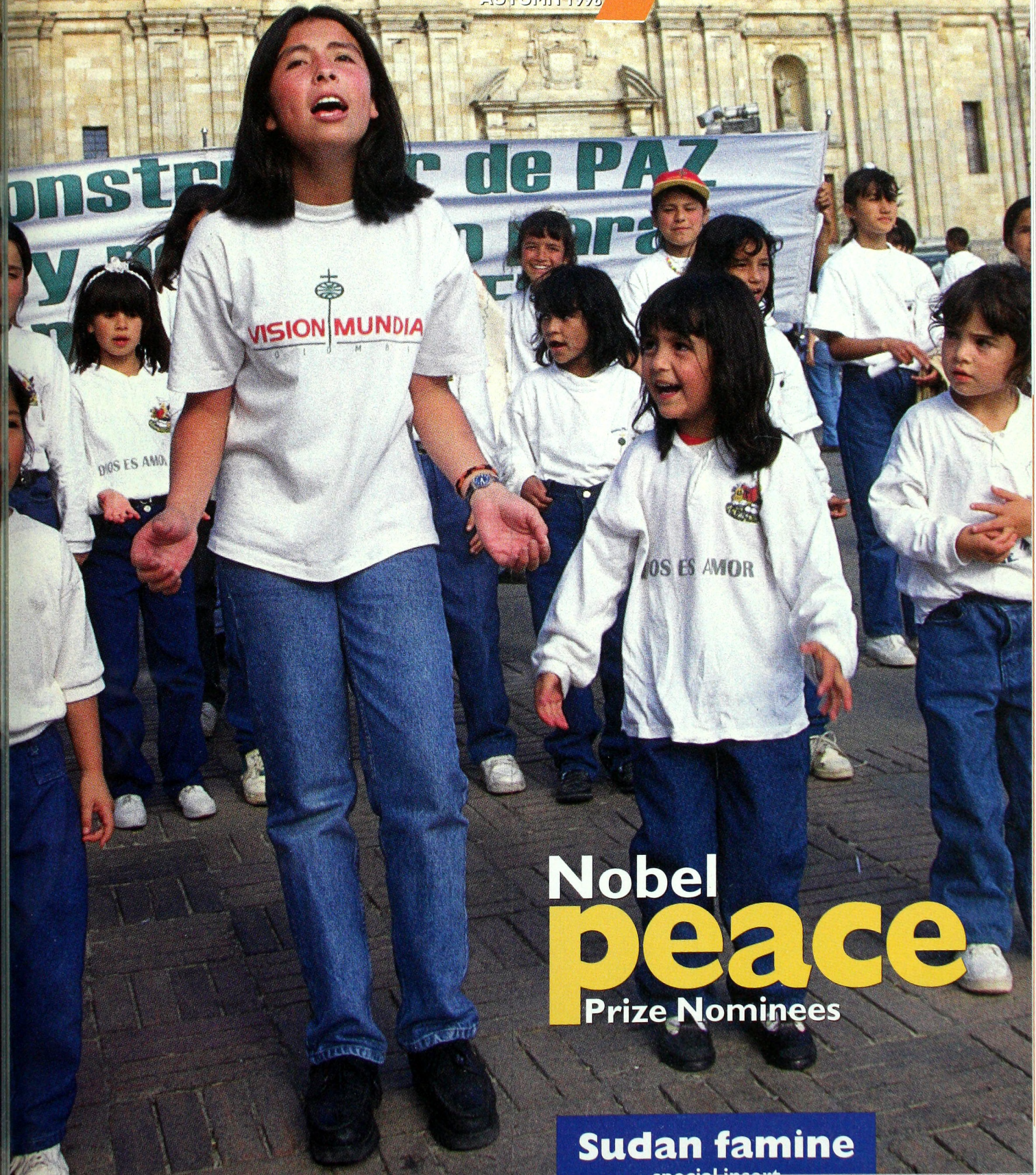


World Vision

Today

AUTUMN 1998



Nobel
peace
Prize Nominees

Sudan famine

special insert



Lingering grief: Mayerly Sanchez remembers her neighbor Milton Piragauta, stabbed to death at age 16 in a gang fight

by Pablo Carrillo and Karen Homer
photography and reports from Jon Warren

Peacemaking in Colombia: **a Nobel cause**

**World Vision sponsored child, Mayerly Sanchez,
co-leads a national children's peace movement
nominated for the 1998 Nobel Prize.**

In the cool calm of evening's shadow, Mayerly Sanchez, 14, tenderly traces the lettering on the cement crypt: Milton Piragauta Born Oct. 18, 1980. Buried Jan. 28, 1996.

"He was like my brother," whispers Mayerly, her usually radiant face sober with renewed grief. "Just the day before he died, we had been playing soccer in the street."

Milton, Mayerly's next door neighbor, was stabbed during a gang fight a few blocks from his home in Soacha, one of Bogotá's more violent suburbs. Such deaths are so common in Colombia that most go unreported. The country's 34-year civil war has killed tens of thousands and, since

1985, displaced more than 1 million people. The homicide rate in this nation of 36 million is 15 times greater than that of the United States. More than 30,000 people die violently here every year.

At Milton's funeral, Mayerly vowed to work for peace in her lacerated land.

She kept her promise. Two years later, this World Vision sponsored teen co-leads a national peace movement of 2.7 million child activists recently nominated for the 1998 Nobel Peace Prize. Their work has inspired more than 10 million Colombians to vote "yes" to a Citizen's Mandate for Peace, Life, and Freedom.

"We define peace in four words: love, acceptance, forgiveness, and work," explains



Mayerly Sanchez

Mayerly, one of 20,000 World Vision sponsored children involved in the movement. And work she does. Her activities range from discussing legislation with Colombian congressmen to leading university conferences. Between organizing rallies, lobbying officials, and running a kids' club, Mayerly juggles

grade 9 studies, an after-school job, and mother-daughter basketball games.

"I thank God for our participation in the peace process. This is really a great privilege," says Mayerly, who attends a local Nazarene church. "If I hadn't accepted God [six years ago] I wouldn't be doing what I am doing. I would probably have bad friends."

In 1996 Mayerly, and her two friends, Monica Andrea Godoy, 15, and Brenda Carolina Monroy, 10—also sponsored children—were

elected by their peers as spokespeople for the Children's Mandate for Peace, Life, and Freedom, a UNICEF initiative. Their task was to mobilize children and adults to think and act for peace. In 1996 Nobel Peace Prize laureate José Ramos-Horta of East Timor met Mayerly and the other children during a visit to Colombia. Impressed by their efforts, he nominated the movement for this year's prize. Winners will be announced in mid-

October. Should the Colombian children be selected, Mayerly and two other representatives will travel to Oslo, Norway to accept the award.

Sharing the peace: Mayerly enjoys a moment with one of the 70 children in her Saturday morning club in San Mateo. "We want to get them far away from the dangers on the streets."



Warm welcome: As a volunteer with World Vision's community project in San Mateo, Mayerly visits local families—people known for their hospitality and generosity.



Mayerly volunteers with Centro Nazareno San Mateo, a World Vision project which fosters peace by helping families in this poor barrio develop and grow together.

"We try to create an awareness of the steps needed to arrive at peace, such as learning how to resolve conflicts at the family level," says World Vision social worker Adriana Salazar. She reports that since World Vision began working in the neighborhood in 1989, gang warfare has significantly decreased because of increased community solidarity.

But much work remains. Colombians, known for their generosity and kindness, are caught in the crossfire between gang warfare, drug traffickers, right-wing military groups, and leftist guerrillas. Drug wars grab international headlines but cartel violence accounts for only 10 percent of the homicides. About 85 percent of the murders are committed by unknown assassins for indiscernible reasons.*

