

WORLDVISION®

A question of balance:

POVERTY OR POLLUTION?



**PRACTICAL HELP FOR THE HOMELESS
AVERTING ANOTHER SOMALIA**



A question of balance:
POVERTY OR PO

Only in the past few years have the connections between poverty and the environment been understood. Diminishing hunger and poverty among people will reduce both impoverishment and violence to the land. It is not a choice between helping heal the land or helping the poor; helping one is impossible without helping the other.

KOJOK, A MEMBER OF THE DYACK TRIBE in Indonesian Borneo, comes from a long line of “slash-and-burn” farmers. Once headhunters, the Dyack now exist peacefully in the tropical island’s remote mountain regions. For years they have lived a nomadic life, following not animal herds but elusive, fertile land.

The people of Kojok’s village live in temporary shelters made of wooden poles and palm leaves. They seldom stay in one location

BY CALVIN DEWITT WITH KEN SIDEY

EVOLUTION?



for more than a few years. That's how long it takes to exhaust the soil, after they have cut and burned the timber and planted rice in the ashes. When the land's nutrients are gone, they pack and move on, returning after 10 or 15 years to start their destructive cycle again.

As the Dyack eke out a living, the land suffers. Harvests shrink. Streams dry up, or become fouled with human and animal waste. Families have as many children as possible, hoping that a few will survive disease.

Though the Indonesian government officially discourages slash-and-burn farming, it is still common in the West Kalimantan Province where the Dyack live. The region is one of the nation's poorest—more than half the population earns below the official government poverty line, about \$44 dollars per month. Like his fellow tribesmen, for years Kojok knew no other way to provide for his family.

A Downward Spiral

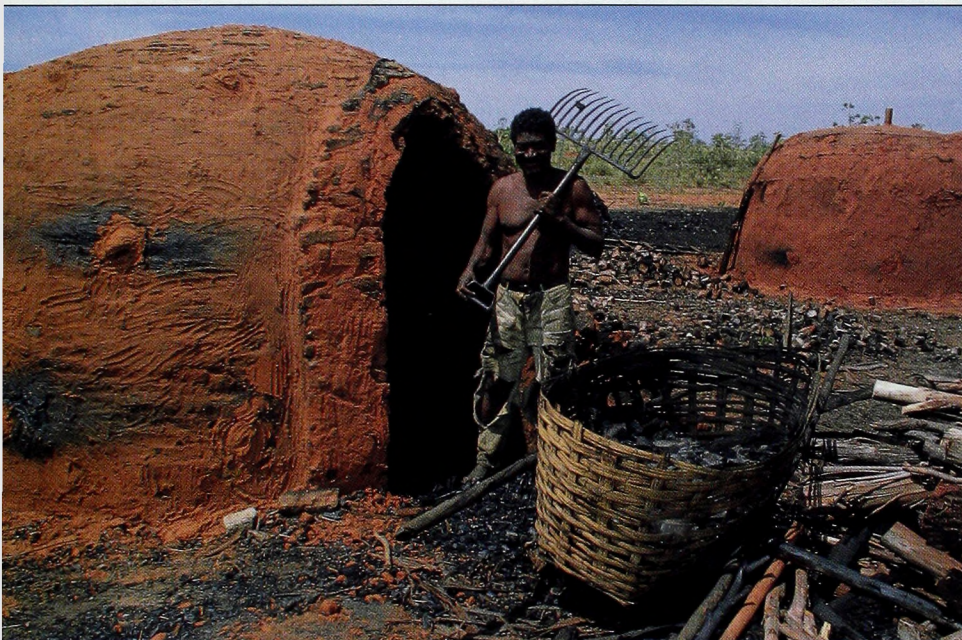
Millions of men and women world-

and poverty become part of popular knowledge in the West. And only now are we beginning to explore how to replace that downward spiral with a cycle of hope, one that restores the environment and helps impoverished people. As the earth regains its God-given wealth, it will provide for the people. Diminishing hunger and poverty among people will reduce impoverishment and violence to the land. It is not a choice between helping heal the land or helping the poor; helping one is impossible without helping the other.

There was a time when Asha Abdi's family was considered wealthy. Living in northeastern Kenya, in the village of Leheley, they owned 200 cattle and 300 goats. But the drought sapping the country's strength started Asha's family on a downward spiral. To provide for her family, Asha cut down the low, broad trees that dot the arid land around her village, to sell as firewood in Wajir, more than six miles away.

Like Asha, other villagers are stripping the land of the little remaining veg-

PAUL HILTS / WORLD VISION



Poverty leads many people in the Third World to strip their land of trees to make into charcoal, which can then be sold. Deforestation, however, is destroying the land they live on, trapping the poor in a downward spiral of poverty.

wide live just as Kojok did, destroying the earth that supports them. Some act out of ignorance, some out of greed. But many feel forced by poverty to do whatever they can to provide even the most meager living for themselves. They are trapped in a downward spiral of poverty and environmental degradation that eventually robs them not only of food for their mouths but of fertile earth beneath their feet.

Only in the past few years has the connection between the environment

etation. As a result, the nearby Somali-Chalbi Desert is expanding farther into what was once a prosperous plain. Like the great Sahara Desert of North Africa, it claims more and more land each year. As the land failed, Asha's livestock died or were sold. Today her family owns only three cows. They depend on World Vision-supplied food to survive.

The Destruction of Deforestation

Throughout the developing world, poverty has forced too many people

The U.S. has **5%** of the world's population.

It uses **25%** of the world's energy,

emits **22%** of all Co₂ produced, and accounts for

25% of the world's GNP.

onto too little land—fragile land, on the fringes of productivity. Many times, deforestation has exhausted the land's ability to provide food. Deforestation has even transformed the land into something threatening.

In the low-lying nation of Bangladesh, for example, poverty and overpopulation force millions to live on silt islands called *chars*, in the flood plains of the country's three great rivers. The soil is fertile; 85 percent of the country's 118 million people grow rice, jute, sugarcane, fruits, and vegetables. But the monsoon season brings annual floods and widespread destruction that has grown even worse in recent years.

The problem can be traced upstream along the Brahmaputra, the Meghna, and the Ganges rivers. In the foothills of the Himalaya mountains, in India, China, and Nepal, the forests and wetlands are gone. Logging has taken the trees. Large agricultural operations in the valleys have pushed poor farmers onto slopes unsuitable for cultivation.

Several things happen as a result. Without vegetation to hold the soil, erosion brings silt down from the mountainsides, filling riverbeds and spreading floodwaters across the countryside. In some years, it is estimated that as much as three-fourths of Bangladesh is under flood water.

Vegetation also acts like a sponge, holding water upstream, releasing it gradually and evening the rivers' flows. With the hillsides stripped, in the monsoon season, more water floods down. In the dry season, not enough water runs through the riverbeds to carry away the human and animal sewage of the pressing population, leading to outbreaks of cholera and other diseases.

The problem is clear in many other places. In Brazil, a major focus of the world's ecological concern, policies designed to ease the plight of urban slum dwellers have led to the destruction of the Amazon rain forest. A decade ago, the governor of Rondonia state in northwest Brazil invited the poor to settle in the rain forest. Thousands of peo-



Solutions to the downward spiral of poverty require a long-term commitment, including efforts at reforestation, like this World Vision project in Ethiopia.

ple, seeking an opportunity to work their way out of poverty, flocked there. Logging, slash-and-burn farming, cattle raising, and mining have since cut millions of acres from the rain forest but yield a quality of life little better than what most left behind. Many of the poor, with no money, job skills, or resources, have nowhere else to go.

In Haiti, a paradise now plunged into misery, forest covers less than 5 percent of its land (compared with about 60 percent in 1920). The forests have been cut down and burned into

charcoal for fuel. Bags of charcoal, piled high along dirt roads and docks, show that the tree cutting has not stopped. Once, more than 30 percent of Haiti's land was arable, almost twice as much as most countries worldwide. Today, the slopes of many low mountains in Haiti have been stripped to bare rock.

A Poverty of Stewardship

To break the cycle of poverty and environmental degradation, Christians in developed nations must first redefine

their view of the problem. Looking at the human pain we see in the faces of the poor, and at the environmental harm we see in the face of the earth, we see a poverty not merely of money but of stewardship. The poor are unable to be stewards of Creation, as God intended them to be. People so deprived—so impoverished—by lack of knowledge or economic means, they are compelled to stand by and even participate in Creation's degradation. To lift the poor from poverty is to restore to them the opportunity of stewardship.

Some, like Asha Abdi in Kenya, most urgently need food to begin breaking the spiral. No farmer wants to eat his seed grain. But when seeds provide the only nourishment he can find for his children, he makes what he knows is a tragic choice.

Others need knowledge. Godfrey Buyinza knew nothing about the relationship between his and other people's

CHILDREN AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Children in developing countries are the most vulnerable victims of the environmental problems facing the world. An estimated 14 million children under 5 die each year as a result of poor sanitation, tainted drinking water, malnutrition, common diseases, and environmental pollution. Three million more are seriously disabled.

Air pollution can help lead to diarrhea and acute respiratory infection, which account for about four million deaths. Children inhale more air per unit of body weight than adults, maximizing the effect of pollutants.

Degraded land also contributes to inadequate diets, which can lead to many common diseases and death. Children have greater nutritional needs than adults. When food production decreases, children weaken more. In addition, radiation, mercury, and pesticides may cause birth defects.

World Vision's efforts to reduce child mortality and improve the well-being of children will ultimately affect more than just the lives of children. "What's good for children is good for the environment," says Garth Jones, a spokesperson for UNICEF.

actions and their drought-stricken Ugandan countryside. To feed his five children, wife, and mother, he sold most of the trees in his gardens to lumber dealers and charcoal burners. The rest he used for firewood.

But World Vision worker Catherine Kanabahita explained how destroying his trees was contributing to the drought and famine he faced. "You mean we are to plant trees that will bring rain from the sky?" Mrs. Buyinza asked.

Most important, knowledge must be accompanied by action and resources. In Uganda's central Luwero district, where the Buyinzas live, World Vision has begun a three-year community development project to help restore the environment, in part, by replanting trees in the area.

World Vision and other agencies have also undertaken reforestation projects in Haiti. Cooperative efforts there have planted more than 30 million trees in recent years. Still, only about half survive the now semi-arid climate and the grazing goats. And some 30 million trees are still cut down annually. But if Haiti's land is to be restored, the forest must be replenished.

New techniques can replace old, when people are given the opportunity. Kojok, the slash-and-burn farmer in Indonesia, gave up his destructive practice five years ago. Through a government-sponsored program implemented by World Vision and a partner agency, residents of Kojok's community were given land for wet rice farming, a method allowing more nutrients to remain in the soil.

In the dry season, Kojok "taps"

indigenous rubber trees, a process in which he collects liquid rubber much like draining sap from a maple tree. While income from rubber tapping is meager—about \$1 per day—it harvests a renewable resource from the trees, rather than destroys them. And over the years, the increased vegetation will retain water and help replenish the soil.

As a result, the Dyack are able to remain on a plot of land instead of migrating as they used to. With other help, they have built more permanent homes, which promotes sanitation and health for families.

Restoring Stewardship

Restoring stewardship opportunities to those like Kojok requires one thing above all else: a commitment to the long term. Degradation of the earth is truly a sin of the fathers and mothers that will be visited upon the third and fourth generations (see Exodus 20). Solutions will not come quickly. Forests, topsoil, or clean rivers cannot be shipped into a country. Their restoration takes years, even decades.

While our first response may be to "share your food with the hungry" (Isa. 58:7), we must also look beyond immediate needs and deal with the causes of poverty. We must identify those areas about to slip into the spiral of poverty and environmental degradation: across the Sahel of Africa, the edge of the growing Sahara desert; in the tropical forests of Brazil, Indonesia, and Malaysia.

Then we must find ways to prevent further environmental degradation that would further impoverish people:

- New farming methods that use renewable indigenous resources instead of relying on Western mechanical and chemical practices. In Peru, for example, an ancient agricultural system has produced crops with no net loss in top soil for 3,000 years (compared with a 50 percent loss in the United States over a period of 170 years);
- Political reforms that allow poor and landless people to return from marginal, unsuitable land;
- Alternative energy sources and fuels.

In these and other ways we will enable the poor to become partners in restoring the land.

Finally, we must recognize it is not always the developed West who knows best. Knowledge of the environment is imbedded deep in many people's cultural history. Pepe, one of the few remaining Mayan Indians living in southern Mexico's tropical rain forest, can describe in practical terms what scientists call the "hydrologic cycle," the flow of water from the earth to the atmo-

WRITING GREEN

During 1993, Bread for the World, a Christian citizen's movement to end hunger, is launching a major effort to make reducing poverty and protecting the environment the central purpose of the U.S. foreign aid program. Bread for the World, with World Vision and other allied organizations, will work to increase funding for overseas programs that are focused on this goal.

One out of seven people in the world are hungry. And more than 40,000 children die each day from malnutrition and related diseases. Environmental degradation depletes the food supply, harms livestock and other animals, and threatens peoples' means of livelihood, thereby leading to hunger and displacement.

To encourage U.S. programs that help develop self-reliance in the Third World and protect the environment, Bread for the World is asking churches to write letters to their members of Congress. Participation in the 1993 Offering of Letters campaign can improve the U.S. response to hungry neighbors overseas.

For more information, contact Bread for the World, 54 N. Oakland Ave., Pasadena, CA 91001; (818) 568-3233.

sphere and back again.

"In earlier times," he said, "we farmed and sowed maize without destroying the jungle. We need trees because if there is no jungle, it won't rain anymore. ... The river is not deep anymore, all because of cutting down the trees."

Outsiders who suffer from a poverty of knowledge deprive Pepe and others from taking care of the land. Pepe fears they will destroy the forest that has sustained the rains, soil, creatures, and people for centuries. ☉

Calvin DeWitt is professor of environmental studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and is director of the Au Sable Institute in Mancelona, Mich., which assists churches, denominations, and students worldwide with studies of Christian environmental stewardship, field ecology, and sustainable development.

Ken Sidey is a free-lance journalist in Island Lake, Ill.

FOR FURTHER READING concerning Christian stewardship and the environment:

Earth Keeping: Making It A Family Habit; by Sydney L. Donahoe; Zondervan Publishing House; © 1990.

Earth Keeping in the '90s: Stewardship of Creation; by Loren Wilkinson; Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.; ©1991.

The Environment & the Christian: What Can We Learn from the New Testament?; by Calvin B. DeWitt; Baker Book House; © 1991.

The Gift of Creation; by Virginia Vroblecky; Navpress; ©1992.

50 Ways You Can Help Save the Planet; by Tony Campolo & Gordon Aeschliman; InterVarsity Press; © 1992.

BY CAROL L. BRUNING

PRACTICAL HELP FOR THE HOMELESS

The homeless face so many difficulties it can seem daunting for an individual or a church to know how to help. Here are a few ideas.

IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE to ignore the sound. Chuga-chuga-chuga. It echoed down the tree-lined streets of our little Kentucky town. The rusty, green station wagon, minus a muffler, rolled its bald tires into the driveway of the parsonage and died.

Tom and Terri were not church folks out for a Saturday drive to visit the preacher. Tom looked at us through

ONE IN A SERIES OF PHOTOGRAPHS OF A HOMELESS FAMILY PUBLISHED IN LIFE MAGAZINE. PHOTOGRAPHED BY MARY ELLEN MARK



vacant eyes. He'd taped his glasses together at the corners and tied back his greasy, unkempt hair with a piece of string. His wife, Terri, haggard and thin, sat in the car in a stained T-shirt, too exhausted to move. Three toddlers, all in soiled diapers and sour clothing, climbed over their meager belongings. They'd spent all their emotions hours, perhaps days, ago.

Their story was the first of many similar ones we've heard during our ministry. An underground network, known only to other transient homeless families, directed Tom and his family to our church. They were traveling north searching for factory work. They were out of gas. Their car wouldn't make it, anyway. They were short on food and even shorter on dreams.

PROJECT HOME AGAIN

World Vision's Project Home Again works through local churches to help homeless families find affordable housing. The church helps the family with initial needs, including two month's rent, furniture, transportation, budgeting, child tutoring, and spiritual counseling. Since 1989, Project Home Again volunteers have resettled more than 1000 homeless families in 40 communities nationwide.

For more information, contact Obadiah Smith at Project Home Again, World Vision U.S. Programs, 919 W. Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016; (818) 305-7819.

Like many people, we had stereotyped the homeless: bag ladies mumbling incoherently; bums sleeping off drunken binges on park benches. That Saturday, however, we discovered another face of the homeless: Tom, Terri, and three smudge-faced babies in a car going nowhere.

Who's on First?

