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

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Christian artist Twila Paris and her sponsored child.

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# Today

SUMMER 1999

Special  
Kosovo Insert



Alone in  
**Rwanda**

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On the cover: Ayirwanda, 5, is one of 300,000  
orphaned children in Rwanda.

**World Vision Today**, a quarterly publication, affirms people responding to God's call to care for the poor by providing information, inspiration, and opportunities for action, linking them with children and families in nearly 100 countries where World Vision ministers.

We welcome your comments and feedback. Letters to the Editor must include the writer's full name, home address, and daytime telephone number, and should be sent to: The Editor, **World Vision Today**, P.O. Box 9716, Federal Way, Washington 98063-9716, faxed to (253) 815-3445, or e-mailed to [WVToday@worldvision.org](mailto:WVToday@worldvision.org). Letters may be edited for space and clarity. Submitted photos will not be returned. Please send address changes at least 30 days before moving and enclose the address label clipped from a current copy or return envelope.

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# Letters

## Pen pals

I was thrilled to see my sponsored child, Aichatou Magagi from Niger, Africa, featured in **World Vision Today** [Spring 1999]. Aichatou and I write to each other. In her first letter, she was sorry to tell me she was not in school. What a difference a few months make! Thank you World Vision for responding so quickly.

I brought the article to work, and two of my co-workers have since become sponsors.

I sponsor four children. Their pictures are on my desk at work. It brings me joy to look at their little faces. I will visit Aichatou someday and experience firsthand the progress of a World Vision project.

Sue Block  
Oakland Park, Fla.

## Sudan response

Every year my family and I collect loose change and extra money to put in our Jesus Box. We choose someone to give it to, and this year we'd like to give it [\$106.60] to the starving people of Sudan.

Jordan Elizabeth Ziegler  
Green River, Wyo.



**The Ziegler family: (left to right) Matthew, Lucas, Jordan Elizabeth, Edna, and Marty.**

I am writing regarding your article on Sudan [Winter 1998] and the suffering and starvation there. As a mother of a 2-year-old and a 5-month-old, the concerns of children are very real to me. Your article moved me deeply. I can't even write this without tears. I already support two children through your organization, and my prayers are also with you. If it were not for my own family, I might be over there now feeding those children with my own hands.

Angela Taylor  
Eugene, Ore.

*Editor's note: More than 1,700 of you responded to our Winter 1998 cover story on Sudan with generous gifts totaling more than \$247,000. Your donations are providing 450,000 people in southern Sudan with agricultural assistance, food, and health care.*

## We got mail

Richard Stearns' editorial "Passionate About Life" [Spring 1999] elicited quite a response from readers. While many applauded World Vision's stance on family planning, others were unclear about our position.

World Vision project staff do offer education on family planning and referrals to local health care clinics. Our family planning services are culturally appropriate and unequivocally pro-life. We support methods of birth control that are contraceptive, but we oppose all methods proven to be abortive.

World Vision's mission is to save lives and to enhance the quality of life for children and families. A copy of our family planning paper is available on our website at [www.worldvision.org](http://www.worldvision.org).

## Family planning

I could not disagree more strongly with Richard Stearns' position on population control [Spring 1999]. I believe it is the height of irresponsibility to withhold birth control information and devices from the rest of the world when we read about women (and families and nations) who are oppressed by their inability to care for those they are forced to bear.

Since 1958 World Vision has been my favorite Christian charity. Suddenly, we are forced to read about "abortifacients" and references to "this philosophy" and other controversial matters which divide the Christian community when we need unity to raise aid for those in desperate need.

Please don't politicize World Vision!  
Bob Goode  
San Antonio, Texas

As I read about Father Tanase's work in the community of Valea Plopului, Romania, I was deeply moved by the compassion and commitment of this man and how his community has been impacted.

As a foster parent, I have a heart for children, especially those who are unwanted and unloved. In this country, we are not asked to be foster parents out of love for God and fellow man; there is generally some form of compensation for sharing your home and life with needy children. It is so challenging to see Romanians responding to need and sharing their meager resources.

Pat Anderson  
St. Francis, Minn.