Mayerly and her neighbors are all too familiar with

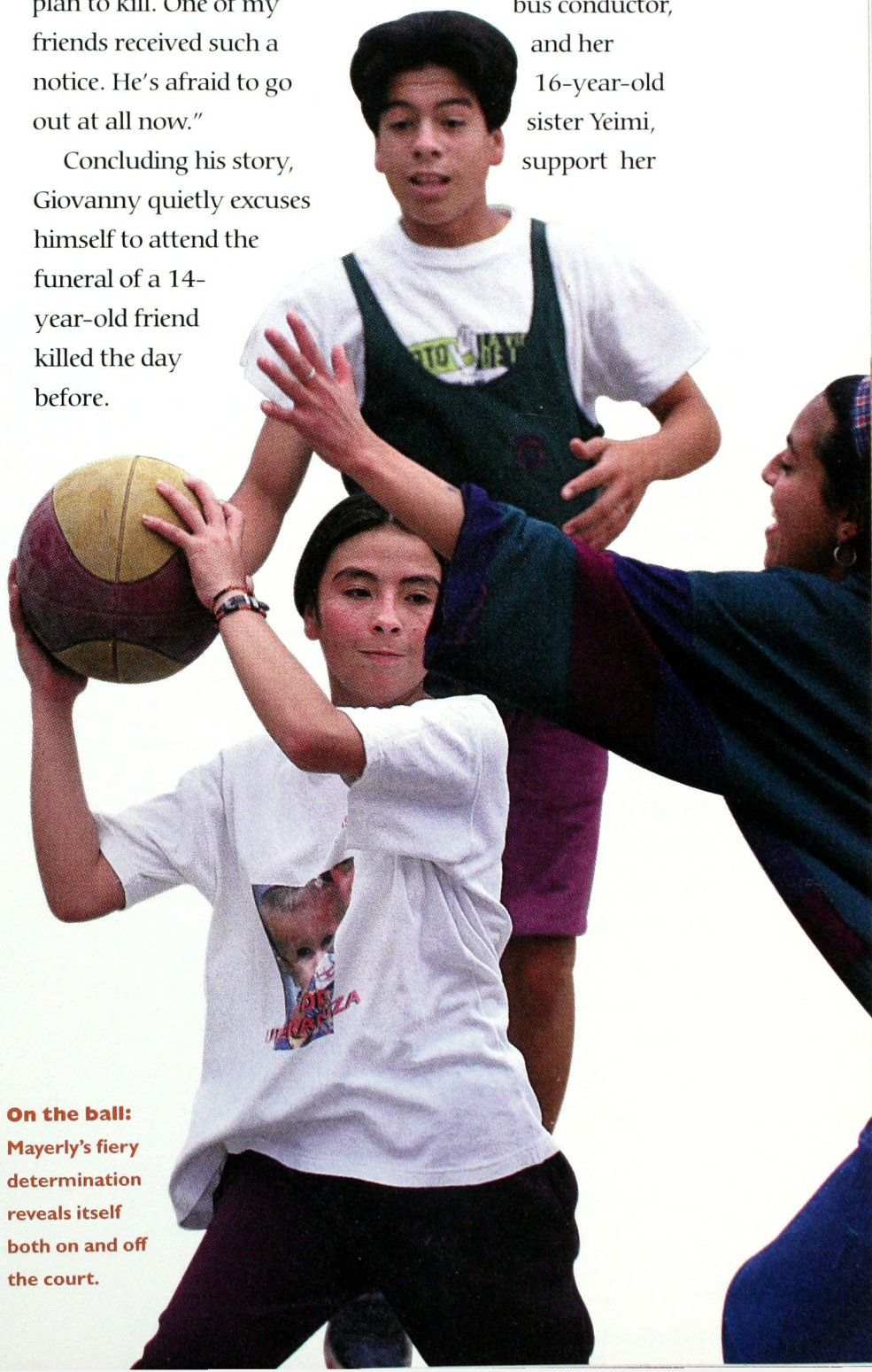
these hooded men known only as *fuerzas oscuras*, or dark forces.

"Almost every night men wearing masks come to the community," says Giovanni, a 17-year-old barrio resident. "They often come to the door with an official death certificate with a boy's name on it and deliver it to the one they plan to kill. One of my friends received such a notice. He's afraid to go out at all now."

Concluding his story, Giovanni quietly excuses himself to attend the funeral of a 14-year-old friend killed the day before.

Peacemaking in Colombia can be deadly business. But Mayerly, who talks of one day studying child psychology or journalism, seems unconcerned about her own safety. "I have worked for this so much. I will not simply stop," she insists.

Mayerly's mother, Hilda, her father, José Manuel, a bus conductor, and her 16-year-old sister Yeimi, support her



On the ball: Mayerly's fiery determination reveals itself both on and off the court.



Duck hunting: Luis, Mayerly's 14-year-old neighbor, insists that's why he made this pistol. He admits it's also handy for self-defense. Gang violence plagues Colombia where the homicide rate is 15 times greater than that of the United States.

fiery determination. "I feel proud of Mayerly," boasts Hilda, preparing a pot of *ajiaco*, chicken and potato soup, in the kitchen of their three-room, mud-brick home. "She has even gone to other countries speaking about peace."

Despite all the international attention, Mayerly maintains her teenage charm. "Waking up early is what is difficult about being famous," giggles Mayerly, in her bedroom scrambling to finish a crossword puzzle for English class. "I like to sleep a lot."

But there's no time for siestas on this hot Friday afternoon in downtown Bogotá. "No to war, yes to peace. We the children are going to achieve it!" shouts Mayerly, marching with 200 banner-toting pupils across the cobblestones of Simon Bolivar Plaza. Taxis honk, and passersby wave handkerchiefs, cheering the children on.

"We heard a lot about peace in the media. But

Mayerly taught us that peace needs to be practiced," commented marcher Nataly Varela, 15. "If we see two of our friends fighting, we need to intervene and try to motivate them to get along."

Several hours later, tired but content, Mayerly and the children head for the school buses parked by a blackened justice building, fire-bombed several years ago. Suddenly, Mayerly scoops up a pigeon from the



Eyes on the real prize: "We aren't looking for Nobel prizes," says Edgar Florez, national director of World Vision Colombia. "Our goal is to influence the next generation here to value children, to view them as human beings. Transformation starts with children."

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 and flapping into the air.
 freedom. Freedom from
 ar. Freedom to survive
 childhood. Milton died not
 owing such peace.
 Mayerly is determined that
 s will change. "Adults
 ve to forgive like children
 d. If we have peace in our
 arts, we can provide it
 others."

*From *Christianity Today*,
 Colombia's Bleeding Church"
 David L. Miller,
 ay 18, 1998.



In demand: Mayerly conducts a radio interview about the peace movement. "I continually ask God for wisdom, that he will put his words in my mouth, that everything I say may be in his purpose."



World Vision in Colombia

Some 42,300 Colombian children are supported by World Vision sponsors worldwide, including 19,800 American sponsors.

Through sponsorship, children receive tuition fees, school supplies, and basic health care. In World Vision-organized groups, kids discuss concerns such as how to avoid drugs and gangs. They also have the opportunity to join Christian activities, such as vacation camps.

Neighborhood mothers are trained in literacy, dressmaking, and small business development so they can help support their families.

Local leaders—including men, women, and children—learn how to mobilize people to work toward building a peaceful, prosperous community.

teenage wasteland

Enslaved by rebel soldiers in Sierra Leone for five years, Tenema Mansarray struggles with the memories that haunt her soul.

Tenema Mansarray, 16, presents a casual, indifferent front to the world. But her eyes and body language betray the horrors of her past.

Sitting, standing or walking, she cringes, readying herself for an invisible blow. Her eyes are unshakably sad; her face unnervingly calm—her capacity to laugh, frown, and even cry somehow stolen. She remains stoic as she recounts the incomprehensible brutality of her years as a child soldier, including seeing her sister slaughtered.

Tenema's saga is shared by thousands of Sierra Leonean children enslaved by fighting forces during the country's seven-year civil war that has killed 10,000 people and produced more than 1 million refugees.

According to UNICEF,

at least 4,500 children were conscripted during the conflict between the Sierra Leonean government and rebels of the Revolutionary United Front.

In 1991, Tenema, then 10, and her sister, Safi, 9, were attending boarding school away from their parents' home in Pujehun, south Sierra Leone. Warned of approaching RUF rebels, Tenema and Safi fled into the bush with some classmates. The girls were captured three days later.

"They said they were taking us to Bomi in Liberia," Tenema recalls, speaking Creole English, the lingua franca of this small West African

country. Tenema and her friends were forced to serve as porters,

Agony of war: Tenema Mansarray, 16, was forced to bury the body of her decapitated sister, murdered by rebels who held the girls captive for years.



carrying the rebels' booty after their looting sprees in nearby villages.

Eventually, the girls returned to Sierra Leone with the rebels. "Mom," a woman said to be the rebel leader's mistress, took Tenema as her chambermaid. "When she used the toilet, I emptied her chamber pot, and I cleaned her shoes. She was like a queen and had to have attendants."

Tenema served Mom for four years, traveling with the rebels as they mutilated and terrorized villagers across Sierra Leone. "Sometimes we would cook for them, and they would eat in front of us while we had nothing," Tenema explains. "They would make us stand for long periods with our faces to the sun. They said this was part of our training." The rebels routinely executed children when they had enslaved too many to control. "They would just line them up and slaughter them or put them in a house and set it alight," says Tenema.

One day Tenema and Safi made a run for freedom. Before they got too far, a shot rang out and Safi fell to the ground with a bullet in her leg.

"After they shot Safi, a lady commando cut her

head off. They made me dump my sister's head. This was agony for me."

Hiding the horror of Safi's death deep within herself, Tenema endured the ongoing orders, violence, and deprivation. She finally snapped when Mom refused to let her attend a camp dance—a scrap of normalcy that this teenager so craved.

"Mom said I could not go. She shot me in the leg." Bleeding, Tenema hobbled into the bush. A rebel named Junior pitied her and carried her out of the camp, directing her to the nearby military barracks for help.

"He helped me tie the wound with rags and then left me, but on the way government soldiers found me." Suspecting she was a rebel collaborator, the troops wanted to kill Tenema but one soldier persuaded the others that she could lead them to the RUF camp. "That information spared my life," Tenema says.