The homeless don't fit neatly into stereotypes. Different areas of the United States have different population make-ups with a wide range of needs. In Norfolk, Va., for example, families like Tom's comprise 81 percent of the homeless. In New York City, however, only 10 percent of the homeless are families.

One thing is certain. Every community—small towns, big cities, sub-

The National Coalition for the Homeless estimates that 3 million homeless men, women, and children live in the United States.

JON WARREN



urbs, and the country—has homeless. The National Coalition for the Homeless estimates that 3 million homeless men, women, and children live in the United States. Families make up one-third of that number.

These statistics challenge Christians to re-examine prejudices and re-evaluate priorities. How can we receive the blessing that came to Abraham in Genesis 18 when he “entertained angels without knowing it” (Heb. 13:2)? Will your church “practice hospitality” (Rom. 12:13) or turn away modern Josephs and Marys?

In starting an effective ministry to the homeless, two basic steps are required. First, find out who they are. Second, find out what they need.

Are the homeless in your communi-

ty primarily families in transition or single men and women? How many are mentally ill or drug- and alcohol-addicted? What existing programs can you link them up with? Your county government or an advocacy group such as the Coalition for the Homeless or the Salvation Army can help you answer these questions.

Based on this research, design a plan to care for the homeless in your community. It doesn't have to be a comprehensive ministry that will meet every need. You're not called to solve these complex issues. Even Christ understood the poor will always be with us. But agree on a focused plan that will avoid duplication of services. Decide who will do what and how you can network with other organizations. (*See Project Home Again, p. 8*).

Before the Fall

Churches nationwide are developing innovative methods to minister to the homeless in their communities. East Win Church is a 5-year-old congregation in Memphis, Tenn. Without a formal church building and with limited resources, the more than 200 members meet in a leased suite of office space. Yet they've created a warm, caring environment that reaches out to the unemployed before they become homeless.

East Win developed a “Benevolence Committee” that ministers to families hit hard by recessionary job loss. This committee seldom holds meetings. Its members are busy networking jobs to help people meet their needs until they can find more gainful employment. They counsel unemployed people and help them fill out job applications. One elder's wife composes resumes on her word processor.

East Win committee members also help with constructive life skills. Many professionals, out of work for the first time, must learn to devise economical menus, bargain shop, coupon clip, and budget. Committee members help pay for groceries. Occasionally they help with house payments and utility bills.

The program has helped many families become self-supporting and avoid homelessness. Several of them have even joined the church and are now helping other unemployed people.

On the Road Again

Like Tom and Terri, every summer thousands of homeless families hit the highways searching for a new start. To survive on the road, some become manipulative, petitioning help from church after church, often in the same town. Few desire to settle. Instead, they want temporary shelter, food, gas, car

repairs, and occasionally medical care.

In Monticello, Ky., and Worthington, Ind., two small towns where we pastored, the ministerial associations planned systematic but personalized care for transient families. Local agencies taught the association about government-funded help and equipped ministers to direct transients to appropriate organizations when needs were beyond church capabilities.

Each participating church took a quarterly offering and set aside funds for the ministry. All churches then directed transient families to the one church administering the fund that month. There the families received counseling as the pastor assessed their needs. Little cash ever passed through hands. Instead, prepaid vouchers provided gas, food, lodging, or other necessary help.

The system avoided duplication of efforts and abuse of aid, making more effective use of available funds. One pastor said, “It's not our place to judge if they deserve our help—did we deserve Jesus?”

TOP TEN PROBLEMS

Top ten problems facing low-income families in the United States, according to the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation:

1. Paying doctor or hospital bills
2. Finding a job
3. Performing daily duties, because of illness or disability
4. Paying for prescription drugs
5. Buying clothing
6. Health in general
7. Life-threatening illness or death of a family member
8. Paying rent or mortgage
9. Buying food
10. Paying for heat and electricity

Shelter in a Time of Storm

Kenny, Janet, and Mandy McFarlane represent the fastest growing sector of the homeless population—families. For the McFarlanes, the emergency shelter on Shelby Street in Louisville, Ky., was their last choice. They arrived one sweltering evening in July, bewildered and humiliated. How had things gone downhill so fast? Only a year before, their life seemed picture-perfect. Now all their earthly possessions were crammed in two cardboard boxes

families make up one-third of that number.



and a plastic garbage bag.

Kenny was laid off after the company had transferred him to Louisville. They'd already used their small savings in the move. They fell behind on their credit and rent payments. Far from friends and family in Pittsburgh, they turned to a shelter for help.

This innovative program, "Kentucky Harvest," draws national attention, feeding hundreds of homeless like the McFarlanes every day. And Christians across the country are discovering that volunteering at shelters are an effective way to minister to the homeless. Professionals offer rehabilitation and employment counseling to families in transition.

CHILDREN AND POVERTY

According to the Children's Defense Fund:

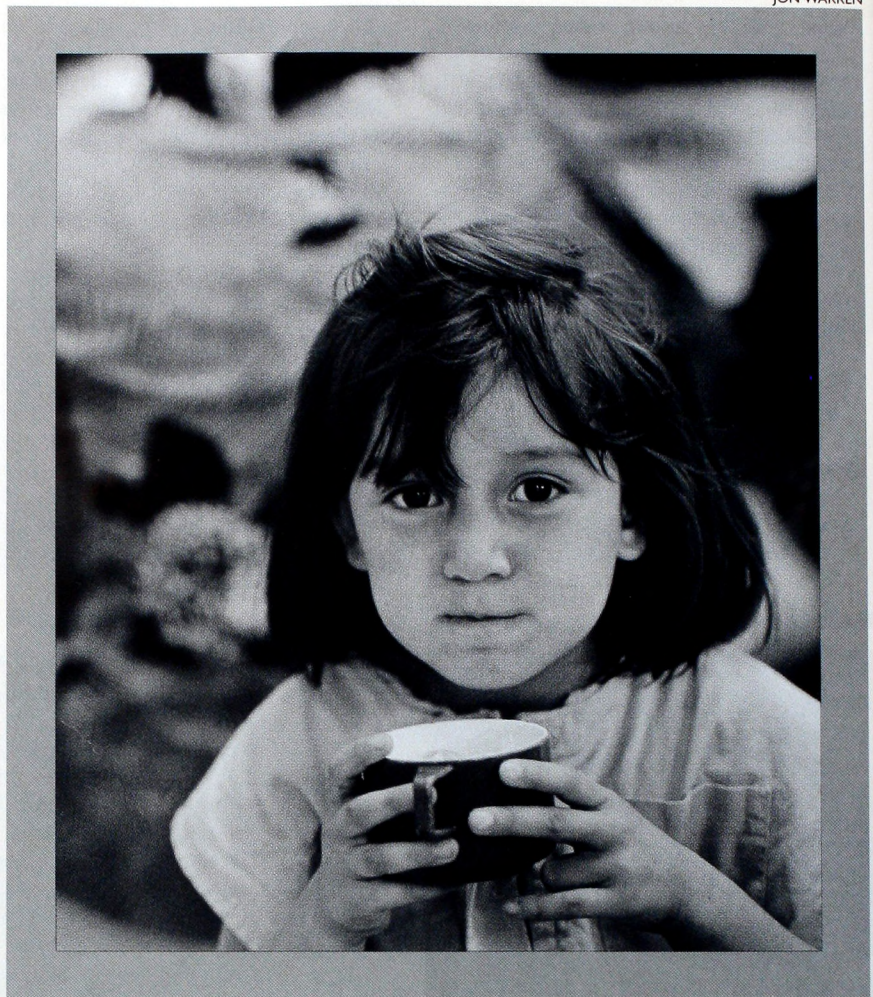
- The number of poor children has grown by 1.1 million to a total of 11.2 million, an increase of 11 percent since 1989 and of almost 19 percent since 1970.
- The economic growth of the 1980s did little to benefit children. Per capita income increased in 48 of the 50 states during the 1980s, but the number of children in poverty rose by 33 percent.
- Americans tend to believe that poor children in the United States are overwhelmingly urban and minority. Yet only one in 10 poor children fits the stereotype of a child who is black, urban, and living with a single mother on welfare. More poor children are white (5.9 million) than black (3.7 million).
- More than 25 percent of children living in cities with populations of 100,000 or more are classified as poverty-stricken.

Volunteers cut homeless residents' hair, type resumes, and teach reading and parenting classes. One retired schoolteacher collects books for a library and donates clothes for job interviews.

Churches throughout the Louisville area collect restaurant-donated food for shelters. Churches in the neighboring county also provide surplus garden vegetables.

In San Pedro, Calif., Christians recently launched programs for children living in shelters. To erase the stigma associated with homelessness, they organized a Vacation Bible School, and scouting and youth groups.

Volunteers also tutor children who have fallen behind or were not enrolled



Volunteers can help homeless children by organizing scouting and youth groups, school tutoring, or Vacation Bible schools.

in school. They are giving kids a sense of stability and self-esteem with the love of Jesus.

Helping the Hard Core

Single men and women who are homeless are the most difficult to help. Often mentally ill, or addicted to alcohol or drugs, they have turned to their last avenue of assistance. Because many of the men and women lack social skills, they often deal with their frustrations with little restraint.

Many of them can repulse even the most Christ-centered person. Many Christians will send money to support rehabilitative shelters for them, but they will avoid direct contact. There are many ways, however, to ease yourself into this ministry and feel more comfortable serving.

Rescue shelters for the hard-core homeless often run on a shoestring budget. Usually, their staff consists of a director/pastor and a nurse. One church's young adult class helps by answering phones and doing clerical work. This gives the staff a stress-free afternoon away from the shelter.

Some churches offer fix-it days, repairing holes in walls or painting. Rescue missions constantly need clothing and food. Clean linens, mattresses, blankets, soap, and other personal items are especially needed. Finally, many parachurch rescue missions are looking for people to help with Bible studies or worship services.

Once you discover the homeless situation in your community, you can decide how your church and its abilities can best minister to the homeless. Even with limited resources, you can help. None of the ideas I've shown here requires a lot of money or volunteers. And when Christians act in creative, generous ways, there is a chance to live out the Christ we proclaim.

"If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth," (1 John 3:17,18). ☉

Carol L. Bruning is a freelance writer in Karlsruhe, Germany.

By working together, the nations of southern Africa overcome a famine that would have dwarfed the human disaster in East Africa.

CULEMBUCA NOTA, CHAIRMAN OF THE village of Mangula in western Mozambique, father of 10 children and husband of three wives, found it hard to believe. After more than a decade of civil war in Mozambique, peace had come. Nota's family was finally free to leave ter-

AVERTING ANOTHER SOMALIA



ritory long terrorized by rebels. After the cease-fire in October, Nota and five of his drought-shocked sons traveled to an emergency feeding site in Changara, about 12 miles from territory held by the rebel Mozambique National Resistance (Renamo).

The same day that Nota and his sons strengthened themselves with relief food, more than 18 million people throughout Mozambique and southern Africa were also receiving help.

Last year southern Africa faced a potential famine 10 times more widespread than Somalia's. The rains stopped in the middle of the growing season in January 1992, and drought ravaged land in 12 southern African nations. This led to crop losses of 60 to 100 percent. With almost a complete lack of the world's media attention, the drought left the region needing 12 million metric tons of food. And by mid-

donors, relief agencies, U.N. agencies, and regional coordinating bodies," said Tom Getman, then-chairman of the Disaster Response Committee for Interaction, an inter-agency body coordinating emergency relief efforts. "The result was that record amounts of food and health supplies were delivered."

By the time national food stocks were gone in early December 1992, more than 7.7 million metric tons of grain had been delivered by some 350 ships through nine regional ports, six of which are in South Africa. Massive famine had been averted.

By comparison, during the famine of the mid-1980s in Ethiopia and Sudan, the world community donated and transported 2 million metric tons of food.

Working Together

In a region traditionally wrought more with political tension than with

the region enjoyed peace as the food ran out.

Working together, relief agencies and the region's governments agreed that the U.N.'s World Food Program (WFP) would oversee the logistics of moving the large volume of food into southern Africa. This was a large and complicated task in a region with limited transportation systems and little experience with emergency food distribution.

The Southern African Development Community (SADC), representing the nations of that region, worked with the WFP to iron out wrinkles in trade agreements and restrictions. The SADC, created 12 years ago to promote economic independence from South Africa, helped unify the region and has been strengthened by its role in the emergency.

Even South Africa, the regional pariah for its apartheid policies, provided grain through Durban and other key gateways to the region.

"For a change, the South Africans were on the side of the angels," said one technical advisor for the Zambian government. Added Lisa Mullins, program officer for Interaction: "At the beginning of the crisis, there was a lot of concern about coordination because so much of the food had to be moved through South Africa. The ambassador of Mozambique wouldn't sit down with the ambassador of South Africa. Fortunately, it never was a problem."

Likewise, Mozambique put aside its resentment of Zimbabwe's former support of rebel Renamo forces to provide grain through the port of Beira, a key gateway for food to reach southern Africa's inland countries. Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe pressed not only for a peaceful food corridor through Mozambique but also for an outright peace accord in that country.

Drought Leads to Peace

In Mozambique, 16 years of rebellion had devastated the country's infrastructure and made rape, murder, and starvation commonplace. On Oct. 4, 1992, the warring parties signed a preliminary peace accord.

Ironically, the severe drought that had ravaged some two-thirds of Mozambique helped bring Renamo leaders to the peace table.

"The drought is the main reason for the cease-fire," said Carl Becker, food manager for World Vision's work in Tete Province. "Renamo soldiers were simply starving to death."



In southern Africa, drought led to crop losses of 60 to 100 percent.

October, only 14 percent of food pledged to fight the famine had arrived.

Many were concerned that massive starvation could lead to the political instability and chaos now seen in Somalia and Sudan. Yet the 12 southern African nations found that "the drought of the century" brought them together in unprecedented ways.

"What was destined to be a killer famine turned out instead to be an occasion for unprecedented collaboration among national governments, bilateral

cooperation, what happened? One by one, each southern African country declared a drought disaster, with only Malawi slow to admit the need for outside help. They began arranging for grain deliveries between themselves.

A joint relief effort, unparalleled in scale, staved off tragedy in large part because nations with long-standing political tensions addressed massive food shortages as a regional, not single-state crisis. This effort was possible because, with the exception of Angola,

Renamo was also starved of finances and equipment as support from South Africa dried up. As Mozambique abandoned Marxism and turned increasingly toward free market reforms and foreign investment, South Africa had no more interest in destabilizing Mozambique.

A Dreaded Peace

The cease-fire has held steady enough to encourage more than 300,000 Mozambican refugees in Malawi, Zimbabwe, and South Africa to return home. The government and relief agencies are hustling to keep up with the sudden increase in food and health needs.

In all, more than 1 million Mozambican refugees are expected to return before summer. Many of them return to lands still laden with unexploded mines, or discover that their homelands no longer belong to them, said Jeff Drumtra, a policy analyst for the Washington, D.C.-based U.S. Committee for Refugees (USCR). Many need vocational training or retraining.

"There is an entire generation that grew up in these refugee camps," said Drumtra. In addition, with the return home of thousands of displaced people once enslaved to soldiers in Renamo territory, Mozambique faces the raw task of rebuilding on the strange and cautious optimism of a traumatized, impoverished, and malnourished people.

Many people find long-standing peace difficult to believe. "We have been suffering so long," says Nota, the village chairman. "I can't believe our future will be any different. Maybe if real peace comes." And even as refugees return, a sizeable number are still fleeing the country.

The USCR, a nonprofit refugee rights watchdog organization, greeted news of the cease-fire with gloom as much as glee.

"We dreaded the peace accord as much as the war, because so much could have gone wrong," Drumtra said. "Renamo could have used the occasion to improve their military advantage; South Africa could have forced refugees back to Mozambique prematurely—if repatriation is not handled well, every-



The cease-fire has allowed more than 300,000 Mozambican refugees to return home.

thing could unravel socially, politically, and economically."

The social pressures of poverty mixed with political volatility could mount as some 8,000 U.N. peace-keeping troops move in to ensure a smooth transition to democracy. An increase in relief food, along with the efforts of U.N. troops, will be necessary to maintain calm.

"There are signs that lead me to believe that without rapid intervention, a disaster of proportions similar to Somalia is conceivable," said Russ Kerr, World Vision's vice president of relief. The number of people from Renamo areas streaming back into World Vision-assisted villages averages 50 to 60 in smaller remote areas, and 400 to 600 in the larger areas, Kerr said.

"Many of the new arrivals are walking skeletons, as close to death as most of the Somalis I saw while visiting there," Kerr said.