## Correction

The Colombian flag was printed incorrectly in our Spring 1999 issue. It does not bear a coat of arms in the center.

# Mark McGwire's baseball

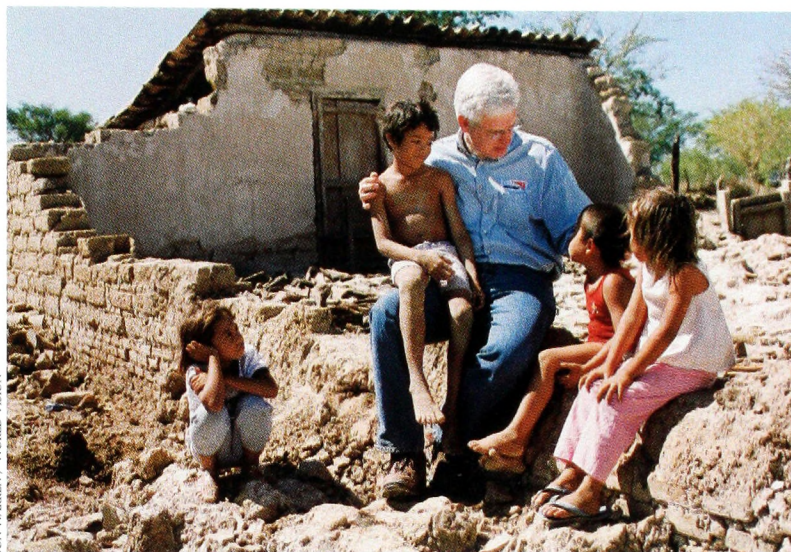
Everyone has material possessions and his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. I John 3:17-18 (NIV)

I recently traveled to Honduras to survey the critical, continuing needs of Hurricane Mitch survivors, including sponsored children and their families. News coverage of the disaster last year didn't prepare me for what I witnessed: towns and villages still digging out from under a foot-deep mantle of mud; hundreds of thousands of people subsisting in makeshift shelter fields once lush with bananas—Honduras' best export crop—now standing empty.

After a draining day hearing the stories of desperate villagers, I returned to Tegucigalpa, the capital city. Tuning into the evening news, I was in time to watch the auction of McGwire's famous 70th home run ball. I was astonished as the bid for this \$6 baseball rose to \$2.7 million, finally selling to a call-in buyer for \$3.05 million, including commissions.

I recalled World Vision staff sharing with me earlier in the day their plans to rebuild houses for some 7,500 Honduran children and their families. The project price tag: \$3 million. The television news clip ended. I imagined the auctioneer offering the next item on the block. "What will you bid to build simple shelters for homeless men, women, and children?" I imagined shocked murmurs rippling through the crowd, followed by an awkward silence.

Most of us shake our heads at the extravagance of a \$3 million baseball. We think of the things that money could have done. But in many ways all of us make similar choices on a smaller



JON WARREN / WORLD VISION

**Children, our most precious gift:** Rich listens as Honduran children tell him about surviving Hurricane Mitch. Left to right: Envi Ruiz, Reyes Raul, Ovet Ruiz, and Arley Ruiz.

scale every day. The amount many of us spend on coffee every month could easily sponsor a boy or girl in Honduras. The cost of a new \$40 dress or shirt—adding to a cramped closet—could vaccinate two infants in Zambia against childhood diseases that daily claim 8,200 young lives worldwide. An annual \$360 cable television fee could provide 12 families from Kosovo with blankets, personal care items, and food for one week.

I don't believe God calls us to live as paupers, or necessarily to give away all we have. Possessions have their proper place. However, I do believe God asks us to make choices based on kingdom principles that value people over possessions. When we consistently live out these values we hit a home run in the kingdom of God.