Tenema finally ended up in a crowded camp for displaced people near the town of Bo. "I had no one to look after me. I stayed on people's verandahs. I sold firewood to make money."

Fellow campers taunted and shunned Tenema upon discovering her past, brand-

ing her a rebel collaborator. She needed Mom to publicly clear her name. When RUF leaders came to Bo to sign a short-lived peace accord, Tenema hatched a plan to see Mom at a local hotel.

Teen soldiers: A reported 4,500 children were conscripted during Sierra Leone's seven-year war between government troops, rebels, and militia.



JON SPAULL

"I said, 'Hello, Mom' and she said, 'Hello, baby-love.' She confessed in front of others that I was a bit cheeky, so she shot me and dismissed me. That sealed my innocence."

(continued on page 20)

Suffer not the children: Tim Andrews, national director of World Vision Sierra Leone, says bold forgiveness between warring factions is desperately needed if children are ever to know a permanent peace. (Tim is pictured in Zaire where he served prior to his Sierra Leone assignment.)



radical repentance:

One man's prayer for
Sierra Leone

I still mentally replay the events of May 25, 1997—the day my family and I were caught in a terrifying coup punctuating Sierra Leone's grueling, seven-year civil war. A group of junior military officers had overthrown the democratic government of president Ahmed Tejan Kabbah, inaugurated in 1996 after the first free and fair elections here in three decades.

Rebels rampaged through the ramshackle streets of Freetown, burning and looting stores and homes in this coastal West African capital of 400,000 people. The phones worked intermittently. With determined effort I contacted some of my 140 staff to prepare an evacuation plan while rockets exploded all around.

I was checking our yard when a truckload of heavily armed men pulled up to the house and began scaling the garden wall. I tripped and sprained my ankle running back to the house where my wife, Terry, and our son, Joseph, then 2 years old, and his 4-year-old friend, Cumba, huddled inside.

Terry's diary that day read, "Two loud shots pierced the air in our yard. Tim was nowhere to be found. My mind started spinning—he could only be outside—when I heard a tap on the jammed, opaque glass basement door. More shouting, more shooting. Joseph, who had remained so cheerful and apparently unaffected throughout the day, started to lose control. "Where's Daddy? I no can see Daddy!" I tried to get Tim to shout through the door, but his voice was so distant and muffled that it only frightened Joseph more. I so badly wanted to pray with Tim.

ed Joseph and Cumba to pray. I repeated a prayer that I tried to keep as simple as possible. "Jesus, I love you. Please help Daddy. Please give these angry men your love. Please let your Holy Spirit be with us. I was flooded with a sense of your presence, and even Cumba and Joseph seemed to calm down." Several days later World Vision helped in evacuating my family. The U.S. Navy rescued thousands of American national personnel during the following week. The junta remained in power for more than a year. In January 1998, ECOMOG, the West African peacekeeping forces, began military operations to restore the elected constitutional government. In decisive victories in Freetown and other parts of the country led me to believe the war would soon end. But it is not. Today, only about half of the country is secure enough for World Vision to even consider launching much-needed food aid, agricultural recovery, primary health services, and child protection initiatives. The other half is embroiled in horror. Rebel forces mercilessly hunt down and mutilate civilians—a sort of grim calling card. Every day victims arrive at the hospital: women with hacked breasts, men with sliced genitals, tiny children with arms chopped off and one eye gouged out. How can people do this to each other?

No answer is satisfactory. Political, economic, and spiritual practices can entrench people in violence. I know that we wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers (Ephesians 6:12).

Returning to Sierra Leone this spring with my family after President Kabbah was restored to power, I am increasingly aware of the urgent need to provide emergency spiritual care alongside our traditional relief aid. It is always a joy to watch malnourished babies restored to health through our therapeutic feeding programs. It is humbling to watch grandmothers plow and plant their fields with World Vision-provided tools and seed.

But the profound sense of hope that I have for Sierra Leone is mostly borne from my experience with World Vision's ministry with the church.

Pastors and leaders from multiple denominations are brought together to explore new ways to unite the body of Christ. When I see pastors seek forgiveness from their brothers after years of strife, I know that they are laying a foundation for a permanent peace. Nothing short of such radical repentance will break this nation's cycle of violence.

God has a special destiny for these people humbled by the curse of war. As in Nehemiah 13:2, God will turn "the curse into a blessing." I am convinced that the church in Sierra Leone will grow and bless all of West Africa.

What a privilege it is for Terry, Joseph, and I to be part of God's plan in Sierra Leone, and to serve an organization which allows us to live out his calling on our lives.

Tim Andrews, a native of Chattanooga, Tennessee, is national director of World Vision Sierra Leone based in Freetown.

Caring for the children

By Karen Homer

Reintegrating young ex-combatants into their families and communities is a challenging task, reports World Vision program officer Emmanuel Kailie. These children risk being killed by vengeful neighbors who witnessed their atrocities, or were victims themselves. "Some families are deeply embarrassed by their children's involvement," says Emmanuel. "They are forced to pretend that they don't want to take them home for fear of reprisals."

Emmanuel describes the creative means World Vision community workers use to encourage people to accept the children back home. "We present dramas depicting how these boys and girls were drugged by their captors or told 'Kill your brother; set your family house on fire; or you will be burned alive or your head hacked off.' Neighbors need to realize that it's only luck that this wasn't their son or daughter. It's the community's responsibility to forgive, and take these children back."

Getting them to stay home is another matter, especially if their families, impoverished after years of upheaval, can't provide basic needs. Haunted and hardened by their years in the bush, many ex-combatants retreat to the grimly familiar. "They know they can get food and clothing as long as they are behind the barrel of a gun," sadly commented Emmanuel.

World Vision is working with local Christian ministries who organize events for war-affected children, including spiritual and emotional counseling. World Vision is also providing food aid, agricultural assistance, and basic health care to some 370,000 people. This year, more than 13,800 farmers will receive agricultural kits containing seeds, garden tools, and food to tide them over until the harvest is ready.

If you would like to support the ministry in Sierra Leone, please call (888) 85-CHILD.

visit our website at www.worldvision.org

Indonesia: suffering amid recession

On the streets of Jakarta, the capital of Indonesia, growing numbers of children are begging for 100 *rupiah* coins—valued at less than one cent—as the country reels under the worst socioeconomic crisis in Asia since World War II. More than 4 million Indonesians have lost their jobs. Food prices soared as much as 300 percent after crops failed during El Niño droughts. The country needs to import 3.8 million tons of rice to stave off an acute food shortage that could affect 7.5 million Indonesians. World Vision is launching a food aid program, benefitting 15,000 people on Rote Island, one of the hardest hit, underdeveloped areas in Indonesia.

—Reported by Sanjay Sojwal



SANJAY SOJWAL / WORLD VISION

World Vision plans to help families on Rote Island like Rashmi and Lewalu, an Indonesian mother who cannot afford to feed her three children, including 3-year-old Freebincher pictured here, one solid meal per week supplemented with *tua*, a palm tree sap. The family is suffering the effects of crop failure coupled with unemployment and inflation.

Bosnia: program helps traumatized children

"I will never forget when the enemy took my mother, father, and brother," said Alen Altoka, 14, from Bosnia. "We never found out what happened to them."

For two years, World Vision's Creative Activities for Trauma Healing program has been helping children like Alen in 100 primary schools in Sarajevo, Tuzla, and Zelarnica readjust to everyday life in the wake of the war. CATH teams train teachers to help children cope with

common trauma symptoms such as lack of concentration, communication difficulties, and aggressive behavior. The therapy's positive results are reflected in the children's improved grades. Alen, who completed a four-month program, now has new friends and dreams of becoming a professional soccer player.

World Vision is expanding the CATH program to schools in Gorazde, Banja Luka, and Doboj. —Reported by Zdravko Ljubas

You can help a suffering child.

Dear Friend,

Ng Akot, 2 walked three days to World Vision's
ng center in Thiet, southern Sudan. His little
r was dehydrated, horribly malnourished, and
a fever from malaria. We treated him with
appropriate interventions. He gets better for a day
ovo and then relapses into lethargy. Deng's big,
ldered eyes look up at me from his shrunken
He is an innocent victim of a senseless
and human injustice.

Every day I see hundreds of children
Deng, weighing less than 70
percent of what's normal for their
age. And every day I wonder, as you
do, too, why children have to
suffer these consequences.
It's way up there on my list
of things to ask God when I get
to heaven. Often, I think about my
seven wonderful, fat, and happy
grandchildren — the way



Sudan Alert

Karen Easterday, a nurse
from Burnsville, Minn.
cares for some 1,100
starving children and adults
in southern Sudan.

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Hilary McKenzie / World Vision

children should be. But I have yet to see a child in Sudan like that.

Sudanese children have nothing; they don't even have clothes. They eat leaves, grass, and boiled goat skins. And many of them stumble into a World Vision feeding center, like Deng. Fortunately, many do respond quickly to therapeutic feeding. We give them an oral rehydration solution, just a spoonful at a time, and then nutritious milk. Sometimes in just a few days there is a marked difference...you wouldn't believe it's the same child.