Tete Province's Changara District saw no rain through the first 11 months of 1992. The local government was prepared neither for the total loss of crops nor the peace that prompted hungry people to head back into government-secured areas.

"Hunger here is severe," said district administrator David Manhache. The district has a population of 180,000 and summer temperatures that reach 130 degrees. "People are now coming out for food. On average, food that we planned for 50 people is now being shared among 100," Manhache said.

World Vision is expanding work in Mozambique, already its largest effort in Africa. Continued peace will open up unprecedented opportunities for relief agencies to assist with long-term development of Mozambican agriculture, health care, and education.

Long Road Ahead

The crisis in southern Africa is not over. It will take 10 to 15 years, for example, to replenish the 2.2 million head of cattle that Zimbabwe lost to drought. It will take years to restore the region's water tables, and even if the rains are strong for the next two years, relief aid will still be necessary to avert widespread starvation.

In Mozambique, the cease-fire is not airtight. Although Renamo President Alfonso Dhlakama has declared the war over, it is unknown how his charges will react if the fairness of elections in 1993 are found wanting. Also, Dhlakama feels the government has not lived up to cease-fire promises, and in a meeting with relief officials he warned that war could "start again soon" if Renamo is not integrated into Mozambican civil society.

Ripple of Hope

Southern Africa's regional approach to the drought crisis provides a strong example for eastern Africa. Interaction President Peter Davies said he was encouraged that the strife-torn nations of eastern Africa have begun to put political biases aside for the sake of humanitarian assistance.

"With Ethiopia hosting the peace talks on Somalia, they seem to be picking up from the example of the southern Africa drought," Davies said. "There's the same spirit of excellent cooperation that is absolutely unprecedented in the Horn of Africa." ☉

Jeff M. Sellers is a journalist and media relations specialist for World Vision in Monrovia, Calif.



S I G N S O F H O P E



OF TH

FIVE ISSUES CONCERNING
THIRD WORLD WOMEN:

LITERACY
EMPLOYMENT
CHILDBEARING
SINGLE PARENTING
AIDS

Almost one-half million Third World women, who are seen primarily as childbearers, die annually from pregnancy-related causes. Many mothers, like the woman in this photo, lack the education and resources to keep their children healthy. Because infant deaths are common, women often have several children in hopes a few will survive.

VERISILE VERTILON'S sad eyes belie the matter-of-fact tone in her voice as she describes how four of her 10 children died in infancy—two from diarrhea, one from tetanus, another from fever. In the Zilebois village on La Gonave

Island in Haiti many children die of malnutrition, malaria, diarrhea, and diseases almost eradicated in the United States.

Before World Vision's Child Survival project began in October 1987, only two missionary dispensaries provided health care to the 67,000 La Gonave residents. Through the project mothers have learned about



WOMEN

DEVELOPING WORLD

health, nutrition, hygiene, and immunizations.

Verisile's 4-year-old son was among the 50 children assembled in their best Sunday outfits under a thatched roof hut where they received polio, measles, diphtheria, tetanus, and whooping cough vaccines.

"It's a good thing God did

for us," Verisile says. "He sent this project here. We won't be burying so many of our children anymore." 🌐

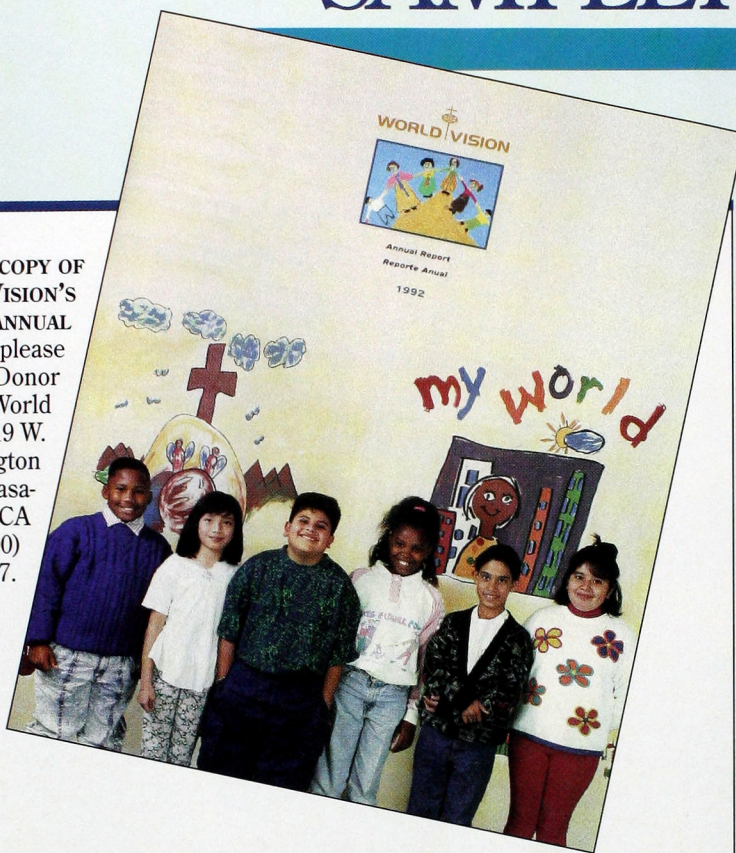
*Reported by Marilyn B. Allien.
Written by Tamera Marko. Photo
by Paul Hiltz.*

SAMARITAN SAMPLER

RESOURCES FOR
HELPING OTHERS
IN THE NAME
OF CHRIST

Compiled and written
by Tamera Marko

FOR A COPY OF
WORLD VISION'S
1992 ANNUAL
REPORT, please
contact Donor
Services, World
Vision, 919 W.
Huntington
Drive, Pasa-
dena, CA
91131; (800)
777-5777.



DOC'S HOMELESS CALLS?

Physician Janelle Goetcheus will never forget William, a 74-year-old homeless man who visited a clinic where she was working. He did not have socks or a shirt. The cold, wet weather had soaked his jacket, trousers, and shoes. He received food and warm clothes, and the clinic made an appointment to see him the next day for a medical checkup. That night, he froze to death in a phone booth.

Tragedies like that prompted Janelle, who works as a physician among the poor and homeless, to provide 24-hour medical care for homeless people suffering from acute health problems. Seventeen years ago, through prayer and the help of an anonymous \$2.2 million donation, Janelle purchased an abandoned apartment building across from the clinic. The building became Christ House, a convalescent home where up to 34 homeless men can stay as long as it takes to get well.

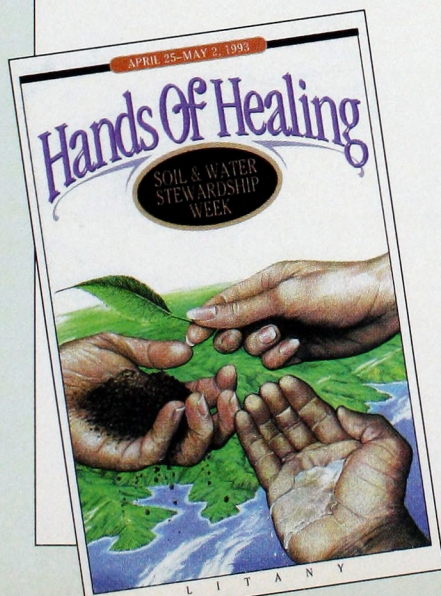
Thanks to hundreds of volunteers and donations from individuals, pharmacies, food stores, and churches, Christ House has helped more than 1,500 homeless people since it opened on Christmas Eve 1985.

Christ House also provides educational and recreational activities, counseling, rehabilitation programs, and helps patients find housing when they leave the center.

Contact Kristen Weinman for volunteer information or Pat McGregor for general information at Christ House, 1717 Columbia Road N.W., Washington, D.C., 20009; (202) 328-1100.

GET YOUR HANDS DIRTY

Want to help the environment? Participate in the 1993 Soil and Water Stewardship Week, April 25 to May 2. Sponsored



annually since 1955 by the National Association of Conservation Districts, this national event encourages individuals to heal the environment in their community.

"We want individuals to learn that you don't have to be an environmental hero or be part of a large organization to help the environment," says Ronald G. Francis, NACD public affairs director.

Your commitment to the event can range from wearing a lapel pin to following a step-by-step guide for organizing Soil and Water Stewardship Week in your community. The NACD provides church group and children's educational materials, press releases, sample editorials, and public service announcements—everything you need to alert your community, local media, and political representatives to environmental problems and solutions.

To order a 1993 Soil and Water Stewardship Week Sample Kit send a \$4.75 check or money order to NACD Service Center, P.O. Box 855, League City, TX 77574-0855.

BREAK OUT!

After several years as a Christian social worker, Sharon Bryson noticed that emotional problems can hinder spiritual growth. Based on her experience as an overseas missionary and a pastor's wife, she says that "some churches tend to departmentalize recovery issues and put spiritual issues on the other side."

Bryson, who has master's degrees in education, religion, and social work, developed the Twelve Step Spiritual Growth and Support Group. This curriculum includes the manual "Breakout! A Twelve Step Adventure To Spiritual Maturity and Wholeness." With a devotional for each step, the curriculum is developed for groups of four to 10 people.

"I strongly believe that as our families become healthy and whole, and the brokenness of our self-image is repaired, we will begin to experience the fullness of relationship with Christ," Bryson says.

The manual

retails for \$6.95 and the set, which includes a cassette and a serenity Bible, retails for \$24.95. For more information, contact Light and Life Press, P.O. Box 535002, Indianapolis, IN 46253-5002; (800) 348-2513.

“Grace is giving unconditionally without regard to whether the person we are giving to is worthy.”

—Unknown

JOSH & ERIKA JUST MADE

THEY'RE NOT
EATING FOR
30 HOURS.

A BIG DECISION

This year on February 19 and 20, over 150,000 young people across North America went without food as part of World Vision's 30 Hour Famine. By collecting sponsors and going without food for 30 hours, they not only learned what it was like to be hungry but they provided real help for those who are starving in Somalia and surrounding countries.

30

WORLD VISION

30 HOUR FAMINE

MAKE IT HAPPEN!

THEY MADE A DIFFERENCE. YOU CAN TOO!

- HERE is my tax-deductible gift of \$ _____ to help support the 30 Hour Famine.
- Yes, I'm interested in participating in the Famine next year on February 18 and 19, 1994 as a group individual.
- PLEASE send me new information as soon as it's available.

Mail to:

WORLD VISION

30 HOUR FAMINE

P.O. BOX 1131

PASADENA, CA 91131

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Group name and leader (if applicable) _____

1-800-7FAMINE

0900 B327_

Six-year-old Craig receives encouragement from Kay, his legal guardian, during his basketball game.



BACKGROUND

CRACK IS A SMOKABLE FORM of cocaine, much less expensive and ten times as potent as the same amount of cocaine powder. Crack races into the womb through the mother's blood vessels and chokes the fetus' oxygen supply; the results can be deadly. During medical tests that monitored fetuses while the mother took cocaine, one doctor said, "you could see the baby flipping all over the place."

Medical experts are waiting for crack babies to grow up, to determine how much

long-term damage the drug causes. Drugs devastate some babies, others develop almost normally. "There's no cookbook formula to deal with these babies," says Dr. Dan Griffith, a developmental psychologist who works with crack babies. "The trick is assessing the needs of each one."

Since the so-called crack epidemic of the 1980s, hospitals and social service agencies have battled the controversial issue of how to care for crack babies. Courts are cautiously deciding a handful of cases trying to criminally prosecute women for using drugs while pregnant.

Although some experts say the num-

ber of crack users may have peaked in 1986, the number of heavy users is declining. At least one out of every 101 births in the United States—375,000 a year—is exposed in the womb to one or more illegal drugs, mostly cocaine.

Termed "the lost generation," crack babies have been stereotyped as stoic children who spend their days banging their heads against walls and who require permanent institutionalized care. But a trained parent like Kay and Jack Co believe that crack babies are not many just need extra love, medical attention, and prayer to help find their way.

LITTLE VICTORIES

*Love, medical care,
and prayer help
children handicapped
by crack cocaine
live better lives.*

FOR A FEW SECONDS, 6-year-old Craig* is lost in a throng of little legs bumbling after a bouncing basketball. The gym echoes with enthusiastic shouts from parents cheering their child's team. Then Craig grasps the ball. Tiny muscles on his arms flex and he shoots a basket. His legal guardian, Kay, sits among other parents in the stands and cheers for her son.

Craig was a crack baby. Before he was 3 months old, he had survived two brain surgeries. He now has a permanent shunt in his head that drains mucus through a coil that empties into his stomach.

Although the law strongly encourages keeping drug-exposed babies with their mothers, many times the mother is unable or does not want to care for her child. Kay and Jack Corrodi began caring for him when he was 2 months old. The Corrodís, by then, had a lot of experience with children—they had already adopted seven.

They knew Craig would require special care. In rare cases, crack babies are born with missing limbs or holes in the brain. Most are born underweight, premature, and have extremely sensitive nervous systems. Even a change in someone's facial expression can cause them to scream for hours or fall into a deep, protective sleep.

In California, the average cost for a drug-exposed infant's neonatal care is \$36,000, but in some cases the costs can be as much as \$135,000. If Craig lived long enough, he could require



Bobby, 5, born during his mother's crack overdose, has made tremendous progress.

more operations, special education classes, and speech and physical therapists. State-provided insurance would cover all his medical expenses. The rest, the Corrodís would pay for with commissions from their Malibu, Calif. real estate company.

The Corrodís didn't know if Craig was blind, deaf, or would even survive the next day.

"He was stiff like a board," Kay says. "When I'd roll him over, he

would just flop. I kept praying. I kept holding his little hand and talking to him. I thought just maybe he could hear me."

He came home with a heart monitor that would beep if his heart stopped. "You feel like you're responsible for every breath," Kay says. "We took him everywhere with us—parties, the bathroom, everywhere."

Eventually Craig's monitor was removed. After thousands of dollars

**The children's names have been changed at the request of the parents.*

and countless hours of medical care, physical therapy, and special counseling, he has become a healthy, rambunctious little boy.

At first glance, this child with big brown eyes and a quick smile gives no indication of heart monitors and brain shunts. But like many crack children, behavioral problems have begun to surface—difficulty with speech and language, and unpredictable angry outbursts. One minute he will calmly listen to his teacher tell a story. Next, for no apparent reason, he will run around the room screaming.

One afternoon, he bounds in the door from school. "Hi, Mommy," he says, crawling into her lap. A few seconds later, he runs into the kitchen, asking the maid for a cookie.

Kay hears thumps coming from the kitchen.

"Is that Craig banging his head?" she asks, alarmed.

"No, he's opening and shutting the doors," a voice calmly answers from the kitchen.

While Craig plays basketball, his 5-year-old "brother" Bobby plays outside in a nearby park. Bobby runs ahead of his father and plops himself on a swing.

"Swing me higher, Daddy," he shouts, squealing with delight. Bobby, born during a crack overdose, was on oxygen for a year after birth. The Corrodis, his legal guardians, began caring for Bobby when he was 18 months old.

Crack has dulled his sense of physical pain. When frustrated, Bobby bangs his head on just about any hard surface he can find. Several times he has broken windows at home with his head.

"Sometimes we just can't get to him fast enough," Kay says. He used to wear a helmet, but he hated it and soon learned to take it off." When he began special education classes, the teachers padded the windows at school.

Progress for Bobby is measured by breaking fewer windows, learning more words, and interacting with his schoolmates. When he finishes meals or shares a toy, the Corrodis praise him.

Craig and Kay arrive announcing that Craig's basketball team has won. Bobby, delighted to see his mother, presses against her.

Kay tousles Bobby's hair and tells her husband, "Craig has learned a new way to get the ball away from the other children. He hurls himself on top of the kid with the ball." She laughs and adds, "I guess we're going to have to explain the rules again."

Kay and Jack believe obeying rules will be the key to Craig's independence. "He'll have to learn law and order to be a law-abiding citizen," Jack says. "But I believe he'll be okay and able to function in society."

Bobby will probably always need special care. "We expect to have Bobby forever," Kay says. How do they feel about this life-long commitment? Kay smiles and answers, "That's the way it is."

Both Kay and Jack draw comfort and strength from their faith. Jack attends church every day. On Sundays, Kay and Jack pile their children into the family van and go to church. "It's important for the children to know God," Kay says. "I think life is like a wheel and without God, life is wobbly."