*Richard Stearns*

Richard Stearns

# Home Alone in Rwanda

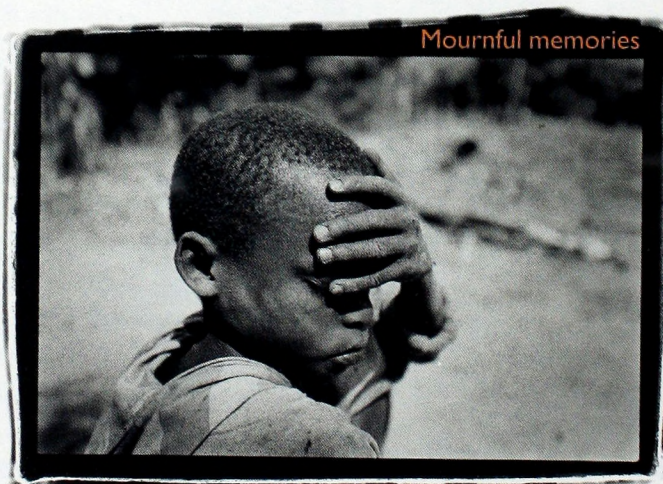
**Rwanda's estimated 65,000 child-headed households remain a bitter legacy five years after the 1994 genocide. World Vision is caring for many of these 300,000 orphaned children.**

"Get back to the house and stay there!" Philippe, 10, yells to his brother Ayirwanda, 5, who is clambering down the steep hillside to the valley floor where Philippe is harvesting sweet potatoes. "Guard the house until Alphonsine comes home."

Banished to the family's mud hut, Ayirwanda whimpers quietly. His sister, Alphonsine, 15, left at dawn to sell charcoal in the market, taking along 8-year-old brother, Barirwanda. Philippe and Alphonse, 13, are busy cultivating. Abandoned again, in a tantrum rage Ayirwanda beats his sole companion—a limp, sock doll—against the hut's door frame. Frustrated, he slumps down near the mound that marks his mother's grave and tearfully awaits Alphonsine's return.

Ayirwanda literally means "What's happening in Rwanda?"—a fitting name for a child christened in 1994, the year decades-old tensions between Hutus and Tutsis boiled over again in this country. With their hoes and machetes, in less than 100 days Hutu government forces and militia killed at least 500,000 people—mostly Tutsis and politically moderate Hutus—in a state-organized massacre. The genocide was not the largest in history, but it may have been the quickest. By comparison, the Nazis killed

**Philippe, 10, witnessed the slaying of his uncle and grandfather and buried his mother—all before he turned 8. Experts estimate that 80 percent of Rwanda's 3.75 million children suffered a severe traumatic event during the genocide and its aftermath.**



## Boys will be boys



(From left) Alphonse, 13, Barirwanda, 8, Philippe, 10, and Ayirwanda, 5, make the most of sister Alphonsine's trip to the market, goofing off and rolling banana-leaf cigarettes. The boys alternate between doing chores and being bored.



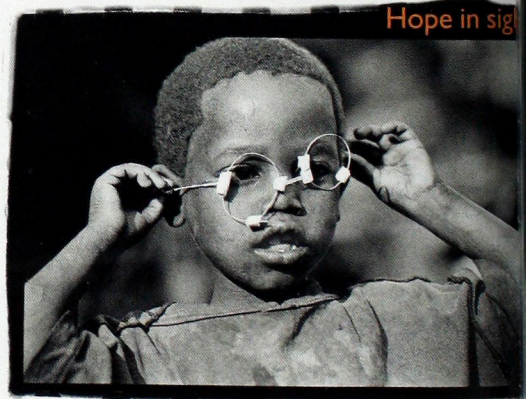
The children recite a five-word grace in their language, Kinyarwanda, before silently devouring a feast of beans and sweet potatoes. "I believe in God," says Alphonsine, rationing out the food. "He comforts me when I am very sad."

6 million Jews in the Holocaust at a rate of 2,700 people per day.

Ayirwanda's father, Pascal, was among those who died in Butare, a town in south-central Rwanda. He didn't come home one night after the fighting broke out. The family never saw him again. His widow, Josepha, and their five children fled to an uncle's home in Gikongoro, a town 15 miles north of Butare. For two years, Josepha supported her family by growing bananas and sweet potatoes. When her uncle died, she took

over his two-room mud hut and plot of fertile land. Then problems began again.