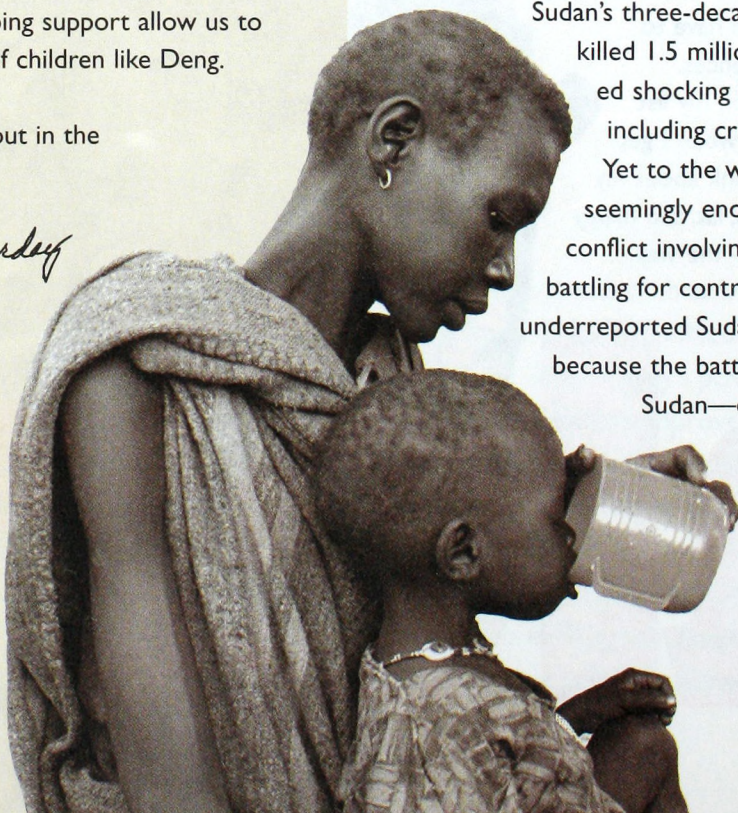
To most people, starvation is so far from everyday life it's hard to believe it's happening. It's easy to dismiss it, thinking, "It's Africa." But these people dying in Sudan are just like us...these are souls that Jesus died for.

I believe that because of your commitment to helping children through World Vision, that you feel like I do, **in 1998, people should not be dying of hunger.** I'm honored to work with World Vision, hand in hand with compassionate people like you, who want to end this kind of suffering. Your sacrificial giving and ongoing support allow us to meet the critical needs of children like Deng.

Thank you for reaching out in the name of Christ!

Karen S. Easterday

Hilary McKenzie / World Vision



Sudan Q&A

What is the current situation in Sudan? How did it become so critical?

The famine, which threatens 1.2 million people with starvation in southern Sudan, is the direct effect of war, politics, drought, and crop loss.

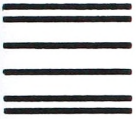
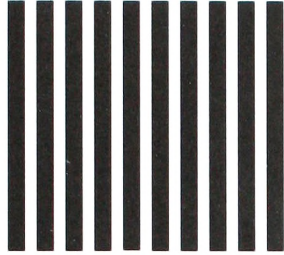
The south has been ravaged by a long, brutal civil war between the northern Khartoum-based government and the southern Sudan People's Liberation Army. Daily bombings uprooted families, cutting them off from their food supplies. In the last two years, poor rains have increased the food shortages, especially in the Bahr el Ghazal province, where 100,000 people fled. Then a two-month government ban on humanitarian relief flights earlier this year temporarily prevented agencies like World Vision from reaching already hungry and ailing people.

Why hasn't more attention been paid to Sudan?

Sudan's three-decade civil war has killed 1.5 million people and incited shocking human rights abuses, including crucifixion and slavery. Yet to the western world, it is a seemingly endless, intractable conflict involving polarized groups battling for control. The media has underreported Sudan's troubles, in part because the battlefields in southern Sudan—devoid of good roads, let alone electricity and telephones—are so remote.



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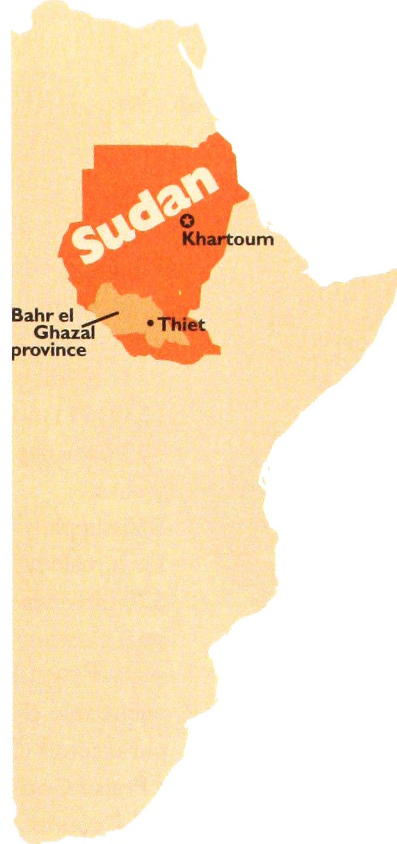
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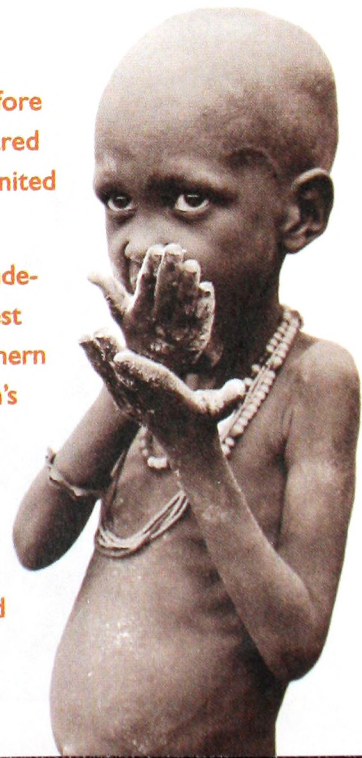
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children should be. But I have yet to see a child in Sudan like that.

Sudanese children have nothing; they have no clothes. They eat leaves, grass, and animal skins. And many of them stumble in at a World Vision feeding center, like Deng. For some, they do respond quickly to therapeutic feeding. We give them an oral rehydration solution at one time, and then nutritious milk. So after a few days there is a marked difference. I don't believe it's the same child.

To most people, starvation is so far away that it's hard to believe it's happening here. They dismiss it, thinking, "It's Africa." But the children dying in Sudan are just like us...the way the Jesus died for.

I believe that because of your compassion in helping children through World Vision, I like I do, **in 1998, people should be dying of hunger.** I'm honored to work hand in hand with compassionate people who want to end this kind of suffering through sacrificial giving and ongoing support. We meet the critical needs of children.

Thank you for reaching out in the name of Christ!

Karen S. Easterday

Hilary McKenzie / World Vision



Anyot, 4, weighs just 21 pounds. She should weigh at least 38 pounds.

The tape measuring her fragile arm reveals her condition as extremely serious.

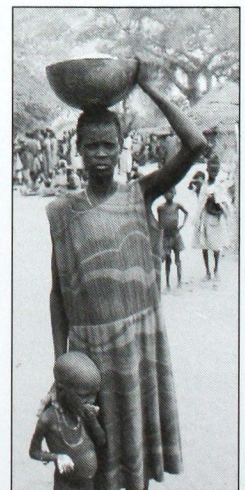
Her mother, Acok, watched helplessly as Anyot's health deteriorated after the family fled their village in Gogrial county ahead of rampaging soldiers. While searching for safety, they lived on leaves, grass, and sour berries.

"We came looking for a safe place," Acok says. "Somewhere where we were not going to die."

As thin as Anyot is, she's on the road to recovery, thanks to treatment at World Vision's nutrition clinic in Ngapagok, Tonj county. Daily meals of UNIMIX—a vitamin and mineral enhanced porridge—will bring her back from the brink.

So far, more than 8,000 Sudanese—almost 7,000 of them children—have been helped by World Vision in eight feeding centers for children and 10 food distribution sites. But thousands more malnourished people arrive every day.

You can help World Vision care for southern Sudan's war-torn families. A gift of \$50 allows a malnourished child like Anyot to receive 10 days of therapeutic care. Just \$35 feeds one family for two weeks.



Anyot and her mother, Acok



**Please help
World Vision's
efforts to
save
the hungry
children
and families
in Southern Sudan!**

Provides food for a family of six for
weeks.

Provides therapeutic feeding for a
malnourished child at a clinic for

Provides a family of six with a survival
kit including plastic sheeting, cooking
stoves and fishing lines.

Transports one ton of relief supplies
from northern Kenya to southern

Provides therapeutic feeding for a
malnourished child for 100 days.

Covers the costs of running a feed-
ing center for one day, feeding between
500 and 1,000 children.