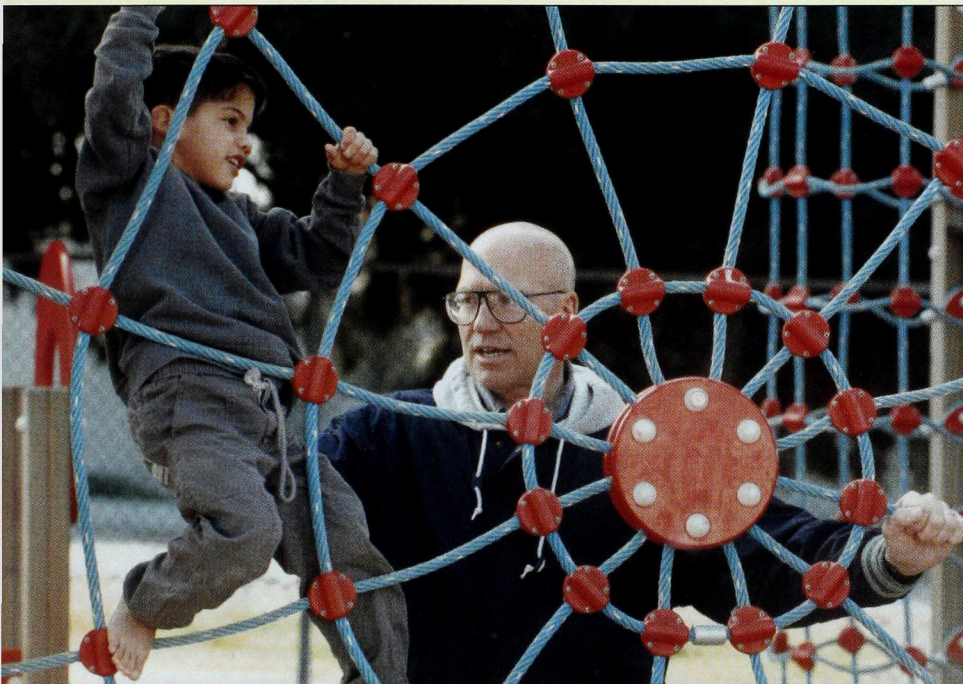
The Corrodis have grown accustomed to adjusting their lifestyle to care for their children. They are experts at finding quiet parks where a loud outburst won't disturb others, or renting a motel room where they can "get away" and splash in the pool but still closely monitor their children.

Kay recalls many a scowl and raised eyebrow from people when Craig or Bobby get out of control. "People look at you like 'what brats you have'," Kay says. "But it's not our fault. It's not the children's fault. It's just a problem they have."

Jack adds: "We think that if more parents could experience the joy of having a bright, enthusiastic little Craig or Bobby, they would be more likely to understand these children. It's a joy to share the little victories with them."

The Corrodis believe these victories are largely the result of age-old techniques—the power of prayer and love.

"It's the love that they get that helps them be more normal," Kay says and then pauses emphatically. "More normal than they'd be without it." ☉



Bobby shows off his climbing skills at the park for Jack, his legal guardian.

"His behavior is horrible," Kay says, keeping her ear cocked in Craig's direction. "When other kids are sleeping he destroys their rooms. He lets air out of everyone's tires. Last year, he was almost kicked off the school bus—and was only 4."

Although over the past year she has fixed many cracked toilet seats and smashed toys, she has also watched Craig learn to make friends, write his name, dress himself, and bask in the glory of shooting a basket.

And Bobby has shown improvement. When he's happy, he is liberal with hugs and smiles for his parents. Although Bobby's physical coordination is not developed enough to play organized sports, with special therapy and patient coaxing from his parents, he has made tremendous progress.

At the park, he climbs on a large spider web made of thick bright blue rope. "Look, Daddy," he yells, climbing higher with the agility of a normal 5-year-old, "I'm a spider."

FOR MORE INFORMATION about the effects of prenatal drug abuse and treatment resources, contact the Alcohol, Drug and Pregnancy Help Line (800) 638-BABY. The service is part of the National Association for Perinatal Addiction Research and Education.

UNPLANNED CONVERSION

BY FRANKI RANSOM

Wayne Evans had come a long way from his childhood days when he performed poorly in school and was always the last one picked for ball games.

In fact, Wayne thought he had it all: A Nissan 300ZX sports car, a new Harley-Davidson motorcycle, a pool, a hot tub, and enough money from the business he had started at age 19 to retire at age 40. In fact, he was in the process of selling his business, renting out his home, and sailing around the world for five or six years in a custom-built yacht.

But Wayne was so unhappy he often thought of committing suicide. He had a gun hidden away but could never bring himself to pull the trigger.

Wayne's business success had cost him three marriages. Although he supported his three children financially, he had no relationship with them. After his third divorce, Wayne briefly attended a church. But when the pain subsided, Wayne went back to chasing women, smoking marijuana, and playing with his "toys."

"If one woman didn't work out, I would find someone else," Wayne says. "I was not willing to make a commitment."

But during a trip to Africa in May 1990, Wayne made a commitment that changed his life. On a two-week visit to World Vision projects in Kenya and Malawi, Wayne received Christ.

"I was desperate and hurt inside," says Wayne, now 43. "There wasn't enough love to heal the hurt inside. My parents and family were never enough. I look back and say that God was there the whole time. He reeled me in."

The transformation started a few years ago when Wayne attended a dinner where he heard World Vision President Bob Seiple speak. Wayne, who was already sponsoring 10 children through World Vision, later told Seiple he wanted to learn more about the organization. Seiple and others suggested that Wayne go on a World Vision-sponsored trip to Africa.

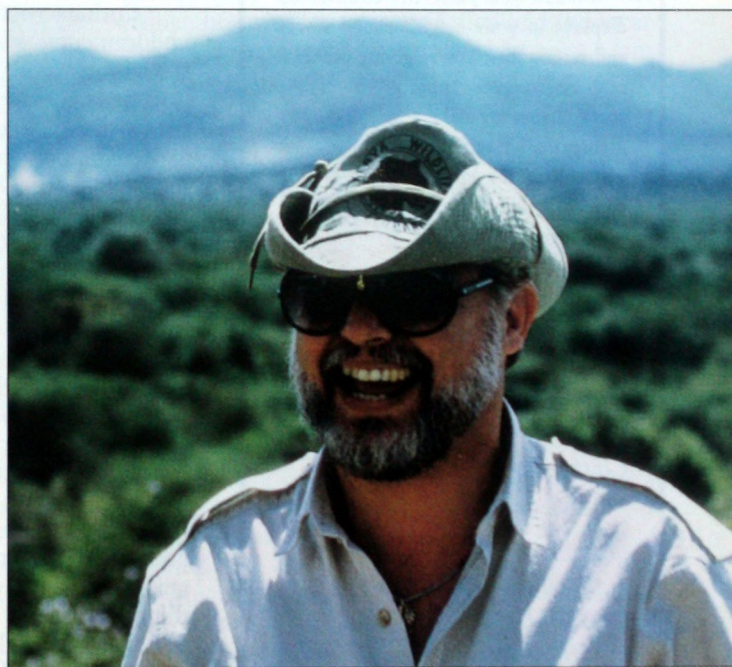
Wayne went with four Christian men. During the first few days, he wanted to return home. He felt uncomfortable traveling with devout Christians who prayed all the time. He felt out of place.

"Praying was dumb," Wayne says. "I didn't believe in God."

On their last night in Africa, however, Wayne found himself praying with his companions in a hotel room in Kenya. "Lord, I give my life to you," he prayed. He hadn't planned on saying that. But the suffering he had seen in the African villages touched him.

"People live in stick houses covered with dung and have no running water," Wayne says. "It was like stepping back in time a thousand years."

When Wayne returned home, he sold his yacht and donated the \$100,000 to World Vision projects in Romania and Africa. Wayne's folks thought he was crazy and told him not to do it.



"That plastic and wood got turned into something spiritually beautiful," Wayne says. "God wants us to focus on him and make him God. My boat was God. My money was God."

Wayne, a soft-spoken man, frequently quotes from the Bible. The part where Jesus told his disciples to give up everything and follow him remains close to Wayne. And he adds that Jesus said, "It's easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God."

Since becoming a Christian, Wayne's life has become richer, he says. Two years ago, Wayne married Diane, a long-time friend. This time Wayne's marriage is his first priority. He has even

Continued on next page

"I look back and say that God was there the whole time. He reeled me in."

In Your Spare

Time

You Can Help Save Starving Children



Time is a precious commodity these days.

That's why we're all so careful about how we spend it.

Why not use some of your spare time for something that counts?

Volunteer to become a World Vision Countertop Partner. It's a simple but important way you can help hungry people throughout the world.

When you place the countertop displays in your neighborhood stores and restaurants, you're giving others a chance to give their spare change to make a difference. Each time you collect the money, you are helping to care for hungry children and families.

It's time well-spent!



Yes! Tell me more about becoming a Countertop Partner Volunteer.

Mail this coupon and we'll give you a call. Or call us today toll-free 1-800-444-2522.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

My phone () _____

Best time to call me: _____

Mail to: World Vision Countertop Partners
P.O. Box 1131, Pasadena, CA 91131-0151



WORLD VISION

Helping People Care

VV33B1

developed a close relationship with his children, ages 12, 18, and 24, and Diane's daughter, 21.

"I believe the Lord put us together a long time ago, and we just realized it," Diane, 41, says. "We both have tender hearts and are committed to World Vision."

Last December the Evans donated enough money to World Vision to help feed 2,000 people for a year.

This year, they have helped finance a feeding center in Somalia for a year. Their next goal is to sponsor 1,000 children through World Vision.

The couple believes it's up to them to be good stewards of the money God blesses them with.

Out of the 220 children the Evans sponsor, 156 are supported directly with company funds. The remaining 64 children are supported out of the couple's personal bank account. Pictures of some of the children cover the walls of their office in Campbell, Calif.

Curious customers ask where the children come from and are shocked at the large number.

"It's not a lot considering how many die of starvation," Diane said. "We're doing what we can. We stay focused on the Lord, pray a lot, and have regular Bible studies."

Although Wayne is thankful he is able to help others, he says he has learned a lot from the villagers he met in Africa, where Wayne perceived a greater sense of family values than he had ever seen in the United States. There, Wayne says, people depend on their families and the village for support. He saw family members sitting around holding hands and hugging each other.

"They understand what family unity is all about, what the Scriptures talk about," Wayne said. "All those things are such an inspiration. God wants us all together, united."

And being able to help give life to someone, Wayne says, "must be one of the greatest miracles in the world." ☉

Franki Ransom is a free-lance writer in Pasadena, Calif.

NEXT TO THE LAST WORD

"Poverty or Pollution," our cover story, concludes our current series on the environment. It is encouraging to see the formation of evangelical groups such as Green Cross whose purpose is to promote dialogue among churches nationwide about the Christian's role in the stewardship of God's creation. For more information, contact Fredrick Krueger, 1017 N. Wahsatch Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80903.

World Vision, with David C. Cook Publishing Co., recently produced "Reclaiming the Garden: Caring for an Environment in Crisis." This eight-lesson study on the environment, suitable for Sunday school and adult small groups, comes with a user-friendly teacher's guide and video. You can order it from your local Christian bookstore or call (800) 323-7543.

Despite the wonderful signs of hope that "Averting Another Somalia" provides (p. 11), the food needs of 15 southern African nations have raised World Vision's budget to \$111 million for urgently needed relief goods.

—Terry Madison

WORLD VISION

Volume 37, Number 2

Editor **Terry Madison**

Managing Editor **Larry Wilson**

Contributing Editor **Chris Redner**

Assistant Editor **Tamera Marko**

Art Director **Don Aylard**

Production Coordinator **Janet Dahring**

Production Asst. **Stephanie Stevenson**

PrePress **Colormation, Inc.**

Printer **Danner Press**

WORLD VISION magazine is published bimonthly by **WORLD VISION®**

President **Robert A. Seiple**

Magazine Advisory Board

Dale Hanson Bourke • James Engel

Os Guinness • Laurel Hone

Richard Mouw • Terry Muck

Philip Yancey • Dorene Young

World Vision is a nonprofit, Christian humanitarian agency dedicated to serving God by helping people care for those in need. It ministers to children and families, provides emergency aid, fosters self-reliance, furthers evangelism, strengthens Christian leadership, and increases public awareness of poverty around the world.

Send all editorial correspondence and changes of address to WORLD VISION Magazine, 919 W. Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016. Please send address changes at least 30 days before moving and enclose the address label from a current copy. Member: Evangelical Press Association and Associated Church Press. Copyright © 1993 by World Vision Inc.





EMBARGOES

Every trip seems to have a focusing image, a centering metaphor, a dramatic picture of the moment that speaks to the collective whole. This one came early. We were in one of those interminably long lines at the Hanoi airport, processing through the bureaucratic maze of passport control and customs.

The plane from Bangkok had been full, carrying the normal assortment of aid workers and foreign businessmen (an ironic mixture that speaks simultaneously to past problems and hopeful futures), curious tourists drawn to the mystique of

Bob Seiple
on China
Beach in
Vietnam.



CARY PAINE / WORLD VISION

this once-closed land, and increasingly, Vietnamese from abroad. Vietnam has its own diaspora, a massive remnant, dislocated and relocated around the world. Since 1975, hundreds of thousands have found their way to North America.

But now it is safe to come home, if only to visit, looking to heal painful memories and years of separation from the extended family. Gratefully, human embargoes are lifted, even when economic and diplomatic ones are not.

The young Vietnamese couple standing in line behind us were returning from Canada. They were shy, expectant, and slightly uncomfortable. We didn't know the circumstance of their leaving Vietnam, but one can only guess that it was at great personal risk and cost. They had been away from Vietnam for many years. The young man had not seen his father since an arranged visit in Hong Kong in 1982.

That father was now on the other side of a glass partition, his face pressed tightly against the glass, tears flowing freely down his face. From time to time he would turn his back, walk away, seemingly trying to collect himself, failing to do so as his emotion, uncharacteristic for a Vietnamese, simply could not be contained.

I thought of the father of the Prodigal Son, working the field with one hand on the plough but always looking off in the distance for the one who needed to return. Certainly the Vietnamese son had been "a long way off." Now he was walking through the last airport door. "His father saw him, and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him and kissed him." We stood and watched as the drama unfolded. We wanted to cheer. We tried not to cry. We struggled to understand.

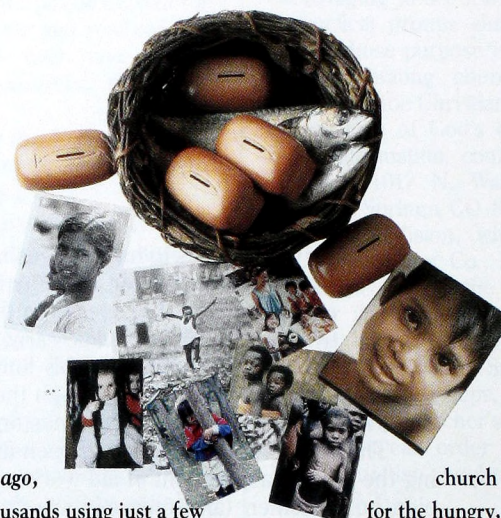
We would never know the specifics, the details leading up to this reunion. We only saw what was, undoubtedly, the end of a long process. What was visible, however, was reconciliation and the incarnation of love. A painful separation was over. A family was together again. There would be rejoicing around a common table this evening. Something precious that had been lost was now recovered. Something that had been terribly wrong had now been made right. Perhaps for this one family, the war and its aftermath were now over. Perhaps a period of normalcy had returned. A family had been reunited, a father's perseverance had been rewarded, a son would experience the unconditional nature of his parent's love. And yet, there is also that which is profoundly sad. Why did it take so long? What was it that conspired against God's intentions? Why, in this day of rapid political change, geopolitical transitions, and defining moments on a global scale, have we been so paralytically unable to bring to closure a war that supposedly ended almost two decades ago? Why has reconciliation been so elusive?

Much has been written about the morality of the Vietnam War. Little has been said about the absence of morality since 1975. How could Christians, and a Christian nation, stand passively in the lines of moral bureaucracy when so many fathers were crying uncontrollably on the other side of the glass? Weren't those faces pressed against the transparency of glass visible for all to see? How could it be possible to construct distractions that would keep us from seeing the terrible pathos of human need?

The cry for reconciliation has a human face. We don't find it in ideology. The realpolitik may not produce it. Governmental constraints and political change may not allow it to happen. History may conspire against it. But the human face makes reconciliation unavoidable. There is a loving Father who perseveres for his children. There is One who waits for his own. There is One who cannot control the tears of joy. Even if it would require the death of an only son, the embargo on reconciliation would be lifted! ☉

*The human
face makes
reconciliation
unavoidable.*

Your church can perform a modern-day miracle!



A long time ago, Jesus fed thousands using just a few loaves of bread and a couple fish. With food from one boy, He met the needs of an enormous crowd.

Today, with 40,000 children dying every day of hunger, we need another miracle. Our churches can be the place where miracles begin.