"My mother refused to sell a piece of our land to a neighbor. He said he would get it 'one way or another,'" Alphonsine says. Land is scarce and highly coveted in Rwanda, Africa's most densely populated country. Ninety-three percent of the 7 million people here earn their living through subsistence agriculture. Bitter conflicts over property rights often divide families and communities.



Sporting frames fashioned from bits of straw, Ayirwanda, 5, hopes he can attend school one day.

A few days following the neighbor's threat, Josepha died suddenly after eating at another neighbor's home. "She was poisoned," Alphonsine says sadly, gazing at her

## A child's work is never done



mother's photo on a faded identity card—the children's only memento. They buried Josepha, 38, a few feet from the house.

Still mourning, Alphonsine was catapulted into the role of mother, provider, and protector at age 13. "I was afraid. Some neighbors stayed with us the first week. Then we were alone."

The children managed to

hang on to their land but they possessed few coping skills. Their education had been disrupted by the war. Only Alphonsine could read. They didn't know how to farm. Initially, they survived by begging meals from neighbors. Alphonsine began making and selling charcoal, earning a dollar or so a week. Enough to buy beans once in a while;

**Philippe (left) and Alphonse cultivate cassava and sweet potatoes in this "land of a thousand hills," as Rwanda is known. Many orphaned children, living on their deceased parents' land, are exploited by relatives and neighbors seeking to force them off their coveted property.**

never enough to buy meat or new clothes or medicine. Eventually Philippe and Alphonse learned how to cultivate, and can now produce just enough sweet potatoes and cassava to stave off starvation.

As head of this household, Alphonsine shoulders a heavy responsibility. But like most children her age, she is not a strategic planner. She lets her brothers devour all the food they harvest each day without setting any aside for an emergency. Instead of gathering firewood from the fields, she and the boys have decimated the trees around the family's hut that anchor precious topsoil. Alphonsine can't worry about tomorrow, let alone next week or next year. She's too busy just surviving today.

In Rwanda, the story of Alphonsine and her siblings is depressingly familiar. They are among the country's estimated 65,000 child-headed households, representing more than 300,000 orphaned children. These young genocide survivors, who witnessed their parents' murders or deaths from epidemics like cholera in refugee camps, are still struggling to recover five years later. Their memories are tormented by the terror of war, of hiding from killers, of rapes and subsequent pregnancies, of scavenging for food, of falling



## World Vision in Rwanda

**Child care:** World Vision has aided more than 200,000 children including many from child-headed households. World Vision hopes to begin child sponsorship programs here in 2000.

**Families:** World Vision has helped reunite 6,500 children, who were orphaned or separated from their families during the war, with surviving relatives. Some 80 children have been placed in foster families. World Vision provides support for 40 orphanages.

**Counseling:** Some 1,300 community workers have been trained to provide trauma counseling and care to children and adults through World Vision's Trauma Support Program.

**Farming:** Agricultural rehabilitation is the key to long-term peace and stability in Rwanda. More than 500,000 farmers have received tools, seeds, and training through World Vision's agricultural recovery program, funded by a substantial grant from the United States Agency for International Development and matched with donations by U.S. donors.



Rwandan farmer Vestine Nyirashama doubled her annual wheat crop yield after applying her agricultural training from World Vision.



Heavy responsibility

**At dawn, Alphonsine treks three miles to the Gikongoro market to sell charcoal. On a good day, she earns about one dollar.**

sick, of walking hundreds of miles to escape fighting, of returning to find their homes destroyed.

"These children silently carry enormous amounts of grief, anger, guilt, and stress," says psychologist Lincoln Ndogoni, coordinator of World Vision Rwanda's Psycho-Social Trauma Support Program. "They don't cry anymore because they've discovered their cries are not answered."

These troubled children represent the most marginalized of Rwanda's many poor. The obliteration of the country's social fabric has made the problem of child-headed households far worse here than in neighboring African countries ravaged by war or by diseases such as AIDS. A recent World Vision study of 1,649 child-headed households found that 95 percent of these children have no access to health care or education and

lack sufficient food, basic household goods, or agricultural necessities. They are often denied inheritance rights, depriving them of land and houses that their parents left behind. Young girls—who head 75 percent of these families—are frequently exploited and abused sexually by men in their own villages or by relatives.