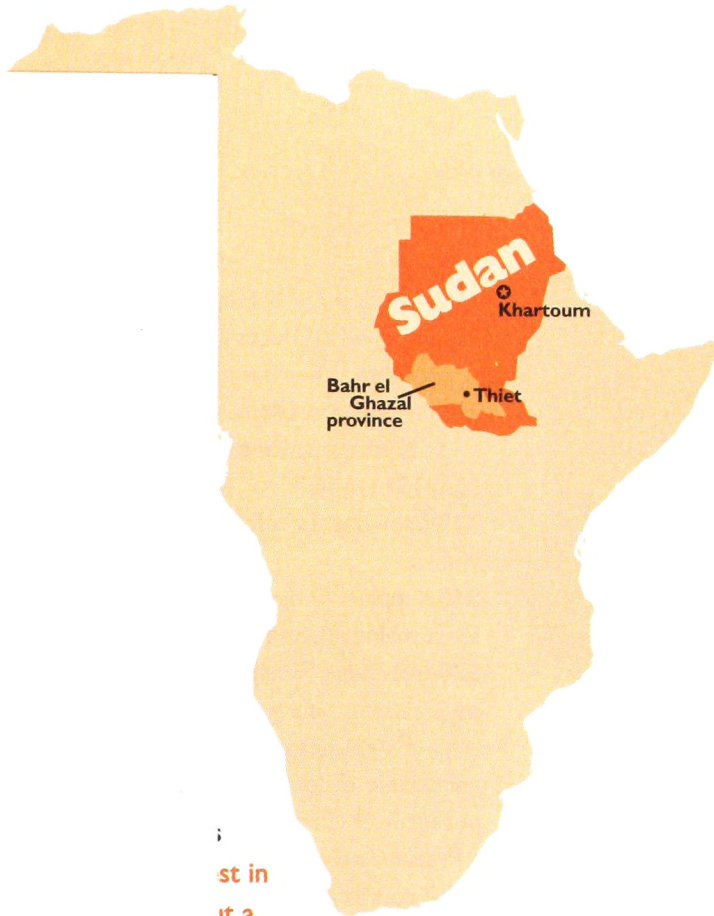
If you want to help! Total enclosed:

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Donate by phone,
call (888) 511-6465.

Please send me information about
donating a child.

(Adoption is not available in Sudan at this time.)



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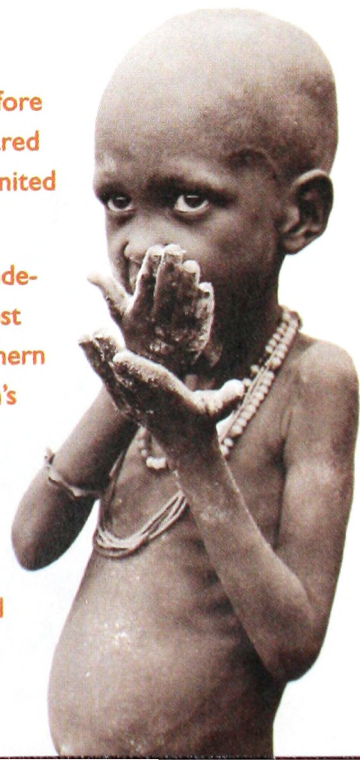
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Sudan

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Thank you for reaching out in the name of Christ!

Karen S. Easterday

Hilary McKenzie / World Vision

“Famine is no longer threatening the people of Sudan. Instead, it is now killing them in the hundreds.”
-NBC News

Children like Anyot, pictured, are the most vulnerable victims. Her story is inside...



Should the world care about Sudan?

hundreds of thousands of people are dying. The greatest victims of Sudan's war are the children and families of the Bahr el Ghazal province who live in mud-and-thatch huts, quietly tending cattle and crops. Bombs rain on their villages, and soldiers loot and burn homes, carrying off women and children as slaves. Displaced, impoverished victims often must walk for days to reach relief centers. Some succumb to starvation within sight of the relief centers.

Can aid really make a difference?

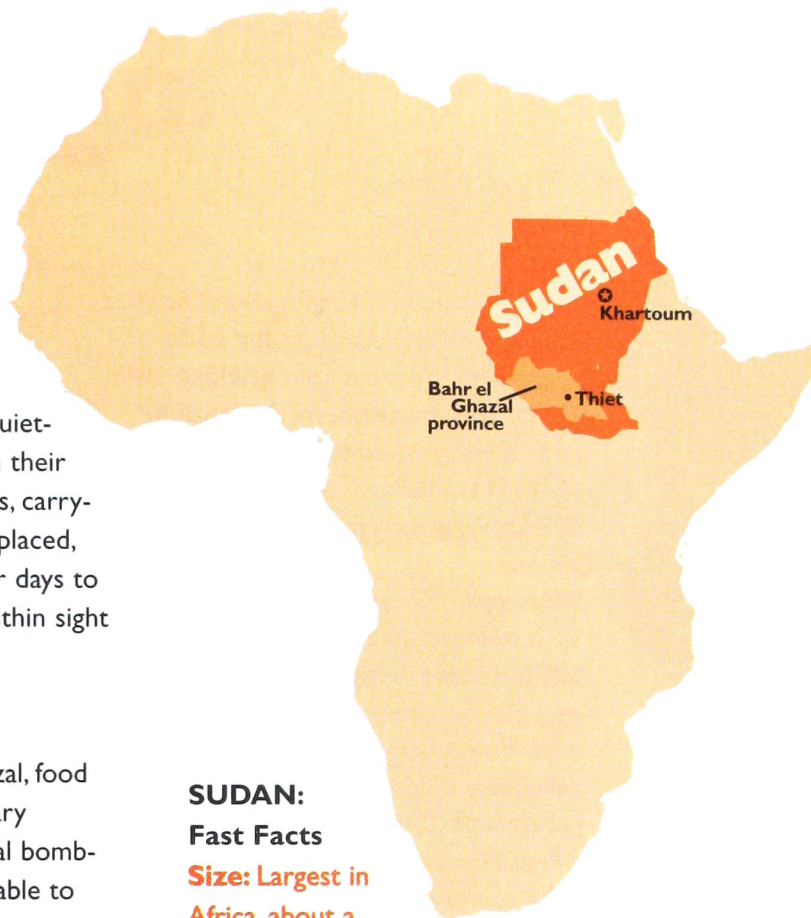
Some 701,000 people in Bahr el Ghazal, food is the only means of survival. War-weary farmers have no other hope. Amidst aerial bombardment and village raids, many people are unable to plant crops to feed themselves. Those who can be provided with seeds and tools.

Is relief assistance getting to people in need?

Humanitarian agencies make every effort to ensure that aid gets to needy civilians. At World Vision therapeutic feeding centers, food goes directly to the people. In larger community distributions, World Vision works through trained local leaders.

What are humanitarian organizations like World Vision doing for Sudan?

Working in coordination with 40 organizations, relief efforts comprise Operation Lifeline Sudan. World Vision provides emergency food through eight therapeutic feeding centers for children and 10 food distribution sites. World Vision also distributes seeds, tools, and survival kits of non-food items. Continuing vigorous advocacy efforts, World Vision urges supporters to encourage the U.S. government to intervene in the crisis in Sudan.



SUDAN: Fast Facts

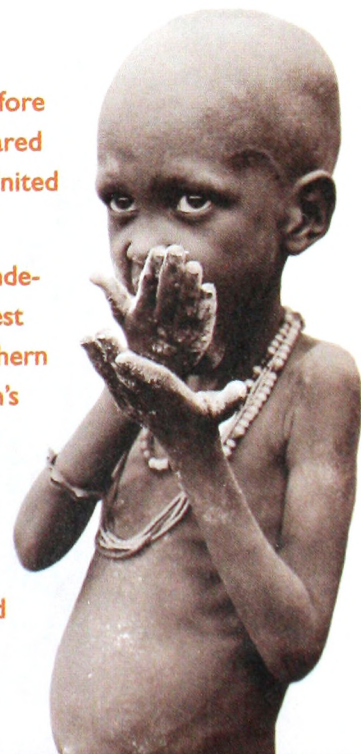
Size: Largest in Africa, about a quarter of the size of the United States.

Population: 32 million people divided into Arabic Muslims in the north, black Christians and animists in the south.

Infant mortality: 74 infants in 1,000 die before their first birthday, compared to eight in 1,000 in the United States.

Civil war: Raging since independence in 1956; the latest conflict between the northern government and the south's Sudan People's Liberation Army began in 1983.

Need: 1.2 million people at risk of starvation in the south; 701,000 people need emergency food in the Bahr el Ghazal province.



ANIA



y

you can help children and families in Sudan

Here's how:

1. Give a gift: Help provide lifesaving food and other necessities for starving children and their families. **Enclose your gift in the envelope in the middle of this magazine, or call toll-free (888) 511-6465.**

\$35 provides food for one family for two weeks.

\$50 supplies 10 days of therapeutic feeding for a malnourished child.

\$70 provides a family of six with a survival kit.