Last year, more than 2,000 churches like yours used these loaves and raised over \$600,000 to feed hungry children. That money helped thousands of families survive. It helped to change their future.

Through participating in World Vision's Love Loaf program your

church will care for the hungry, as Jesus taught. In the process, the lives of your congregation will also be changed. Members will experience God's joy in sharing. Children will learn compassion. All will share the fellowship of caring together for those who suffer.

Part of the money raised can also go to your own church projects. World Vision provides the Love Loaves at no cost to you.

Call or write today to order your Love Loaves or ask for more information.

Miracles can begin here!

Yes! I want to begin the Love Loaf program in my church.

- Please send us _____ loaves (one per household).
- We plan to distribute them on (date) _____.
- Please send me a sample Love Loaf and more information.
- Please call me.

Name _____

Position _____

Church _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____

J33LS1

WORLD VISION

P.O. Box 1131 ■ Pasadena, CA 91131-0141
1-800-444-2522

Published by
World Vision Inc.
P.O. Box 1131
Pasadena, CA
91131-0311

If you have any
questions, comments,
or a change of address,
you may call toll-free:
1-800-777-5777

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
World Vision

CONTENTS

ENVIRONMENT:
Poverty or Pollution? **2**

HOMELESS:
Practical Help **7**

SOUTHERN AFRICA:
Averting Another
Somalia **11**

SIGNS OF HOPE:
Women and
Childbearing **14**

CRACK BABIES:
Not a Lost Generation **18**

FROM THE PRESIDENT:
Embargoes **23**

April/May 1993

WORLD VISION®

A question of balance:

POVERTY OR POLLUTION?



PRACTICAL HELP FOR THE HOMELESS

AVERTING ANOTHER SOMALIA



A question of balance:

POVERTY OR PO

Only in the past few years have the connections between poverty and the environment been understood. Diminishing hunger and poverty among people will reduce both impoverishment and violence to the land. It is not a choice between helping heal the land or helping the poor; helping one is impossible without helping the other.

KOJOK, A MEMBER OF THE DYACK TRIBE in Indonesian Borneo, comes from a long line of “slash-and-burn” farmers. Once headhunters, the Dyack now exist peacefully in the tropical island’s remote mountain regions. For years they have lived a nomadic life, following not animal herds but elusive, fertile land.

The people of Kojok’s village live in temporary shelters made of wooden poles and palm leaves. They seldom stay in one location

BY CALVIN DEWITT WITH KEN SIDNEY

EVOLUTION?



for more than a few years. That's how long it takes to exhaust the soil, after they have cut and burned the timber and planted rice in the ashes. When the land's nutrients are gone, they pack and move on, returning after 10 or 15 years to start their destructive cycle again.

As the Dyack eke out a living, the land suffers. Harvests shrink. Streams dry up, or become fouled with human and animal waste. Families have as many children as possible, hoping that a few will survive disease.

Though the Indonesian government officially discourages slash-and-burn farming, it is still common in the West Kalimantan Province where the Dyack live. The region is one of the nation's poorest—more than half the population earns below the official government poverty line, about \$44 dollars per month. Like his fellow tribesmen, for years Kojok knew no other way to provide for his family.

A Downward Spiral

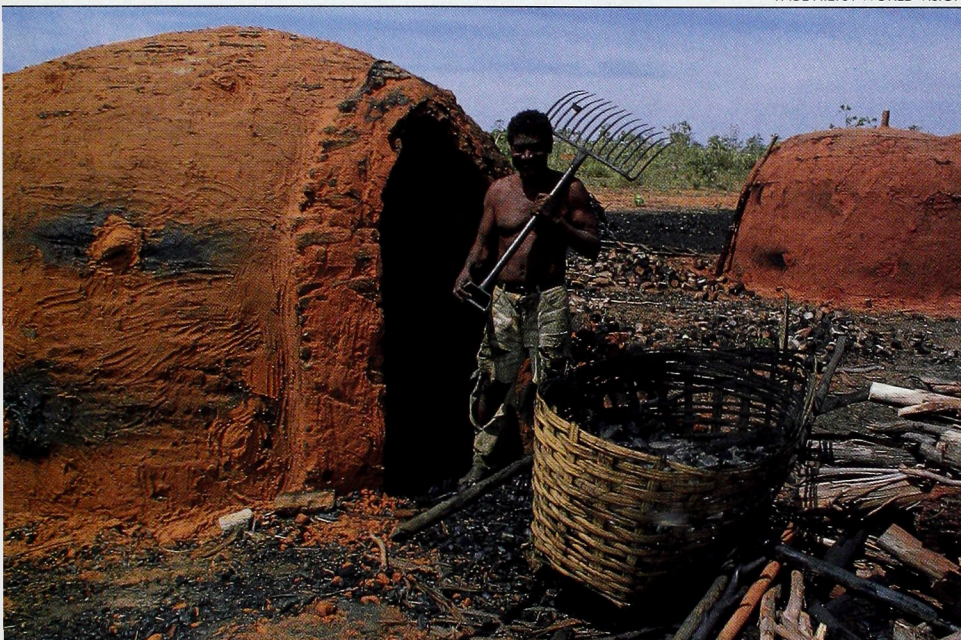
Millions of men and women world-

and poverty become part of popular knowledge in the West. And only now are we beginning to explore how to replace that downward spiral with a cycle of hope, one that restores the environment and helps impoverished people. As the earth regains its God-given wealth, it will provide for the people. Diminishing hunger and poverty among people will reduce impoverishment and violence to the land. It is not a choice between helping heal the land or helping the poor; helping one is impossible without helping the other.

There was a time when Asha Abdi's family was considered wealthy. Living in northeastern Kenya, in the village of Leheley, they owned 200 cattle and 300 goats. But the drought sapping the country's strength started Asha's family on a downward spiral. To provide for her family, Asha cut down the low, broad trees that dot the arid land around her village, to sell as firewood in Wajir, more than six miles away.

Like Asha, other villagers are stripping the land of the little remaining veg-

PAUL HILTS / WORLD VISION



Poverty leads many people in the Third World to strip their land of trees to make into charcoal, which can then be sold. Deforestation, however, is destroying the land they live on, trapping the poor in a downward spiral of poverty.

wide live just as Kojok did, destroying the earth that supports them. Some act out of ignorance, some out of greed. But many feel forced by poverty to do whatever they can to provide even the most meager living for themselves. They are trapped in a downward spiral of poverty and environmental degradation that eventually robs them not only of food for their mouths but of fertile earth beneath their feet.

Only in the past few years has the connection between the environment

etation. As a result, the nearby Somali-Chalbi Desert is expanding farther into what was once a prosperous plain. Like the great Sahara Desert of North Africa, it claims more and more land each year. As the land failed, Asha's livestock died or were sold. Today her family owns only three cows. They depend on World Vision-supplied food to survive.

The Destruction of Deforestation

Throughout the developing world, poverty has forced too many people

The U.S. has **5%** of the world's population.

It uses **25%** of the world's energy,

emits **22%** of all Co₂ produced, and accounts for

25% of the world's GNP.

onto too little land—fragile land, on the fringes of productivity. Many times, deforestation has exhausted the land's ability to provide food. Deforestation has even transformed the land into something threatening.

In the low-lying nation of Bangladesh, for example, poverty and overpopulation force millions to live on silt islands called *chars*, in the flood plains of the country's three great rivers. The soil is fertile; 85 percent of the country's 118 million people grow rice, jute, sugarcane, fruits, and vegetables. But the monsoon season brings annual floods and widespread destruction that has grown even worse in recent years.

The problem can be traced upstream along the Brahmaputra, the Meghna, and the Ganges rivers. In the foothills of the Himalaya mountains, in India, China, and Nepal, the forests and wetlands are gone. Logging has taken the trees. Large agricultural operations in the valleys have pushed poor farmers onto slopes unsuitable for cultivation.

Several things happen as a result. Without vegetation to hold the soil, erosion brings silt down from the mountainsides, filling riverbeds and spreading floodwaters across the countryside. In some years, it is estimated that as much as three-fourths of Bangladesh is under flood water.

Vegetation also acts like a sponge, holding water upstream, releasing it gradually and evening the rivers' flows. With the hillsides stripped, in the monsoon season, more water floods down. In the dry season, not enough water runs through the riverbeds to carry away the human and animal sewage of the pressing population, leading to outbreaks of cholera and other diseases.

The problem is clear in many other places. In Brazil, a major focus of the world's ecological concern, policies designed to ease the plight of urban slum dwellers have led to the destruction of the Amazon rain forest. A decade ago, the governor of Rondonia state in northwest Brazil invited the poor to settle in the rain forest. Thousands of peo-



Solutions to the downward spiral of poverty require a long-term commitment, including efforts at reforestation, like this World Vision project in Ethiopia.

ple, seeking an opportunity to work their way out of poverty, flocked there. Logging, slash-and-burn farming, cattle raising, and mining have since cut millions of acres from the rain forest but yield a quality of life little better than what most left behind. Many of the poor, with no money, job skills, or resources, have nowhere else to go.

In Haiti, a paradise now plunged into misery, forest covers less than 5 percent of its land (compared with about 60 percent in 1920). The forests have been cut down and burned into

charcoal for fuel. Bags of charcoal, piled high along dirt roads and docks, show that the tree cutting has not stopped. Once, more than 30 percent of Haiti's land was arable, almost twice as much as most countries worldwide. Today, the slopes of many low mountains in Haiti have been stripped to bare rock.

A Poverty of Stewardship

To break the cycle of poverty and environmental degradation, Christians in developed nations must first redefine

their view of the problem. Looking at the human pain we see in the faces of the poor, and at the environmental harm we see in the face of the earth, we see a poverty not merely of money but of stewardship. The poor are unable to be stewards of Creation, as God intended them to be. People so deprived—so impoverished—by lack of knowledge or economic means, they are compelled to stand by and even participate in Creation's degradation. To lift the poor from poverty is to restore to them the opportunity of stewardship.

Some, like Asha Abdi in Kenya, most urgently need food to begin breaking the spiral. No farmer wants to eat his seed grain. But when seeds provide the only nourishment he can find for his children, he makes what he knows is a tragic choice.

Others need knowledge. Godfrey Buyinza knew nothing about the relationship between his and other people's

CHILDREN AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Children in developing countries are the most vulnerable victims of the environmental problems facing the world. An estimated 14 million children under 5 die each year as a result of poor sanitation, tainted drinking water, malnutrition, common diseases, and environmental pollution. Three million more are seriously disabled.

Air pollution can help lead to diarrhea and acute respiratory infection, which account for about four million deaths. Children inhale more air per unit of body weight than adults, maximizing the effect of pollutants.

Degraded land also contributes to inadequate diets, which can lead to many common diseases and death. Children have greater nutritional needs than adults. When food production decreases, children weaken more. In addition, radiation, mercury, and pesticides may cause birth defects.

World Vision's efforts to reduce child mortality and improve the well-being of children will ultimately affect more than just the lives of children. "What's good for children is good for the environment," says Garth Jones, a spokesperson for UNICEF.

actions and their drought-stricken Ugandan countryside. To feed his five children, wife, and mother, he sold most of the trees in his gardens to lumber dealers and charcoal burners. The rest he used for firewood.

But World Vision worker Catherine Kanabahita explained how destroying his trees was contributing to the drought and famine he faced. "You mean we are to plant trees that will bring rain from the sky?" Mrs. Buyinza asked.

Most important, knowledge must be accompanied by action and resources. In Uganda's central Luwero district, where the Buyinzas live, World Vision has begun a three-year community development project to help restore the environment, in part, by replanting trees in the area.

World Vision and other agencies have also undertaken reforestation projects in Haiti. Cooperative efforts there have planted more than 30 million trees in recent years. Still, only about half survive the now semi-arid climate and the grazing goats. And some 30 million trees are still cut down annually. But if Haiti's land is to be restored, the forest must be replenished.

New techniques can replace old, when people are given the opportunity. Kojok, the slash-and-burn farmer in Indonesia, gave up his destructive practice five years ago. Through a government-sponsored program implemented by World Vision and a partner agency, residents of Kojok's community were given land for wet rice farming, a method allowing more nutrients to remain in the soil.

In the dry season, Kojok "taps"

indigenous rubber trees, a process in which he collects liquid rubber much like draining sap from a maple tree. While income from rubber tapping is meager—about \$1 per day—it harvests a renewable resource from the trees, rather than destroys them. And over the years, the increased vegetation will retain water and help replenish the soil.

As a result, the Dyack are able to remain on a plot of land instead of migrating as they used to. With other help, they have built more permanent homes, which promotes sanitation and health for families.

Restoring Stewardship

Restoring stewardship opportunities to those like Kojok requires one thing above all else: a commitment to the long term. Degradation of the earth is truly a sin of the fathers and mothers that will be visited upon the third and fourth generations (see Exodus 20). Solutions will not come quickly. Forests, topsoil, or clean rivers cannot be shipped into a country. Their restoration takes years, even decades.

While our first response may be to "share your food with the hungry" (Isa. 58:7), we must also look beyond immediate needs and deal with the causes of poverty. We must identify those areas about to slip into the spiral of poverty and environmental degradation: across the Sahel of Africa, the edge of the growing Sahara desert; in the tropical forests of Brazil, Indonesia, and Malaysia.

Then we must find ways to prevent further environmental degradation that would further impoverish people:

- New farming methods that use renewable indigenous resources instead of relying on Western mechanical and chemical practices. In Peru, for example, an ancient agricultural system has produced crops with no net loss in top soil for 3,000 years (compared with a 50 percent loss in the United States over a period of 170 years);
- Political reforms that allow poor and landless people to return from marginal, unsuitable land;
- Alternative energy sources and fuels.

In these and other ways we will enable the poor to become partners in restoring the land.

Finally, we must recognize it is not always the developed West who knows best. Knowledge of the environment is imbedded deep in many people's cultural history. Pepe, one of the few remaining Mayan Indians living in southern Mexico's tropical rain forest, can describe in practical terms what scientists call the "hydrologic cycle," the flow of water from the earth to the atmo-

WRITING GREEN

During 1993, Bread for the World, a Christian citizen's movement to end hunger, is launching a major effort to make reducing poverty and protecting the environment the central purpose of the U.S. foreign aid program. Bread for the World, with World Vision and other allied organizations, will work to increase funding for overseas programs that are focused on this goal.

One out of seven people in the world are hungry. And more than 40,000 children die each day from malnutrition and related diseases. Environmental degradation depletes the food supply, harms livestock and other animals, and threatens peoples' means of livelihood, thereby leading to hunger and displacement.

To encourage U.S. programs that help develop self-reliance in the Third World and protect the environment, Bread for the World is asking churches to write letters to their members of Congress. Participation in the 1993 Offering of Letters campaign can improve the U.S. response to hungry neighbors overseas.

For more information, contact Bread for the World, 54 N. Oakland Ave., Pasadena, CA 91001; (818) 568-3233.

FOR FURTHER READING concerning Christian stewardship and the environment:

Earth Keeping: Making It A Family Habit; by Sydney L. Donahoe; Zondervan Publishing House; © 1990.

Earth Keeping in the '90s: Stewardship of Creation; by Loren Wilkinson; Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.; ©1991.

The Environment & the Christian: What Can We Learn from the New Testament?; by Calvin B. DeWitt; Baker Book House; © 1991.

The Gift of Creation; by Virginia Vroblecky; Navpress; ©1992.

50 Ways You Can Help Save the Planet; by Tony Campolo & Gordon Aeschliman; InterVarsity Press; © 1992.

sphere and back again.

"In earlier times," he said, "we farmed and sowed maize without destroying the jungle. We need trees because if there is no jungle, it won't rain anymore. ... The river is not deep anymore, all because of cutting down the trees."

Outsiders who suffer from a poverty of knowledge deprive Pepe and others from taking care of the land. Pepe fears they will destroy the forest that has sustained the rains, soil, creatures, and people for centuries. ☉

Calvin DeWitt is professor of environmental studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and is director of the Au Sable Institute in Mancelona, Mich., which assists churches, denominations, and students worldwide with studies of Christian environmental stewardship, field ecology, and sustainable development.

Ken Sidey is a free-lance journalist in Island Lake, Ill.

BY CAROL L. BRUNING

PRACTICAL HELP FOR THE HOMELESS

The homeless face so many difficulties it can seem daunting for an individual or a church to know how to help. Here are a few ideas.

IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE to ignore the sound. Chuga-chuga-chuga. It echoed down the tree-lined streets of our little Kentucky town. The rusty, green station wagon, minus a muffler, rolled its bald tires into the driveway of the parsonage and died.