The Rwandan community, which is focused on meeting its own needs, is barely aware of the plight of these child-headed households. For children already traumatized, this invisibility and powerlessness can be devastating.

"These children want a voice and a listening ear," comments Warren Nyamugasira, World Vision Rwanda's director. "They want their views to be considered when plans and decisions are made about them. They want to be creative, beyond meeting their basic needs for food, clothing, and

shelter. Perhaps most of all, they want to end the feeling of detachment from the community and break back into society."

Warren says the depth and scale of the problems facing child-headed households demands a coordinated effort by the Rwandan government, local authorities, the international community, and non-governmental organizations. World Vision is assisting some 200,000 orphaned children, including Alphonsine and her siblings, helping them to take their rightful places as healthy, productive members of

Rwandan society. More than 1,300 teachers, health workers, and church and civic leaders have been equipped to recognize and care for children suffering from trauma. Agricultural staff are training children in basic farming skills, supplying them with tools and seeds, and helping them form farmers' associations to give them greater influence in the community. World Vision also provides aid such as food, household items, school supplies, vocational training, and small business grants.

"World Vision gave us our pig. One day we hope to sell it

for \$25," boasts Alphonsine, pointing to her caged sow. "When it had piglets, we gave them to other orphans."

While Alphonsine appreciates such practical help, she values most the encouragement of World Vision workers who stop by regularly. She recounts her worries and her hopes to them: that one day the boys will find jobs; that eventually she might marry. For Alphonsine, somehow the sharing, the dreaming, and the knowing that someone cares makes being home alone just a bit more bearable. ☺

With reports from Nigel Marsh

**If orphaned children are to forge a future for themselves, they need skills training, education, and encouragement—things World Vision is helping to provide. Below: Alphonsine (front) and her brothers return home after fetching water from a valley stream.**

*If you would like to support projects aiding child-headed households in Rwanda, please see the reply envelope in the center of this magazine.*

## The road ahead



## Rwanda: signs of hope

# Reconciled

**...We also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.** Romans 5:11 (NIV)

How do you love your neighbor who dresses his daughter in the clothes your sister wore the day he killed her? Why forgive the enemies who hacked your mother to death? Where was God when Hutu militia systematically slaughtered at least 500,000 Tutsi and moderate Hutu countrymen? Rwandan Christians still grapple with these questions five years after the 1994 genocide. Anastase Sabamungu, 44, a Tutsi pastor, and Joseph Nyamutera, 34, a Hutu teacher, are two believers who have chosen love over loathing. Together, they are resurrecting hope and healing in this brutalized land.

People listen when these humble men speak, stunned to see two should-be rivals sharing the podium. Joseph hails from Gisenyi, a predominantly Hutu town in northwestern Rwanda, often considered "ground zero" of the genocide. For decades Joseph's people bitterly resented the Tutsi minority, long-favored and treated as a superior race under Belgian colonial rule. On April 6, 1994, news of Hutu President Juvénal Habyarimana's death in a mysterious plane crash launched a premeditated massacre led by Hutu militia that lasted more than 100 days.

"I hid in my house with my wife and 1-year-old son," recalled Joseph. "Through the window we saw men loading Tutsis into cars heading for the cemetery where they would be hacked and buried." Joseph managed to rescue a Tutsi woman, a member of his church choir. But he laments his impotence to stop the slaughter.

Anastase listened to radio reports of the massacres from his home in neighboring Uganda. His family fled Rwanda during a 1959 anti-Tutsi campaign of terror. For more than three decades his people dreamed of return and many of revenge against the Hutus. Anastase and thousands of exiles returned to Rwanda after Tutsi-led rebels conquered the capital, Kigali, in July 1994. He soon learned that scores of his extended family were among the dead.



Anastase knew the cycle of violence would perpetuate unless Hutus and Tutsis sought forgiveness. In 1996, he began organizing reconciliation workshops for pastors and lay leaders in conjunction with African Enterprise, a ministry supported by World Vision. Joseph attended one of the first meetings.