2. Pray: Lift up to the Lord the vulnerable children, suffering families, and persecuted Christians of southern Sudan.

- Praise God that World Vision is allowed in the country by the government.
- Pray for perseverance and safety for World Vision staff and other humanitarian workers.
- Pray for a peaceful end to the civil war.

Wolding Majok walked two days with a metal jug looking for a food distribution site.



Philip Maher / World Vision

3. Write your member of Congress: Express your concern for Sudanese people and ask the U.S. government to respond to the famine and promote peace in Sudan.

For letter-writing tips, consult World Vision website at www.worldvision.org/worldvision/pr.nsf/stable/sudan_advocacy.

4. Learn more about Sudan:

World Vision has compiled the following resources to help you and your church learn more about the crisis. They are available in a special Sudan section on World Vision's website at www.worldvision.org/worldvision/pr.nsf/stable/SudanInfoKit.

Or you can order them for a nominal fee by calling toll-free (888) 511-6422.

• **Sudan: Cry, the Divided Country:**

Thorough background information on the war, human rights abuses, and the humanitarian relief effort.

• **Fact Sheet:** Up-to-date information on the crisis and World Vision's response.

• **Bulletin insert:** Information ready for use in church bulletins.

• **Videos:** "Starvation in Southern Sudan" a compelling report from a World Vision feeding center. Also the "Dateline NBC" segment featuring World Vision nurse Karen Easterday.

**To give a gift,
call (888) 511-6465**

World Vision 

P.O. Box 9716
Federal Way, WA 98063-9716

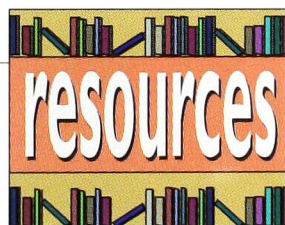
Kosovo: on the brink of war

Intensified fighting between Serbian paramilitary forces and the Kosovo Liberation Army may escalate into full-scale war in the Serbian province of Kosovo. The Yugoslavian province came under the control of the Serb-run Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in 1989. Serbs regard it as the birthplace of their Slavic Orthodox Church, yet 2 million Muslim ethnic Albanians, called Kosovars, consider the region home, outnumbering Serbs nine to one.

Amidst sporadic peace negotiations, the violence continues, forcing ethnic Albanians to flee.

An estimated 80,000 people are displaced in Kosovo, while 65,000 people have scattered to other areas. World Vision staff in Pristina, Kosovo's capital, are poised to assist uprooted families.

—Reported by Kevin Cook



cards for kids

World Vision's colorful, special-occasion cards are an easy way to keep in touch with your sponsored child. We send you cards

created especially for your sponsored child. Sign and return them, and we will forward them directly to your child. Look for a Christmas card in the mail in October, an Easter greeting in February, a back-to-school card in August, and best wishes for your sponsored child's birthday. Sponsored children treasure these cards as symbols of your friendship.

the birth of hope

World Vision offers a fresh look at the accounts of Christ's birth and Christians' transforming work in the world today through an Advent Bible study, *The Birth of Hope: God's Gift to a Broken World*. The study challenges adults to celebrate Christmas in a new way. Guides for participants and leaders are \$2.50 each plus \$3.00 for shipping and handling. Discounts on large orders are also available. Call (888) 511-6484 to order.

gifts of hope and joy

Looking for meaningful gifts this Christmas? Through World Vision's *International Gifts of Hope and Joy* program, you can help meet tangible needs for as little as \$20—such as providing a child with complete immunization against major deadly diseases. Purchase a gift from our catalog for your friends and loved ones, and World Vision will send them details about what your gift will provide. Call toll-free (888) 511-6511 to order a catalog, or look it up on World Vision's website at <http://www.worldvisiongifts.org>.

signs of hope grateful

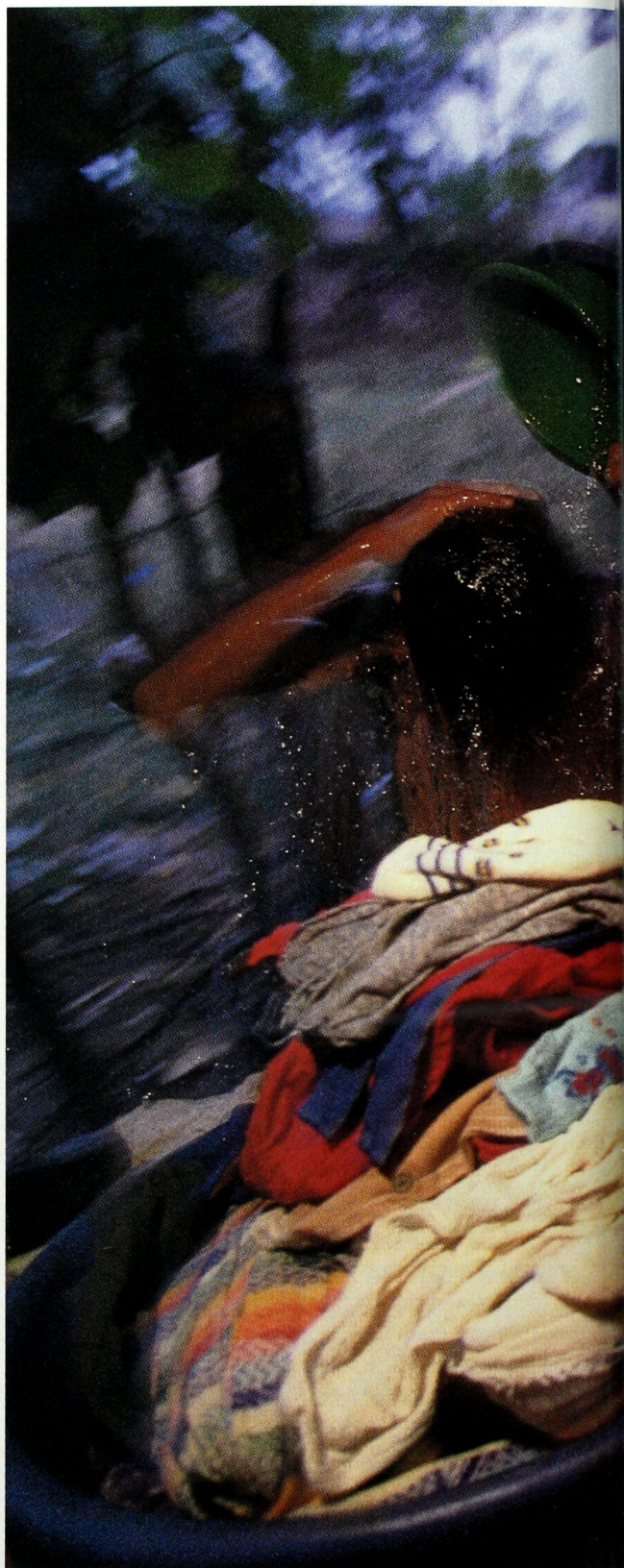
Most mornings, Naomi Moragas, 32, drags herself out of bed at 1 a.m. and begins her work washing other people's clothes by hand with cold water. She labors until dawn, when Jonathan, 12 (pictured), and her other children rise to help her deliver the clean laundry.

Naomi, who lives in Guazapa, El Salvador, endures the late nights so she can volunteer by day in World Vision's community development project.

"I do this work because I am so grateful for the good things I have received from sponsorship," Naomi explains. Since her common-law husband left her three years ago, she single-handedly cares for Jonathan, Rosa, 17, Carmen, 8, Salvador, 5, and Rosa's son, Juan Jose, 13 months. Sponsorship covers the school-age children's education and health care. World Vision also provided Naomi with bricks, cement, and tiles to improve her house, and helped her family and nine others install running water in their homes.

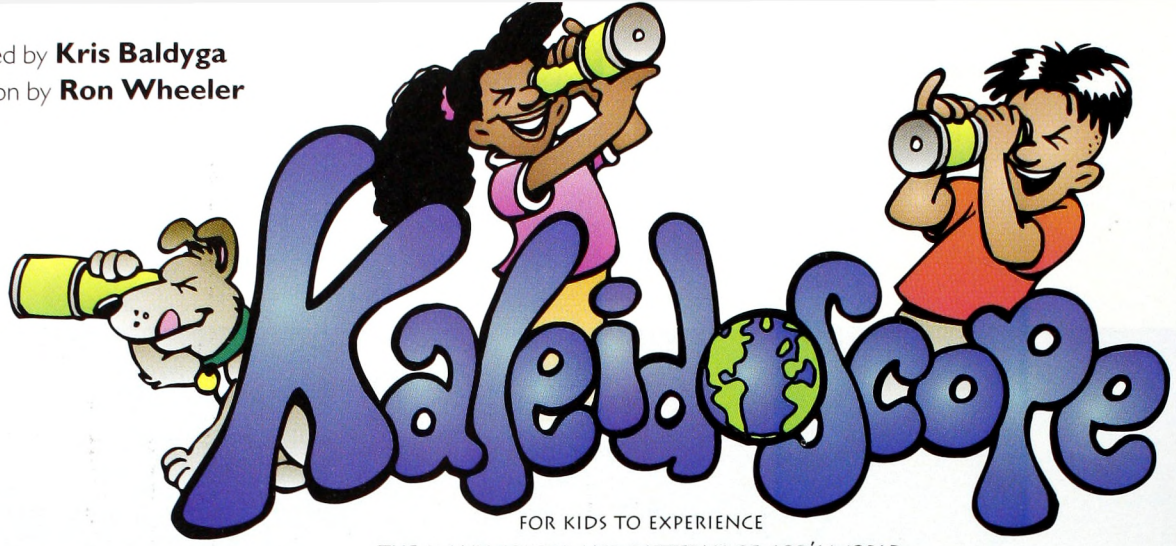
Naomi has twice been elected to a committee that helps World Vision coordinate project families. "I receive a lot of respect in the community," Naomi says. "People stop me to talk about their problems." Responsible for 163 sponsored children, she visits their families to assess their needs and track their benefits.