Tom and Terri were not church folks out for a Saturday drive to visit the preacher. Tom looked at us through

ONE IN A SERIES OF PHOTOGRAPHS OF A HOMELESS FAMILY PUBLISHED IN LIFE MAGAZINE. PHOTOGRAPHED BY MARY ELLEN MARK



vacant eyes. He'd taped his glasses together at the corners and tied back his greasy, unkempt hair with a piece of string. His wife, Terri, haggard and thin, sat in the car in a stained T-shirt, too exhausted to move. Three toddlers, all in soiled diapers and sour clothing, climbed over their meager belongings. They'd spent all their emotions hours, perhaps days, ago.

Their story was the first of many similar ones we've heard during our ministry. An underground network, known only to other transient homeless families, directed Tom and his family to our church. They were traveling north searching for factory work. They were out of gas. Their car wouldn't make it, anyway. They were short on food and even shorter on dreams.

PROJECT HOME AGAIN

World Vision's Project Home Again works through local churches to help homeless families find affordable housing. The church helps the family with initial needs, including two month's rent, furniture, transportation, budgeting, child tutoring, and spiritual counseling. Since 1989, Project Home Again volunteers have resettled more than 1000 homeless families in 40 communities nationwide.

For more information, contact Obadiah Smith at Project Home Again, World Vision U.S. Programs, 919 W. Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016; (818) 305-7819.

Like many people, we had stereotyped the homeless: bag ladies mumbling incoherently; bums sleeping off drunken binges on park benches. That Saturday, however, we discovered another face of the homeless: Tom, Terri, and three smudge-faced babies in a car going nowhere.

Who's on First?

The homeless don't fit neatly into stereotypes. Different areas of the United States have different population make-ups with a wide range of needs. In Norfolk, Va., for example, families like Tom's comprise 81 percent of the homeless. In New York City, however, only 10 percent of the homeless are families.

One thing is certain. Every community—small towns, big cities, sub-

JON WARREN

The National Coalition for the Homeless estimates that 3 million homeless men, women, and children live in the United States.



urbs, and the country—has homeless. The National Coalition for the Homeless estimates that 3 million homeless men, women, and children live in the United States. Families make up one-third of that number.

These statistics challenge Christians to re-examine prejudices and re-evaluate priorities. How can we receive the blessing that came to Abraham in Genesis 18 when he “entertained angels without knowing it” (Heb. 13:2)? Will your church “practice hospitality” (Rom. 12:13) or turn away modern Josephs and Marys?

In starting an effective ministry to the homeless, two basic steps are required. First, find out who they are. Second, find out what they need.

Are the homeless in your communi-

ty primarily families in transition or single men and women? How many are mentally ill or drug- and alcohol-addicted? What existing programs can you link them up with? Your county government or an advocacy group such as the Coalition for the Homeless or the Salvation Army can help you answer these questions.

Based on this research, design a plan to care for the homeless in your community. It doesn't have to be a comprehensive ministry that will meet every need. You're not called to solve these complex issues. Even Christ understood the poor will always be with us. But agree on a focused plan that will avoid duplication of services. Decide who will do what and how you can network with other organizations. (*See Project Home Again, p. 8.*)

Before the Fall

Churches nationwide are developing innovative methods to minister to the homeless in their communities. East Win Church is a 5-year-old congregation in Memphis, Tenn. Without a formal church building and with limited resources, the more than 200 members meet in a leased suite of office space. Yet they've created a warm, caring environment that reaches out to the unemployed before they become homeless.

East Win developed a “Benevolence Committee” that ministers to families hit hard by recessionary job loss. This committee seldom holds meetings. Its members are busy networking jobs to help people meet their needs until they can find more gainful employment. They counsel unemployed people and help them fill out job applications. One elder's wife composes resumes on her word processor.

East Win committee members also help with constructive life skills. Many professionals, out of work for the first time, must learn to devise economical menus, bargain shop, coupon clip, and budget. Committee members help pay for groceries. Occasionally they help with house payments and utility bills.

The program has helped many families become self-supporting and avoid homelessness. Several of them have even joined the church and are now helping other unemployed people.

On the Road Again

Like Tom and Terri, every summer thousands of homeless families hit the highways searching for a new start. To survive on the road, some become manipulative, petitioning help from church after church, often in the same town. Few desire to settle. Instead, they want temporary shelter, food, gas, car

repairs, and occasionally medical care.

In Monticello, Ky., and Worthington, Ind., two small towns where we pastored, the ministerial associations planned systematic but personalized care for transient families. Local agencies taught the association about government-funded help and equipped ministers to direct transients to appropriate organizations when needs were beyond church capabilities.

Each participating church took a quarterly offering and set aside funds for the ministry. All churches then directed transient families to the one church administering the fund that month. There the families received counseling as the pastor assessed their needs. Little cash ever passed through hands. Instead, prepaid vouchers provided gas, food, lodging, or other necessary help.

The system avoided duplication of efforts and abuse of aid, making more effective use of available funds. One pastor said, “It's not our place to judge if they deserve our help—did we deserve Jesus?”

TOP TEN PROBLEMS

Top ten problems facing low-income families in the United States, according to the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation:

1. Paying doctor or hospital bills
2. Finding a job
3. Performing daily duties, because of illness or disability
4. Paying for prescription drugs
5. Buying clothing
6. Health in general
7. Life-threatening illness or death of a family member
8. Paying rent or mortgage
9. Buying food
10. Paying for heat and electricity

Shelter in a Time of Storm

Kenny, Janet, and Mandy McFarlane represent the fastest growing sector of the homeless population—families. For the McFarlanes, the emergency shelter on Shelby Street in Louisville, Ky., was their last choice. They arrived one sweltering evening in July, bewildered and humiliated. How had things gone downhill so fast? Only a year before, their life seemed picture-perfect. Now all their earthly possessions were crammed in two cardboard boxes

families make up one-third of that number.



and a plastic garbage bag.

Kenny was laid off after the company had transferred him to Louisville. They'd already used their small savings in the move. They fell behind on their credit and rent payments. Far from friends and family in Pittsburgh, they turned to a shelter for help.

This innovative program, "Kentucky Harvest," draws national attention, feeding hundreds of homeless like the McFarlanes every day. And Christians across the country are discovering that volunteering at shelters are an effective way to minister to the homeless. Professionals offer rehabilitation and employment counseling to families in transition.

CHILDREN AND POVERTY

According to the Children's Defense Fund:

- The number of poor children has grown by 1.1 million to a total of 11.2 million, an increase of 11 percent since 1989 and of almost 19 percent since 1970.
- The economic growth of the 1980s did little to benefit children. Per capita income increased in 48 of the 50 states during the 1980s, but the number of children in poverty rose by 33 percent.
- Americans tend to believe that poor children in the United States are overwhelmingly urban and minority. Yet only one in 10 poor children fits the stereotype of a child who is black, urban, and living with a single mother on welfare. More poor children are white (5.9 million) than black (3.7 million).
- More than 25 percent of children living in cities with populations of 100,000 or more are classified as poverty-stricken.

Volunteers cut homeless residents' hair, type resumes, and teach reading and parenting classes. One retired schoolteacher collects books for a library and donates clothes for job interviews.

Churches throughout the Louisville area collect restaurant-donated food for shelters. Churches in the neighboring county also provide surplus garden vegetables.

In San Pedro, Calif., Christians recently launched programs for children living in shelters. To erase the stigma associated with homelessness, they organized a Vacation Bible School, and scouting and youth groups.

Volunteers also tutor children who have fallen behind or were not enrolled



Volunteers can help homeless children by organizing scouting and youth groups, school tutoring, or Vacation Bible schools.

in school. They are giving kids a sense of stability and self-esteem with the love of Jesus.

Helping the Hard Core

Single men and women who are homeless are the most difficult to help. Often mentally ill, or addicted to alcohol or drugs, they have turned to their last avenue of assistance. Because many of the men and women lack social skills, they often deal with their frustrations with little restraint.

Many of them can repulse even the most Christ-centered person. Many Christians will send money to support rehabilitative shelters for them, but they will avoid direct contact. There are many ways, however, to ease yourself into this ministry and feel more comfortable serving.

Rescue shelters for the hard-core homeless often run on a shoestring budget. Usually, their staff consists of a director/pastor and a nurse. One church's young adult class helps by answering phones and doing clerical work. This gives the staff a stress-free afternoon away from the shelter.

Some churches offer fix-it days, repairing holes in walls or painting. Rescue missions constantly need clothing and food. Clean linens, mattresses, blankets, soap, and other personal items are especially needed. Finally, many para-church rescue missions are looking for people to help with Bible studies or worship services.

Once you discover the homeless situation in your community, you can decide how your church and its abilities can best minister to the homeless. Even with limited resources, you can help. None of the ideas I've shown here requires a lot of money or volunteers. And when Christians act in creative, generous ways, there is a chance to live out the Christ we proclaim.

"If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth," (1 John 3:17,18). ☉

Carol L. Bruning is a free-lance writer in Karlsruhe, Germany.

By working together, the nations of southern Africa overcome a famine that would have dwarfed the human disaster in East Africa.

CULEMBUCA NOTA, CHAIRMAN OF THE village of Mangula in western Mozambique, father of 10 children and husband of three wives, found it hard to believe. After more than a decade of civil war in Mozambique, peace had come. Nota's family was finally free to leave ter-

AVERTING ANOTHER SOMALIA



ritory long terrorized by rebels. After the cease-fire in October, Nota and five of his drought-shocked sons traveled to an emergency feeding site in Changara, about 12 miles from territory held by the rebel Mozambique National Resistance (Renamo).

The same day that Nota and his sons strengthened themselves with relief food, more than 18 million people throughout Mozambique and southern Africa were also receiving help.

Last year southern Africa faced a potential famine 10 times more widespread than Somalia's. The rains stopped in the middle of the growing season in January 1992, and drought ravaged land in 12 southern African nations. This led to crop losses of 60 to 100 percent. With almost a complete lack of the world's media attention, the drought left the region needing 12 million metric tons of food. And by mid-

donors, relief agencies, U.N. agencies, and regional coordinating bodies," said Tom Getman, then-chairman of the Disaster Response Committee for Interaction, an inter-agency body coordinating emergency relief efforts. "The result was that record amounts of food and health supplies were delivered."

By the time national food stocks were gone in early December 1992, more than 7.7 million metric tons of grain had been delivered by some 350 ships through nine regional ports, six of which are in South Africa. Massive famine had been averted.

By comparison, during the famine of the mid-1980s in Ethiopia and Sudan, the world community donated and transported 2 million metric tons of food.

Working Together

In a region traditionally wrought more with political tension than with

the region enjoyed peace as the food ran out.

Working together, relief agencies and the region's governments agreed that the U.N.'s World Food Program (WFP) would oversee the logistics of moving the large volume of food into southern Africa. This was a large and complicated task in a region with limited transportation systems and little experience with emergency food distribution.

The Southern African Development Community (SADC), representing the nations of that region, worked with the WFP to iron out wrinkles in trade agreements and restrictions. The SADC, created 12 years ago to promote economic independence from South Africa, helped unify the region and has been strengthened by its role in the emergency.

Even South Africa, the regional pariah for its apartheid policies, provided grain through Durban and other key gateways to the region.

"For a change, the South Africans were on the side of the angels," said one technical advisor for the Zambian government. Added Lisa Mullins, program officer for Interaction: "At the beginning of the crisis, there was a lot of concern about coordination because so much of the food had to be moved through South Africa. The ambassador of Mozambique wouldn't sit down with the ambassador of South Africa. Fortunately, it never was a problem."

Likewise, Mozambique put aside its resentment of Zimbabwe's former support of rebel Renamo forces to provide grain through the port of Beira, a key gateway for food to reach southern Africa's inland countries. Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe pressed not only for a peaceful food corridor through Mozambique but also for an outright peace accord in that country.

Drought Leads to Peace

In Mozambique, 16 years of rebellion had devastated the country's infrastructure and made rape, murder, and starvation commonplace. On Oct. 4, 1992, the warring parties signed a preliminary peace accord.

Ironically, the severe drought that had ravaged some two-thirds of Mozambique helped bring Renamo leaders to the peace table.

"The drought is the main reason for the cease-fire," said Carl Becker, food manager for World Vision's work in Tete Province. "Renamo soldiers were simply starving to death."



In southern Africa, drought led to crop losses of 60 to 100 percent.

October, only 14 percent of food pledged to fight the famine had arrived.

Many were concerned that massive starvation could lead to the political instability and chaos now seen in Somalia and Sudan. Yet the 12 southern African nations found that "the drought of the century" brought them together in unprecedented ways.

"What was destined to be a killer famine turned out instead to be an occasion for unprecedented collaboration among national governments, bilateral

cooperation, what happened? One by one, each southern African country declared a drought disaster, with only Malawi slow to admit the need for outside help. They began arranging for grain deliveries between themselves.

A joint relief effort, unparalleled in scale, staved off tragedy in large part because nations with long-standing political tensions addressed massive food shortages as a regional, not single-state crisis. This effort was possible because, with the exception of Angola,

Renamo was also starved of finances and equipment as support from South Africa dried up. As Mozambique abandoned Marxism and turned increasingly toward free market reforms and foreign investment, South Africa had no more interest in destabilizing Mozambique.

A Dreaded Peace

The cease-fire has held steady enough to encourage more than 300,000 Mozambican refugees in Malawi, Zimbabwe, and South Africa to return home. The government and relief agencies are hustling to keep up with the sudden increase in food and health needs.

In all, more than 1 million Mozambican refugees are expected to return before summer. Many of them return to lands still laden with unexploded mines, or discover that their homelands no longer belong to them, said Jeff Drumtra, a policy analyst for the Washington, D.C.-based U.S. Committee for Refugees (USCR). Many need vocational training or retraining.

"There is an entire generation that grew up in these refugee camps," said Drumtra. In addition, with the return home of thousands of displaced people once enslaved to soldiers in Renamo territory, Mozambique faces the raw task of rebuilding on the strange and cautious optimism of a traumatized, impoverished, and malnourished people.

Many people find long-standing peace difficult to believe. "We have been suffering so long," says Nota, the village chairman. "I can't believe our future will be any different. Maybe if real peace comes." And even as refugees return, a sizeable number are still fleeing the country.

The USCR, a nonprofit refugee rights watchdog organization, greeted news of the cease-fire with gloom as much as glee.

"We dreaded the peace accord as much as the war, because so much could have gone wrong," Drumtra said. "Renamo could have used the occasion to improve their military advantage; South Africa could have forced refugees back to Mozambique prematurely—if repatriation is not handled well, every-



The cease-fire has allowed more than 300,000 Mozambican refugees to return home.

thing could unravel socially, politically, and economically."

The social pressures of poverty mixed with political volatility could mount as some 8,000 U.N. peace-keeping troops move in to ensure a smooth transition to democracy. An increase in relief food, along with the efforts of U.N. troops, will be necessary to maintain calm.

"There are signs that lead me to believe that without rapid intervention, a disaster of proportions similar to Somalia is conceivable," said Russ Kerr, World Vision's vice president of relief. The number of people from Renamo areas streaming back into World Vision-assisted villages averages 50 to 60 in smaller remote areas, and 400 to 600 in the larger areas, Kerr said.

"Many of the new arrivals are walking skeletons, as close to death as most of the Somalis I saw while visiting there," Kerr said.

Tete Province's Changara District saw no rain through the first 11 months of 1992. The local government was prepared neither for the total loss of crops nor the peace that prompted hungry people to head back into government-secured areas.

"Hunger here is severe," said district administrator David Manhache. The district has a population of 180,000 and summer temperatures that reach 130 degrees. "People are now coming out for food. On average, food that we planned for 50 people is now being shared among 100," Manhache said.

World Vision is expanding work in Mozambique, already its largest effort in Africa. Continued peace will open up unprecedented opportunities for relief agencies to assist with long-term development of Mozambican agriculture, health care, and education.

Long Road Ahead

The crisis in southern Africa is not over. It will take 10 to 15 years, for example, to replenish the 2.2 million head of cattle that Zimbabwe lost to drought. It will take years to restore the region's water tables, and even if the rains are strong for the next two years, relief aid will still be necessary to avert widespread starvation.

In Mozambique, the cease-fire is not airtight. Although Renamo President Alfonso Dhlakama has declared the war over, it is unknown how his charges will react if the fairness of elections in 1993 are found wanting. Also, Dhlakama feels the government has not lived up to cease-fire promises, and in a meeting with relief officials he warned that war could "start again soon" if Renamo is not integrated into Mozambican civil society.

Ripple of Hope

Southern Africa's regional approach to the drought crisis provides a strong example for eastern Africa. Interaction President Peter Davies said he was encouraged that the strife-torn nations of eastern Africa have begun to put political biases aside for the sake of humanitarian assistance.

