure that these donations are used for the purpose for which they were raised.

Ted W. Engstrom
President
This Christmas, send the gift that gives twice.

With World Vision's Christmas Card Gift Plan, your gift can help save a life and show a friend how much you care.

How many times have you faced the problem of finding the "right" Christmas gift for a special friend or relative? A gift that is both unique and meaningful?

World Vision's Christmas Card Gift Plan can help solve this problem.

With a donation of $15 you can:

First, help save the lives of suffering children in places like Ethiopia, Cambodia (Kampuchea) and Bangladesh. Your contribution will help stop starvation and disease and provide new hope for a child where drought and famine are threatening the lives of thousands of children.

Second, send a special Christmas card to a friend or relative that shows how much you care for them in a unique way.

For each $15 contribution, you will receive a 5 x 7 color Christmas card and envelope to sign and mail to a friend or relative. The inside of the card reads:

This Christmas, to celebrate the gift of God's Son, and to show how special you are, a gift in your honor has been made to World Vision to help needy children in places like Ethiopia, Cambodia and Bangladesh.

May the joy of giving be yours this Christmas and throughout the year to come.

To give the gift that gives twice this Christmas, fill out the coupon below and mail it today with your check or money order to:

Christmas Cards
World Vision
Box O, Pasadena, CA 91109

Please send me ________ cards and envelopes. Enclosed is my gift of $__________ ($15 for each card/envelope ordered). SA3H04/1000

Please print

Name ___________________________
Address _________________________
City ____________________________
State ___________ Zip ____________

W.V. Acct. No. (if known) ________

May the joy of giving be yours this Christmas and throughout the year to come.