Jonathan's concern for his mother drives him to work hard at school and at his part-time job picking beans and corn. "When I become a doctor, I'll give money to my mom, and then she won't have to do laundry anymore," he vows.



Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. —Luke 6:38



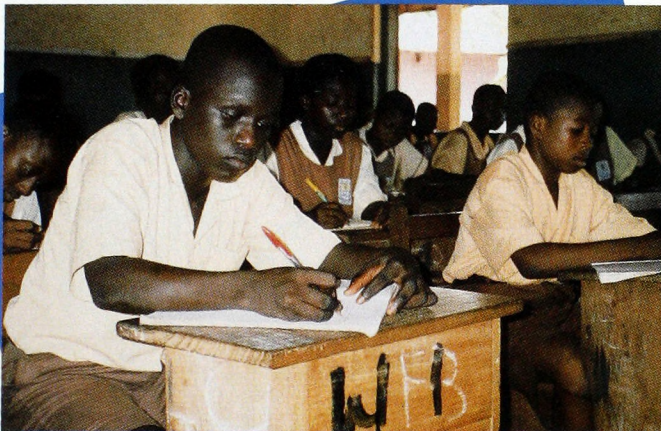


FOR KIDS TO EXPERIENCE
THE MANY COLORS AND PATTERNS OF GOD'S WORLD

Your Turn

Do you ever wonder what kids in other countries eat and wear, what they study in school, and what they like to play? Wouldn't it be nice if you could ask them yourself? Well, some of you did! A class from Ohio sent us their questions for kids living in a World Vision community overseas. Students from Ghana, West Africa, responded:

WORLD VISION



Real class:
Ebenezer at school.

What are your favorite subjects in school?

"Mathematics, English, French, and religious and moral education." *Vida Adjeley Quarshie, 13*

"Science and cultural studies." *Ebenezer Akuamoh, 13*

What kind of music do you like?

"Gospel music. My favorite song is 'Fight the Good Fight With All Your Might.'" *Vida*

What kind of food do you like?

"Okro stew." (Made with vegetables, fish, and palm oil.) *Leticia Akweley Nmashie, 14*

What did you think of President Bill Clinton's trip to Africa? Did you see him?

"Though I went to Independence Square [in Ghana's capital city, Accra], I didn't see him because the crowd was so thick." *Ebenezer*

"Yes, I saw Bill Clinton on television. He came to Africa to help us." *Vida*

Ready to cook:
ingredients for okro stew



WORLD VISION



Water is Joy: In Ghana, the lack of clean drinking water is a health problem. World Vision has drilled 1,200 wells in Ghana, like the one pictured above, helping many families avoid disease.

What clothes do you wear?

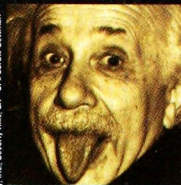
“Shirt and shorts, and occasionally a cloth hung around the body, leaving one arm bare.” *Ebenezer*

“A kaba and a slit.” (A kaba is a blouse and a slit is a long skirt with an opening either on the side or the back. Both are made of cotton.) *Leticia*

Ebenezer is wearing kente cloth, a handwoven, ceremonial fabric draped around the body and worn on special occasions. Kente comes from Ghana, but people in many African countries use it to represent their history and values.



Your youth group is loaded with greatness.



Einstein wrote his first paper on the theory of relativity when he was 16.



David was anointed King of Israel at age 15.



Joan of Arc led 3,000 French Knights to victory in the Battle of Orleans when she was 17.

make your mark



Josh Mitchell of Silverdale, Washington, helped save an entire village in Africa when he was 15.



save kids' lives

World Vision's 30 Hour Famine invites your youth to achieve great things. Not for sake of greatness, but for the sake of the 33,000 kids who die every day from hunger and hunger-related causes.

On **February 26-27, 1999**, 600,000 young people will come together in a nationwide fast. They will go without food for 30 hours and raise money to provide food and care for hungry children.

The 30 Hour Famine is a powerful group event. It's easy to organize. *And it's free!*

Call today for a free video

1-800-7-FAMINE

(1-800-732-6463)

In Canada, call 1-800-387-8080.

www.30hourfamine.org

B938

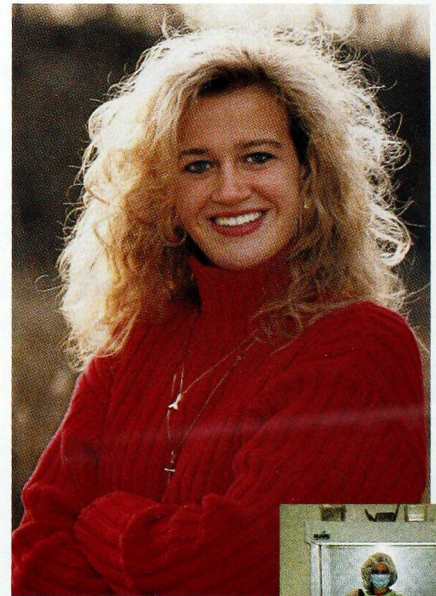
30 hour famine
study tour
participants: **the**
adventure
continues

Each year since 1992, World Vision has selected a few 30 Hour Famine participants to travel to the developing world on a study tour. As these former winners can attest, the impact of their experiences reaches into their adult lives and careers.

After **Kelly King-Ellison's** 1994 trip to Mozambique, the Bloomington, Minn. native refocused her dream of becoming a surgeon. "I realized there is such a need for medicine in Africa, even for simple procedures and materials," says Kelly, now 21 and studying biomedical engineering at Washington University in St. Louis, Mo. "Someday I want to do a medical mission and spend a month every year there." Meeting land mine victims also made a strong impression, piquing her interest in reconstructive surgery for amputees.

Kelly's experience typifies that of many former study tour winners. Years later, these high achievers with busy lives and many stamps in their passports confirm that their education, career, and travel goals have been influenced by their sojourn to the developing world.

Peter Greyschok, 19, of Huntington Beach, Calif., vividly recalls spending time with malnourished children and war orphans in Mozambique in 1994. "Holding kids who have been helped [through World Vision] affected me



Kelly King-Ellison



Aspiring doctor:
Kelly in scrubs

in a way I still don't fully understand," he reflects.

"This kid is alive because of the dollars I raised. It hits me pretty hard."

The trip instilled in Peter an abiding sense of compassion: "I learned I can't live happily until all our brothers and sisters are fed and clothed." Now a freshman at the University of San Diego, studying international relations with an emphasis on Africa, Peter plans to return to the continent someday as a teacher. He recently wrote a paper on Mozambique's political situation after its protracted civil war.

"You can't not learn from the experience," insists **Andy Ayers**, 23, from Edina, Minn., of his 1992 trip to Kenya. "Knowledge is power; knowledge is wealth." The impact of what he saw in the slums of the capital, Nairobi, and at a remote food distribution center has stayed with him along with the Kenyan wall hangings and soapstone figures that decorate his room. A "current events junkie," Andy is wrapping up a job as office manager of the *Minnesota Daily* (the University of Minnesota's newspaper) and joining a Minneapolis consulting company. Yet he still finds time to speak to 30

Hour Famine groups about his trip.

"I can say something about [Africa] because I've been there," says Andy. His Kenya slides illustrate the poverty that he believes American kids haven't seen. "[In America] the poorest of the poor still have access to cable."

Brooke Kolconay, 20, of Raleigh, N.C., changed ambitions as a result of her trip to Mozambique in

can God allow this?" Brook adds. "But for me, coming face-to-face with struggles [in Mozambique] helped me become secure in God's love, that he wants the best for all of us."

Many study tour winners yearn for more experiences in the developing world. A few have already taken the leap. **Toby Long**, 20, from Mt. Pleasant, Mich., went with World Vision to Ethiopia and



1994. Then, she hoped to someday become president of the United States.

"When I came back, I didn't want to do that anymore. I wanted to go back to Africa." She plans to join the Peace Corps after completing a communications and international studies double-major at Boston College.

"When people see tragedies, they think, 'How

Seeing red: Rachel Wacker, pictured in Kenya in 1995, was so fascinated by the colorful Maasai tribe that she returned to study art there this summer.