"With Ethiopia hosting the peace talks on Somalia, they seem to be picking up from the example of the southern Africa drought," Davies said. "There's the same spirit of excellent cooperation that is absolutely unprecedented in the Horn of Africa." ☉

Jeff M. Sellers is a journalist and media relations specialist for World Vision in Monrovia, Calif.



S I G N S O F H O P E



OF TH

FIVE ISSUES CONCERNING
THIRD WORLD WOMEN: LITERACY
EMPLOYMENT
CHILDBEARING
SINGLE PARENTING
AIDS

Almost one-half million Third World women, who are seen primarily as childbearers, die annually from pregnancy-related causes. Many mothers, like the woman in this photo, lack the education and resources to keep their children healthy. Because infant deaths are common, women often have several children in hopes a few will survive.

VERISILE VERTILON'S sad eyes belie the matter-of-fact tone in her voice as she describes how four of her 10 children died in infancy—two from diarrhea, one from tetanus, another from fever. In the Zilebois village on La Gonave

Island in Haiti many children die of malnutrition, malaria, diarrhea, and diseases almost eradicated in the United States.

Before World Vision's Child Survival project began in October 1987, only two missionary dispensaries provided health care to the 67,000 La Gonave residents. Through the project, mothers have learned about



WOMEN

DEVELOPING WORLD

health, nutrition, hygiene, and immunizations.

Verisile's 4-year-old son was among the 50 children assembled in their best Sunday outfits under a thatched roof hut where they received polio, measles, diphtheria, tetanus, and whooping cough vaccines.

"It's a good thing God did

for us," Verisile says. "He sent this project here. We won't be burying so many of our children anymore." 🌐

*Reported by Marilyn B. Allien.
Written by Tamera Marko. Photo
by Paul Hilts.*

SAMARITAN SAMPLER

RESOURCES FOR
HELPING OTHERS
IN THE NAME
OF CHRIST

Compiled and written
by Tamera Marko

FOR A COPY OF
WORLD VISION'S
1992 ANNUAL
REPORT, please
contact Donor
Services, World
Vision, 919 W.
Huntington
Drive, Pasa-
dena, CA
91131; (800)
777-5777.



DOC'S HOMELESS CALLS?

Physician Janelle Goetcheus will never forget William, a 74-year-old homeless man who visited a clinic where she was working. He did not have socks or a shirt. The cold, wet weather had soaked his jacket, trousers, and shoes. He received food and warm clothes, and the clinic made an appointment to see him the next day for a medical checkup. That night, he froze to death in a phone booth.

Tragedies like that prompted Janelle, who works as a physician among the poor and homeless, to provide 24-hour medical care for homeless people suffering from acute health problems. Seventeen years ago, through prayer and the help of an anonymous \$2.2 million donation, Janelle purchased an abandoned apartment building across from the clinic. The building became Christ House, a convalescent home where up to 34 homeless men can stay as long as it takes to get well.

Thanks to hundreds of volunteers and donations from individuals, pharmacies, food stores, and churches, Christ House has helped more than 1,500 homeless people since it opened on Christmas Eve 1985.

Christ House also provides educational and recreational activities, counseling, rehabilitation programs, and helps patients find housing when they leave the center.

Contact Kristen Weinman for volunteer information or Pat McGregor for general information at Christ House, 1717 Columbia Road N.W., Washington, D.C., 20009; (202) 328-1100.

GET YOUR HANDS DIRTY

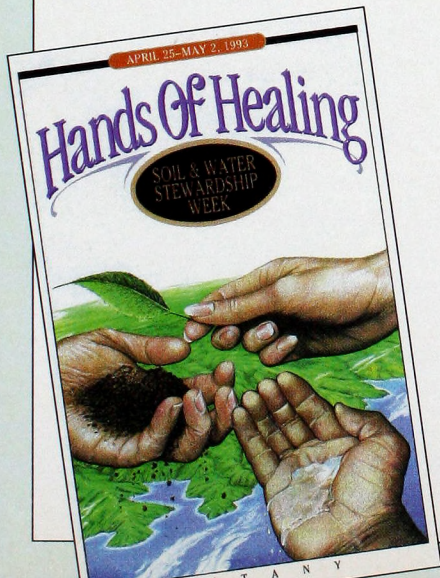
Want to help the environment? Participate in the 1993 Soil and Water Stewardship Week, April 25 to May 2. Sponsored

annually since 1955 by the National Association of Conservation Districts, this national event encourages individuals to heal the environment in their community.

"We want individuals to learn that you don't have to be an environmental hero or be part of a large organization to help the environment," says Ronald G. Francis, NACD public affairs director.

Your commitment to the event can range from wearing a lapel pin to following a step-by-step guide for organizing Soil and Water Stewardship Week in your community. The NACD provides church group and children's educational materials, press releases, sample editorials, and public service announcements—everything you need to alert your community, local media, and political representatives to environmental problems and solutions.

To order a 1993 Soil and Water Stewardship Week Sample Kit send a \$4.75 check or money order to NACD Service Center, P.O. Box 855, League City, TX 77574-0855.



WORLD VISION GIFT ANNUITIES

Help Secure Your Future—and Hers.



BREAK OUT!

After several years as a Christian social worker, Sharon Bryson noticed that emotional problems can hinder spiritual growth. Based on her experience as an overseas missionary and a pastor's wife, she says that "some churches tend to departmentalize recovery issues and put spiritual issues on the other side."

Bryson, who has master's degrees in education, religion, and social work, developed the Twelve Step Spiritual Growth and Support Group. This curriculum includes the manual "Breakout! A Twelve Step Adventure To Spiritual Maturity and Wholeness." With a devotional for each step, the curriculum is developed for groups of four to 10 people.

"I strongly believe that as our families become healthy and whole, and the brokenness of our self-image is repaired, we will begin to experience the fullness of relationship with Christ," Bryson says.

The manual retails for \$6.95

and the set, which includes a cassette and a serenity Bible, retails for \$24.95. For more information, contact Light and Life Press, P.O. Box 535002, Indianapolis, IN 46253-5002; (800) 348-2513.



With a **World Vision Gift Annuity**, you can achieve security *and* a substantial lifetime income.

A World Vision Gift Annuity guarantees payments superior to conventional investments while offering hope to hungry and needy children around the world.

Find out today what a World Vision Gift Annuity can do for you.

- Fixed, guaranteed lifetime income
- Current income tax deduction

AGE	ANNUITY RATE	TAX-FREE PORTION
55	6.7%	33%
65	7.3%	40%
75	8.5%	50%
85	10.9%	56%

- Partially tax-deductible returns
- Estate tax deduction

Call the World Vision Gift Planning Office toll free at

1-800-426-5753. In California call **1-800-451-8024**. Or clip and mail the coupon.

Please send me information about a **World Vision Gift Annuity**.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ Date of Birth ____/____/____

FWV345



WORLD VISION GIFT PLANNING OFFICE
919 West Huntington Drive • Monrovia, CA 91016

“ Grace is giving unconditionally without regard to whether the person we are giving to is worthy. ”
—Unknown

Six-year-old Craig receives encouragement from Kay, his legal guardian, during his basketball game.



BACKGROUND

CRACK IS A SMOKABLE FORM of cocaine, much less expensive and ten times as potent as the same amount of cocaine powder. Crack races into the womb through the mother's blood vessels and chokes the fetus' oxygen supply; the results can be deadly. During medical tests that monitored fetuses while the mother took cocaine, one doctor said, "you could see the baby flipping all over the place."

Medical experts are waiting for crack babies to grow up, to determine how much

long-term damage the drug causes. Drugs devastate some babies, others develop almost normally. "There's no cookbook formula to deal with these babies," says Dr. Dan Griffith, a developmental psychologist who works with crack babies. "The trick is assessing the needs of each one."

Since the so-called crack epidemic of the 1980s, hospitals and social service agencies have battled the controversial issue of how to care for crack babies. Courts are cautiously deciding a handful of cases trying to criminally prosecute women for using drugs while pregnant.

Although some experts say the num-

ber of crack users may have peaked in 1986, the number of heavy users is now declining. At least one out of every 10 newborns in the United States—375,000 a year—is exposed in the womb to one or more illegal drugs, mostly cocaine.

Termed "the lost generation," crack babies have been stereotyped as stoic children who spend their days banging their heads against walls and who require permanent institutionalized care. But a few trained parents like Kay and Jack Corrodi believe that crack babies are not lost; many just need extra love, medical attention, and prayer to help find their way.

LITTLE VICTORIES

*Love, medical care,
and prayer help
children handicapped
by crack cocaine
live better lives.*

FOR A FEW SECONDS, 6-year-old Craig* is lost in a throng of little legs bumbling after a bouncing basketball. The gym echoes with enthusiastic shouts from parents cheering their child's team. Then Craig grasps the ball. Tiny muscles on his arms flex and he shoots a basket. His legal guardian, Kay, sits among other parents in the stands and cheers for her son.

Craig was a crack baby. Before he was 3 months old, he had survived two brain surgeries. He now has a permanent shunt in his head that drains mucus through a coil that empties into his stomach.

Although the law strongly encourages keeping drug-exposed babies with their mothers, many times the mother is unable or does not want to care for her child. Kay and Jack Corrodi began caring for him when he was 2 months old. The Corrodis, by then, had a lot of experience with children—they had already adopted seven.

They knew Craig would require special care. In rare cases, crack babies are born with missing limbs or holes in the brain. Most are born underweight, premature, and have extremely sensitive nervous systems. Even a change in someone's facial expression can cause them to scream for hours or fall into a deep, protective sleep.

In California, the average cost for a drug-exposed infant's neonatal care is \$36,000, but in some cases the costs can be as much as \$135,000. If Craig lived long enough, he could require



Bobby, 5, born during his mother's crack overdose, has made tremendous progress.

more operations, special education classes, and speech and physical therapists. State-provided insurance would cover all his medical expenses. The rest, the Corrodis would pay for with commissions from their Malibu, Calif. real estate company.

The Corrodis didn't know if Craig was blind, deaf, or would even survive the next day.

"He was stiff like a board," Kay says. "When I'd roll him over, he

would just flop. I kept praying. I kept holding his little hand and talking to him. I thought just maybe he could hear me."

He came home with a heart monitor that would beep if his heart stopped. "You feel like you're responsible for every breath," Kay says. "We took him everywhere with us—parties, the bathroom, everywhere."

Eventually Craig's monitor was removed. After thousands of dollars

**The children's names have been changed at the request of the parents.*

and countless hours of medical care, physical therapy, and special counseling, he has become a healthy, rambunctious little boy.

At first glance, this child with big brown eyes and a quick smile gives no indication of heart monitors and brain shunts. But like many crack children, behavioral problems have begun to surface—difficulty with speech and language, and unpredictable angry outbursts. One minute he will calmly listen to his teacher tell a story. Next, for no apparent reason, he will run around the room screaming.

One afternoon, he bounds in the door from school. "Hi, Mommy," he says, crawling into her lap. A few seconds later, he runs into the kitchen, asking the maid for a cookie.

Kay hears thumps coming from the kitchen.

"Is that Craig banging his head?" she asks, alarmed.

"No, he's opening and shutting the doors," a voice calmly answers from the kitchen.

While Craig plays basketball, his 5-year-old "brother" Bobby plays outside in a nearby park. Bobby runs ahead of his father and plops himself on a swing.

"Swing me higher, Daddy," he shouts, squealing with delight. Bobby, born during a crack overdose, was on oxygen for a year after birth. The Corrodís, his legal guardians, began caring for Bobby when he was 18 months old.

Crack has dulled his sense of physical pain. When frustrated, Bobby bangs his head on just about any hard surface he can find. Several times he has broken windows at home with his head.

"Sometimes we just can't get to him fast enough," Kay says. He used to wear a helmet, but he hated it and soon learned to take it off." When he began special education classes, the teachers padded the windows at school.

Progress for Bobby is measured by breaking fewer windows, learning more words, and interacting with his schoolmates. When he finishes meals or shares a toy, the Corrodís praise him.

Craig and Kay arrive announcing that Craig's basketball team has won. Bobby, delighted to see his mother, presses against her.

Kay tousles Bobby's hair and tells her husband, "Craig has learned a new way to get the ball away from the other children. He hurls himself on top of the kid with the ball." She laughs and adds, "I guess we're going to have to explain the rules again."

Kay and Jack believe obeying rules will be the key to Craig's independence. "He'll have to learn law and order to be a law-abiding citizen," Jack says. "But I believe he'll be okay and able to function in society."

Bobby will probably always need special care. "We expect to have Bobby forever," Kay says. How do they feel about this life-long commitment? Kay smiles and answers, "That's the way it is."

Both Kay and Jack draw comfort and strength from their faith. Jack attends church every day. On Sundays, Kay and Jack pile their children into the family van and go to church. "It's important for the children to know God," Kay says. "I think life is like a wheel and without God, life is wobbly."

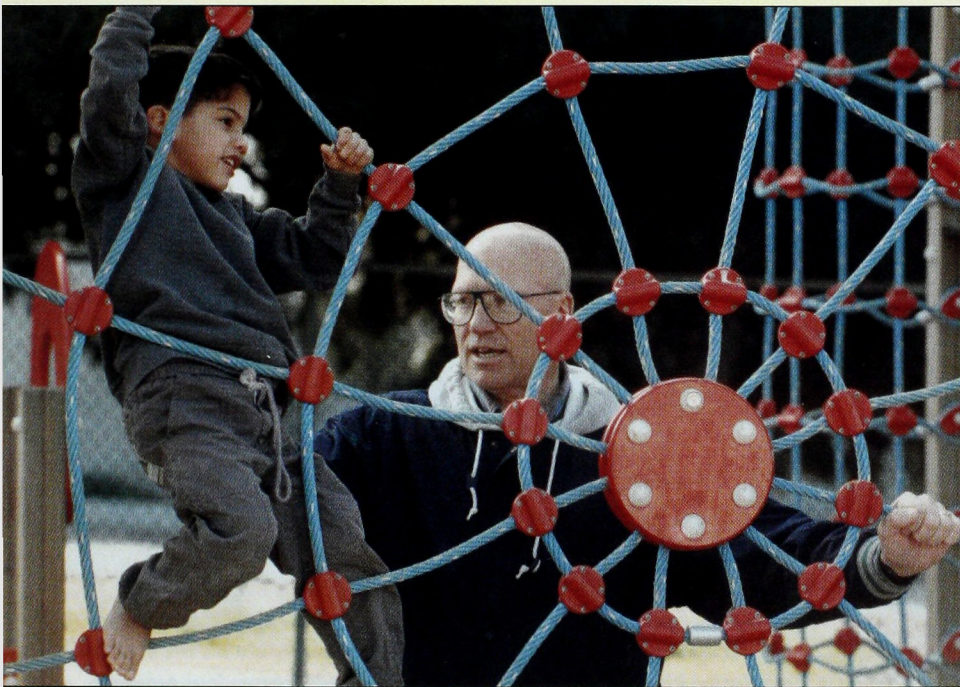
The Corrodís have grown accustomed to adjusting their lifestyle to care for their children. They are experts at finding quiet parks where a loud outburst won't disturb others, or renting a motel room where they can "get away" and splash in the pool but still closely monitor their children.

Kay recalls many a scowl and raised eyebrow from people when Craig or Bobby get out of control. "People look at you like 'what brats you have,'" Kay says. "But it's not our fault. It's not the children's fault. It's just a problem they have."

Jack adds: "We think that if more parents could experience the joy of having a bright, enthusiastic little Craig or Bobby, they would be more likely to understand these children. It's a joy to share the little victories with them."

The Corrodís believe these victories are largely the result of age-old techniques—the power of prayer and love.

"It's the love that they get that helps them be more normal," Kay says and then pauses emphatically. "More normal than they'd be without it." ☉



Bobby shows off his climbing skills at the park for Jack, his legal guardian.

"His behavior is horrible," Kay says, keeping her ear cocked in Craig's direction. "When other kids are sleeping he destroys their rooms. He lets air out of everyone's tires. Last year, he was almost kicked off the school bus—and was only 4."

Although over the past year she has fixed many cracked toilet seats and smashed toys, she has also watched Craig learn to make friends, write his name, dress himself, and bask in the glory of shooting a basket.

And Bobby has shown improvement. When he's happy, he is liberal with hugs and smiles for his parents. Although Bobby's physical coordination is not developed enough to play organized sports, with special therapy and patient coaxing from his parents, he has made tremendous progress.

At the park, he climbs on a large spider web made of thick bright blue rope. "Look, Daddy," he yells, climbing higher with the agility of a normal 5-year-old, "I'm a spider."