"I was astounded when Anastase asked forgiveness on behalf of the Tutsis for their

**Rwandan reconcilers: Tutsi pastor Anastase Sabamungu (left) and Hutu teacher Joseph Nyamutera**  
at a Rwandan cemetery where 6,000 genocide victims are buried, including Anastase's aunt.



pression of Hutus during the monarchy years. I never heard a Tutsi admit doing anything wrong. This broke me. I, too, wanted to stand in the gap." Innocent of bloodshed himself, Joseph offered forgiveness for the carnage his people committed, a fact many Hutus still adamantly deny.

Joseph and Anastase have since led 50 reconciliation seminars involving more than 100 participants. Testimonies of changed

hearts abound: a mother adopts the repentant soldier who killed her son; a widow offers hospitality to people she once despised; a builder helps those who looted and destroyed his business.

"Rwandan Christians are learning that Jesus is not only our sin-bearer but our pain-bearer," reflects Anastase. "Indeed, God has not forsaken us." 🌍

With reports from Nigel Marsh

■ Between 1980 and 1990, a worldwide child immunization campaign raised coverage rates from 5 percent to 80 percent. (UNICEF)

■ Sierra Leoneans have the lowest life expectancy, averaging 37. Japanese enjoy the world's highest life expectancy, an average of 80 years. (World

## CRISIS UPDATES

### Sudan

World Vision launched the largest food convoy recently attempted by land to Bahr el Ghazal, the province hard-hit by famine last year. More than 600 truckloads of sorghum, lentils, and maize are being transported from Mombasa, Kenya to Sudan's Tonj and Gogrial counties via northern Uganda—a grueling 1,860-mile journey over rough terrain. The 13,420 tons of food will sustain communities between harvests.

### Colombia

Forty-eight hours after a 6.0 earthquake hit Colombia's coffee region in January, World Vision provided electric generators, water tanks, tents, tetanus vaccines, and first aid medicines to survivors. Weeks later the agency distributed emergency kits with food, medicine, and household items to 3,500 families. Now a three-year, \$3 million rehabilitation effort is underway as World Vision rebuilds two schools and 300 houses, creates a \$200,000 revolving loan fund, and offers psychological and spiritual support for 5,000 families.

### Indonesia

World Vision is one of five non-governmental organizations working with the World Food Programme to distribute 19,800 tons of rice to needy families in Indonesia, a country mired in political turmoil, ethnic violence, and economic collapse. The rice will benefit jobless families in World Vision's food-for-work program in North Jakarta, supported by WFP and the Canadian International Development Agency, and other relief projects.

## CHILD SPONSORSHIP

### China

World Vision's sponsorship program began in China in 1947, when founder Robert Pierce gave \$5 a month to feed, clothe, and educate an orphan girl, White Jade. Now sponsorship comes full circle in the Republic of China's remote, northwest Guyuan county, home to 511,526 people. Isolated

communities here struggle with low agricultural production and frequent food shortages because of drought, and most people earn less than \$29 a year. World Vision will immunize children and begin yearly medical check-ups, provide education, promote maternal health, and offer agricultural training. Currently 1,000 children are available for sponsorship.

## GOOD NEWS

### Eyes and ears

World Vision and InFOCUS, a private, Texas-based, nonprofit company, are expanding vision services in northern Mali, where just one eye care provider serves tens of thousands of people. Local health care workers are trained to diagnose eye problems using InFOCUS' FOCOMETER, an inexpensive, non-electrical device that measures vision. InFOCUS then provides affordable glasses.

World Vision donors from the United States and Germany contributed \$20,000 worth of hearing aid units to deaf residents of Zivinice, an impoverished town of 30,000 people in northeast Bosnia. The local Society of the Hearing Impaired sought World Vision's help for people who cannot afford the aids. "World Vision has helped us in a way we can never forget," said Asi Nukic, the Society's secretary.