Kenya in 1995. The full-scholarship premed student at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Mich., served the past two summers in Thane, India (outside of Bombay), in a small Christian hospital that provides free medical care to the poor. Toby's East



Knowledge is power: Andy Ayers (right, with a friend in Mexico), believes travel “leads to understanding and acceptance.”

Africa tripmate, **Rachel Wacker**, 20, from Eagan, Minn., is an art student at Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind. She returned to Kenya this summer on a grant to study the art of the Maasai tribe.

Kelly Polacek, 23, from Fresno, Calif., remembers her amazement at the sight of people “coming out of the earth” to get grain in Bubisa, Kenya, during her 1992 trip. Though she was struck by Africa’s cultural

differences, she came away with a realization that people around the world have much in common. “A child’s smile is the same, no matter what country you’re in.

“The study tour is a very important part of who I am,” says Kelly, a graduate biology student at California Polytechnic University in San Luis Obispo, Calif. “I am a better person for having done this.”

HUNDREDS of thousands of American teens will go without food while learning about hunger and global issues in World Vision’s next national 30 Hour Famine on Feb. 26-27, 1999.

Individuals and groups can get involved by calling (800) 7-FAMINE (732-6463). Study tour winners are chosen through an essay contest and interview process from among participants who personally raise at least \$500.



(Teenage Wasteland
Continued from page 9)

Tenema concludes the monotone tale of her short life. But at the mention of her 8-month-old son Abdulai, born after a brief encounter with a man she can’t name, Tenema bows her head to hide her tears. She worries about her baby’s poor health constantly.

Tenema is trying to build a new life for herself now that the war in Sierra Leone is finally grinding to an end. Working odd jobs, she struggles to support herself. World Vision’s family tracing team are helping Tenema find her parents, whom she hasn’t seen since 1991. Locating them will be difficult; their village is still deserted.

“I want to go back and search for my people,” says Tenema. “I think they killed my dad but my mom may still be alive. Now that World Vision has started tracing, I hope I can find them.”

(Please see *Caring for the Children* article on World Vision’s work with ex-combatants on page 11.)

can you make a lasting difference?



yes, you can...

Continuous Child-Care Sponsorship Agreement

It's a simple way to ensure your sponsored child continues to receive the care and support he or she needs to grow up strong and healthy.

Your one-time, tax-deductible gift of \$3,900 to World Vision creates the agreement and generates the funds needed to sponsor a needy boy or girl child from that point on—for as long as your sponsored child remains in the program. Then your gift will go on to give another child assistance or even help an entire community.

A Continuous Child-Care Sponsorship Agreement is an easy step to make, and it will transform the lives of children, families, and communities through the promise of life, help, and hope for today and the future.

Plan today for your sponsored child's bright future!

Call (800) 426-5753 and speak with a Gift Planning representative.



Yes! I want to give my sponsored child continuous care and support.

- Please send me more information on establishing my Continuous Child-Care Sponsorship Agreement.
- I would like information on World Vision's Gift Planning options.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

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Telephone Number _____



The Gift Planning staff of World Vision is committed to offer sound counsel to our donors by assisting them in achieving their estate planning and charitable giving goals.

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World Vision Today

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CORRECTION:

In the Summer 1998 issue we incorrectly stated the number of people killed in Bosnia's war. The actual figure is 200,000. We regret the error.

World Vision Today shares the stories of children, their families, and communities as they experience the tangible hope of the Gospel in a world of suffering and injustice. In hope that our relationship and conversations will grow deeper and increasingly meaningful, **World Vision Today** aims to exceed the highest standards in accuracy, practicality, and stewardship, and is our gift to you for your commitment to modeling Jesus' life-giving compassion.

Send all editorial correspondence and changes of address to **World Vision Today**, P.O. Box 9716, Federal Way, WA 98063-9716. Please send address changes at least 30 days before moving and enclose the address label clipped from a current copy or return envelope.

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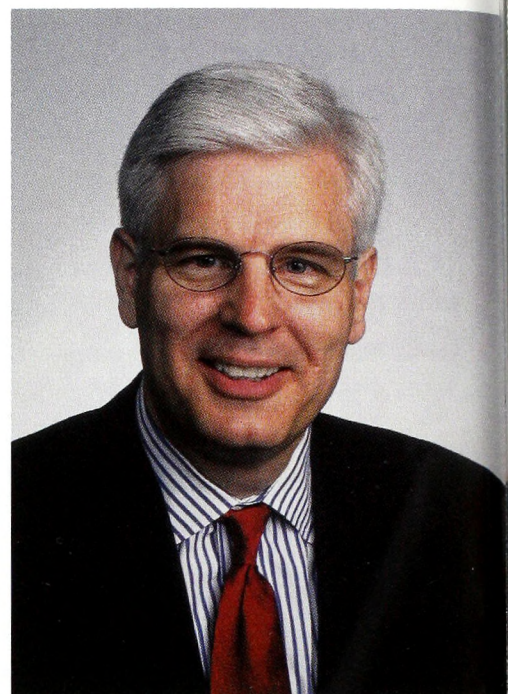
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A word from the editors

You may have noticed that this magazine looks different from previous issues of **World Vision Today**. It reflects our new global identity.

World Vision is known as a leading Christian humanitarian organization by governments, our peers and partners, and the people we serve. However, our name and logo have not always been consistent in connection with our ministry around the world. In an effort to speak with one voice, we devised a new look, characterized by a bold, cross-shaped star rising over a bright, orange horizon. This unique, highly recognizable symbol, representing World Vision in some 100 countries, communicates our role as bearers of Christ's hope to a suffering world.

Despite the new image, World Vision's primary mission hasn't changed. We will continue to shield children from the toll of war, hunger, sickness, and injustice—while sharing God's love with them.



Richard Stearns

When World War II descended on London, families fearing the inevitable bombing packed their children off to the countryside. Protect the children: that was on the protocol of war. Not so now. Children are often the intended targets and are even forced into combat themselves. This issue of our magazine is the first in a series on children facing peril in a menacing world. It offers two portraits of today's young war draftees, thrust into battle when the front lines were drawn at their doorsteps: Mayerly, the peacemaker, and Tenema, the reluctant soldier. What hope do these children have after enduring so much pain?

Although my childhood and young adulthood contained nothing close to the horror experienced by children such as Tenema and Mayerly, my upbringing

from President
Richard Stearns

True Security

across *Basic Christianity*,
a book given to me
years earlier by a high

shaped and shaped me. Growing up in
Ithaca, N.Y., my sister and I were products
of a broken home plagued by financial
problems. Early on I resolved to make
something of my life, but I knew I would
not do it myself. And I did. I earned
degrees from two Ivy League schools
without taking a cent from my parents.
As I studied neurobiology at Cornell
University, and later marketing at the
University of Pennsylvania, I developed
my own religion of self-reliance. I debated
philosophy with my best friend and room-
mate Dave, a strong Christian and a bril-
liant student. "How can you believe this
fantasy tale?" I constantly asked him. On my
date with Reneé, my future wife, she
handed out a pamphlet entitled "The Four
Natural Laws." "You've got to be kidding!"
he responded. I was a baton being passed
from Christian to Christian, while God
patiently waited for me to accept his love.
One lonely evening during my
Christmas study break, I idly rummaged
through some old belongings. I came

across a book given to me years earlier by a high school friend who also hoped I would open my heart to God. I sat up until 4 a.m. reading it from cover to cover. My curiosity kindled, over the next few months I read some 60 books about Christianity while working on my MBA. Finally, intellectually convinced of the historical truth of Christianity, I got on my knees and asked Christ into my life. My doubts satisfied, I accepted the truth of the Gospel. Twenty-four years later, I've never looked back.

As a Christian, I've learned that God often uses difficult times to show us that we will never find true security outside of a relationship with him. Faith in God, trust in his loving will, is the only hope upon which to build our lives.

It's my prayer that wars, disasters, and injustice will end. But more fervently, I pray that people caught in these tragedies can know Jesus Christ and draw new life from him that will protect them in any earthly battle. Jesus gives us power to overcome: "I can do everything through him who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13).

Showing love

is the greatest expression of our belief in Jesus Christ. That's why I sponsor a child through World Vision.

I visited my sponsored child, Helán, in Honduras and saw firsthand the power of sponsorship. With \$22 a month from me and other sponsors, the people of Helán's village benefit from improved health and nutrition, education, and community improvements. And they know that God loves them because of our support.

Sponsor a child today by calling 1-888-511-6474 or by mailing in the coupon below.



Christian artist Twila Paris and her sponsored child.

I want to show a child the love of God!

I would like to sponsor a boy girl living in

Africa Asia Latin America Middle East where the needs are greatest

Enclosed is my first monthly payment of \$22 to help a needy child and his or her community.

Check (made payable to World Vision).

Bill me later.

Bill my monthly sponsorship payment to my credit card:

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Card no. --- Exp. Date --

Signature _____

Instead of or in addition to my sponsorship, I would like to give a gift of \$ to help children in need. (1700)

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(_____)

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World Vision

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