FOR MORE INFORMATION about the effects of prenatal drug abuse and treatment resources, contact the Alcohol, Drug and Pregnancy Help Line (800) 638-BABY. The service is part of the National Association for Perinatal Addiction Research and Education.

UNPLANNED CONVERSION

BY FRANKI RANSOM

Wayne Evans had come a long way from his childhood days when he performed poorly in school and was always the last one picked for ball games.

In fact, Wayne thought he had it all: A Nissan 300ZX sports car, a new Harley-Davidson motorcycle, a pool, a hot tub, and enough money from the business he had started at age 19 to retire at age 40. In fact, he was in the process of selling his business, renting out his home, and sailing around the world for five or six years in a custom-built yacht.

But Wayne was so unhappy he often thought of committing suicide. He had a gun hidden away but could never bring himself to pull the trigger.

Wayne's business success had cost him three marriages. Although he supported his three children financially, he had no relationship with them. After his third divorce, Wayne briefly attended a church. But when the pain subsided, Wayne went back to chasing women, smoking marijuana, and playing with his "toys."

"If one woman didn't work out, I would find someone else," Wayne says. "I was not willing to make a commitment."

But during a trip to Africa in May 1990, Wayne made a commitment that changed his life. On a two-week visit to World Vision projects in Kenya and Malawi, Wayne received Christ.

"I was desperate and hurt inside," says Wayne, now 43. "There wasn't enough love to heal the hurt inside. My parents and family were never enough. I look back and say that God was there the whole time. He reeled me in."

The transformation started a few years ago when Wayne attended a dinner where he heard World Vision President Bob Seiple speak. Wayne, who was already sponsoring 10 children through World Vision, later told Seiple he wanted to learn more about the organization. Seiple and others suggested that Wayne go on a World Vision-sponsored trip to Africa.

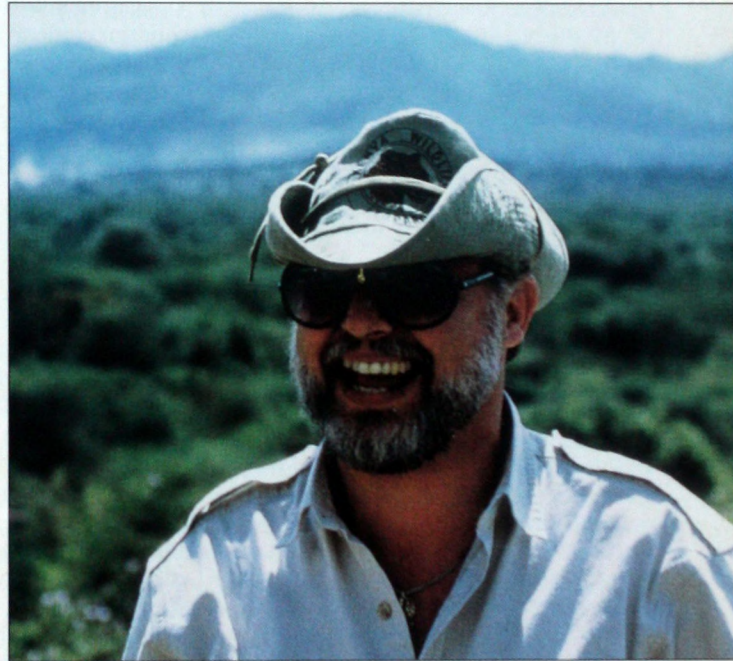
Wayne went with four Christian men. During the first few days, he wanted to return home. He felt uncomfortable traveling with devout Christians who prayed all the time. He felt out of place.

"Praying was dumb," Wayne says. "I didn't believe in God."

On their last night in Africa, however, Wayne found himself praying with his companions in a hotel room in Kenya. "Lord, I give my life to you," he prayed. He hadn't planned on saying that. But the suffering he had seen in the African villages touched him.

"People live in stick houses covered with dung and have no running water," Wayne says. "It was like stepping back in time a thousand years."

When Wayne returned home, he sold his yacht and donated the \$100,000 to World Vision projects in Romania and Africa. Wayne's folks thought he was crazy and told him not to do it.



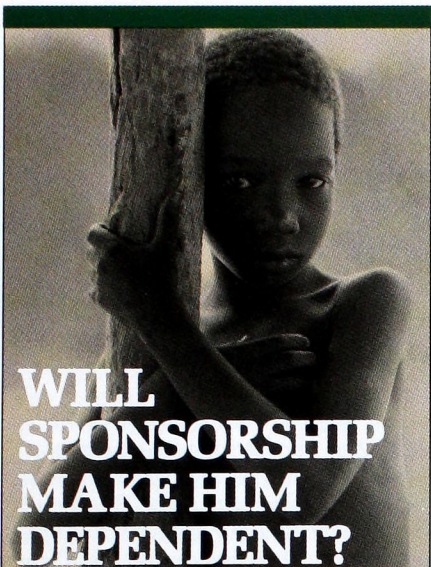
"That plastic and wood got turned into something spiritually beautiful," Wayne says. "God wants us to focus on him and make him God. My boat was God. My money was God."

Wayne, a soft-spoken man, frequently quotes from the Bible. The part where Jesus told his disciples to give up everything and follow him remains close to Wayne. And he adds that Jesus said, "It's easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God."

Since becoming a Christian, Wayne's life has become richer, he says. Two years ago, Wayne married Diane, a long-time friend. This time Wayne's marriage is his first priority. He has even

Continued on next page

"I look back and say that God was there the whole time. He reeled me in."



WILL SPONSORSHIP MAKE HIM DEPENDENT?

■ We believe the last thing a sponsor wants to do is rob a child of his God-given dignity and the ability, someday, to meet his own needs.

■ That's why World Vision Childcare Sponsorship is such a unique opportunity.

■ Monthly gifts of \$20 can give a child what he needs to become a self-sufficient adult.

■ That means providing the basics: an understanding of God's love...and things like food, clothing, medical care and an education. Without those a child can't even begin to dream about tomorrow.

■ It also means helping the child's community—because if the community's cycle of poverty remains unbroken, a child may never escape it.

■ So World Vision drills wells for clean water, builds schools and clinics, and provides seeds, tools, and agricultural training. How we help depends on the need. But the goal is always the same—self-sufficiency and a strong sense of dignity for the community...and the child.

■ When we meet those goals, a child is dependent on only one thing: love.

■ Please share yours by becoming a sponsor today.

A CHILD CAN DEPEND ON MY LOVE!

Please send me a photo and story today of a boy girl from Africa Asia Latin America where the need is greatest.

Enclosed is my first monthly \$20 payment.

I can't sponsor a child right now, but would like to contribute \$ _____ 1700


A33WSD

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Please make your check payable to World Vision.

Mail to:  Childcare Sponsorship

P.O. Box 1131

Pasadena, CA 91131

WORLD VISION



developed a close relationship with his children, ages 12, 18, and 24, and Diane's daughter, 21.

"I believe the Lord put us together a long time ago, and we just realized it," Diane, 41, says. "We both have tender hearts and are committed to World Vision."

Last December the Evans donated enough money to World Vision to help feed 2,000 people for a year.

This year, they have helped finance a feeding center in Somalia for a year. Their next goal is to sponsor 1,000 children through World Vision.

The couple believes it's up to them to be good stewards of the money God blesses them with.

Out of the 220 children the Evans sponsor, 156 are supported directly with company funds. The remaining 64 children are supported out of the couple's personal bank account. Pictures of some of the children cover the walls of their office in Campbell, Calif.

Curious customers ask where the children come from and are shocked at the large number.

"It's not a lot considering how many die of starvation," Diane said. "We're doing what we can. We stay focused on the Lord, pray a lot, and have regular Bible studies."

Although Wayne is thankful he is able to help others, he says he has learned a lot from the villagers he met in Africa, where Wayne perceived a greater sense of family values than he had ever seen in the United States. There, Wayne says, people depend on their families and the village for support. He saw family members sitting around holding hands and hugging each other.

"They understand what family unity is all about, what the Scriptures talk about," Wayne said. "All those things are such an inspiration. God wants us all together, united."

And being able to help give life to someone, Wayne says, "must be one of the greatest miracles in the world." 🌍

Franki Ransom is a free-lance writer in Pasadena, Calif.

NEXT TO THE LAST WORD

"Poverty or Pollution," our cover story, concludes our current series on the environment. It is encouraging to see the formation of evangelical groups such as Green Cross whose purpose is to promote dialogue among churches nationwide about the Christian's role in the stewardship of God's creation. For more information, contact Fredrick Krueger, 1017 N. Wahsatch Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80903.

World Vision, with David C. Cook Publishing Co., recently produced "Reclaiming the Garden: Caring for an Environment in Crisis." This eight-lesson study on the environment, suitable for Sunday school and adult small groups, comes with a user-friendly teacher's guide and video. You can order it from your local Christian bookstore or call (800) 323-7543.

Despite the wonderful signs of hope that "Averting Another Somalia" provides (p. 11), the food needs of 15 southern African nations have raised World Vision's budget to \$111 million for urgently needed relief goods.

—Terry Madison

WORLD VISION

Volume 37, Number 2

Editor **Terry Madison**

Managing Editor **Larry Wilson**

Contributing Editor **Chris Redner**

Assistant Editor **Tamera Marko**

Art Director **Don Aylard**

Production Coordinator **Janet Dahring**

Production Asst. **Stephanie Stevenson**

PrePress **Colormation, Inc.**

Printer **Danner Press**

WORLD VISION magazine is published bimonthly by **WORLD VISION®**

President **Robert A. Seiple**

Magazine Advisory Board

Dale Hanson Bourke • James Engel

Os Guinness • Laurel Hone

Richard Mouw • Terry Muck

Philip Yancey • Dorene Young

World Vision is a nonprofit, Christian humanitarian agency dedicated to serving God by helping people care for those in need. It ministers to children and families, provides emergency aid, fosters self-reliance, furthers evangelism, strengthens Christian leadership, and increases public awareness of poverty around the world.

Send all editorial correspondence and changes of address to WORLD VISION Magazine, 919 W. Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016. Please send address changes at least 30 days before moving and enclose the address label from a current copy. Member: Evangelical Press Association and Associated Church Press. Copyright © 1993 by World Vision Inc.





EMBARGOES

Every trip seems to have a focusing image, a centering metaphor, a dramatic picture of the moment that speaks to the collective whole. This one came early. We were in one of those interminably long lines at the Hanoi airport, processing through the bureaucratic maze of passport control and customs.

The plane from Bangkok had been full, carrying the normal assortment of aid workers and foreign businessmen (an ironic mixture that speaks simultaneously to past problems and hopeful futures), curious tourists drawn to the mystique of

**Bob Seiple
on China
Beach in
Vietnam.**



CARY PAINE / WORLD VISION

this once-closed land, and increasingly, Vietnamese from abroad. Vietnam has its own diaspora, a massive remnant, dislocated and relocated around the world. Since 1975, hundreds of thousands have found their way to North America.

But now it is safe to come home, if only to visit, looking to heal painful memories and years of separation from the extended family. Gratefully, human embargoes are lifted, even when economic and diplomatic ones are not.

The young Vietnamese couple standing in line behind us were returning from Canada. They were shy, expectant, and slightly uncomfortable. We didn't know the circumstance of their leaving Vietnam, but one can only guess that it was at great personal risk and cost. They had been away from Vietnam for many years. The young man had not seen his father since an arranged visit in Hong Kong in 1982.

That father was now on the other side of a glass partition, his face pressed tightly against the glass, tears flowing freely down his face. From time to time he would turn his back, walk away, seemingly trying to collect himself, failing to do so as his emotion, uncharacteristic for a Vietnamese, simply could not be contained.

I thought of the father of the Prodigal Son, working the field with one hand on the plough but always looking off in the distance for the one who needed to return. Certainly the Vietnamese son had been "a long way off." Now he was walking through the last airport door. "His father saw him, and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him and kissed him." We stood and watched as the drama unfolded. We wanted to cheer. We tried not to cry. We struggled to understand.

We would never know the specifics, the details leading up to this reunion. We only saw what was, undoubtedly, the end of a long process. What was visible, however, was reconciliation and the incarnation of love. A painful separation was over. A family was together again. There would be rejoicing around a common table this evening. Something precious that had been lost was now recovered. Something that had been terribly wrong had now been made right. Perhaps for this one family, the war and its aftermath were now over. Perhaps a period of normalcy had returned. A family had been reunited, a father's perseverance had been rewarded, a son would experience the unconditional nature of his parent's love. And yet, there is also that which is profoundly sad. Why did it take so long? What was it that conspired against God's intentions? Why, in this day of rapid political change, geopolitical transitions, and defining moments on a global scale, have we been so paralytically unable to bring to closure a war that supposedly ended almost two decades ago? Why has reconciliation been so elusive?

Much has been written about the morality of the Vietnam War. Little has been said about the absence of morality since 1975. How could Christians, and a Christian nation, stand passively in the lines of moral bureaucracy when so many fathers were crying uncontrollably on the other side of the glass? Weren't those faces pressed against the transparency of glass visible for all to see? How could it be possible to construct distractions that would keep us from seeing the terrible pathos of human need?

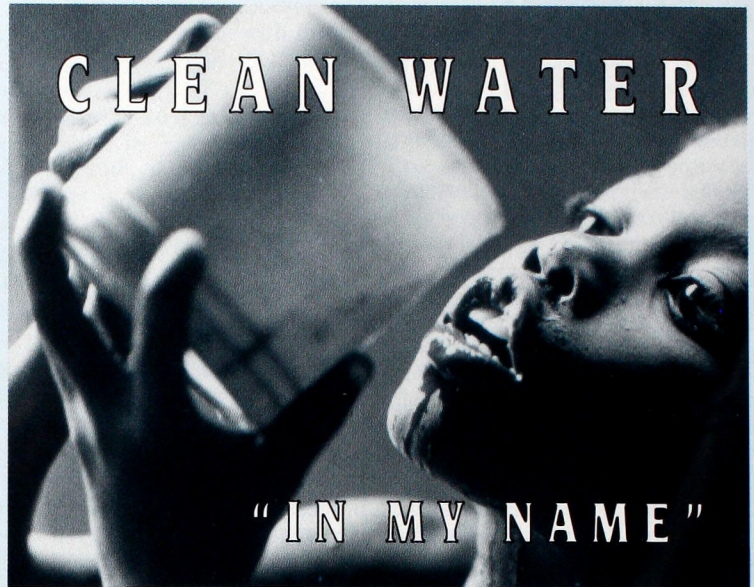
The cry for reconciliation has a human face. We don't find it in ideology. The realpolitik may not produce it. Governmental constraints and political change may not allow it to happen. History may conspire against it. But the human face makes reconciliation unavoidable. There is a loving Father who perseveres for his children. There is One who waits for his own. There is One who cannot control the tears of joy. Even if it would require the death of an only son, the embargo on reconciliation would be lifted! ☉

*The human
face makes
reconciliation
unavoidable.*

Published by
World Vision Inc.
P.O. Box 1131
Pasadena, CA
91131-0311

If you have any
questions, comments,
or a change of address,
you may call toll-free:
1-800-777-5777

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
World Vision



"I tell you the truth, anyone who gives you a cup of cold water in my name because you belong to Christ will certainly not lose his reward." Mark 9:41 (NIV)

Up to 50 percent of childhood diseases can be traced to unclean water. It is also a breeding ground for guinea worm, a painful parasite which drains both strength and morale. Yet people continue to wash in this water, to cook with it, to drink it. Their only other choice is death by dehydration.

Because water is vital to survival, many World Vision projects are based upon clean water. Such projects involve building rainfall-collecting tanks, dams and catchment basins, or digging shallow and deep wells—whatever is needed in each location. But health conditions won't improve just by installing a new water system. An all-encompassing program must teach villagers to maintain the water system, and to practice good personal hygiene and sanitation. Village health promoters lead people in this process of preserving and protecting their own health.

Please help us offer hope and opportunity in His name to suffering children and families who need pure, clean water. Your support is vital.

CONTENTS

ENVIRONMENT:
Poverty or Pollution? **2**

HOMELESS:
Practical Help **7**

SOUTHERN AFRICA:
Averting Another
Somalia **11**

SIGNS OF HOPE:
Women and
Childbearing **14**

CRACK BABIES:
Not a Lost Generation **18**

FROM THE PRESIDENT:
Embargoes **23**

Yes, I want to help!

I am enclosing: \$175 \$400 \$900 Other _____


Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Z2M332/3200

Please make your check payable to World Vision. Thank you.

Mail today to:  **WORLD VISION**/Water
P.O. Box 1131
Pasadena, CA 91131-0101