## 30 HOUR FAMINE

600,000 young people explored global issues, volunteered for community service, and just had fun like these students in Seattle, Wash., during World Vision's annual 30 Hour Famine. Famished but focused, participants across the country raised funds toward this year's \$8.1 million goal to help hungry children and families.



year 4.5 million of the 8 million new cases of  
disease strike people in Asia—specifically, India,  
Bangladesh, Pakistan, Indonesia, and the  
Philippines. (World Health Organization)

■ Nearly 600,000 children under age 15 and  
2.5 million people aged 15-24 contracted HIV last  
year. (United Nations)



**World Vision Special Report**

# **Kosovo's Refugees**

# Kosovo's Refugees

**By Jutta De Bardelaben,  
World Vision relief worker**

When Serb soldiers expelled Hamida and her family from their home in Saljinovica, Kosovo, she had no time to fetch two teenage sons who were tending sheep in a distant field. "My sons, I don't know where they are," cries Hamida, 40, as her husband, Kadrian, silently weeps. "The police said they had probably been shot. I must go back. All I want is to hold my boys in my arms again."

I hear many similar stories working among more than 25,000 ethnic Albanians taking refuge here in Rozaje, Montenegro, six miles from Kosovo's border. Some people walked 30 hours nonstop through freezing mountain passes with only the clothes on their backs. World Vision and local agencies are providing food and other emergency items. And we listen as they pour out their despair.

Vasir, a 23-year-old Kosovar refugee, can no longer visit or talk with friends he has known all his life—Serbs who were forced to take sides against him and other ethnic Albanians. Vasir remembers soldiers recruiting men, some as young as 17.

Somehow traumatized people like Vasir and Hamida manage to cope. They have so little, yet they make do and help each other. Everywhere I go I see people tidying up and washing clothes, hanging them to dry on fences around the overcrowded factories and warehouses where they sleep.

At a refugee center I met 10-year-old Mevlada. She came up to me, stretching out one little fist. With a big smile she opened it, offering me sunflower seeds. All I could do was say thank you.

# news

■ Between 1980 and 1990, a worldwide child immunization campaign raised coverage rates from 5 percent to 80 percent. (UNICEF)

■ Sierra Leoneans have the lowest life expectancy, averaging 37. Japanese enjoy the world's highest life expectancy, an average of 80 years. (World

She was more articulate, communicating with a hug and kiss. As I got into the car she pressed her small face against the window to kiss me again.

I came here with World Vision to give these people hope. But they are the ones, with their dignity and determination to survive, who give me hope.

**Exile's agony:** Leaving behind their burnt or shelled houses, many of their loved ones killed or missing, ethnic Albanians flee to an uncertain future in neighboring countries. "Life is our sweetest thing," says one mother, cradling her 2-month-old baby. "We don't have anything else."

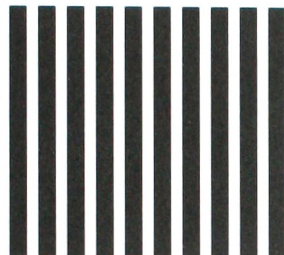


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**March 1998:** World Vision opens an office in Pristina, the capital of Kosovo, joining a dozen humanitarian organizations assisting civilians caught in the escalating fighting between Serb forces and the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA).

**August 1998:** World Vision steps up food aid as the crisis continues, and begins work in Podgorica, Montenegro, helping some 30,000 people pouring into this neighboring Serb republic from Kosovo.

**September 1998:** In Kosovo, World Vision distributes food, emergency shelter materials, winter clothes, and hygiene items to families uprooted from their homes. Montenegro staff supply 390 gallons of milk and 5,000 disposable diapers for infants. World Vision meets with U.S. State Department officials in Kosovo and

Montenegro to discuss the growing humanitarian crisis.

**October 1998:** As a U.S.-brokered ceasefire between Serbs and the KLA begins, World Vision starts repairing 600 damaged homes in preparation for winter.

**January 1999:** World Vision delivers 20,000 cans of beef and winter clothes to survivors of a massacre that killed 45 ethnic Albanians in Racak, Kosovo.

**February 1999:** Peace talks commence in Rambouillet, France. World Vision establishes four school-based medical clinics and plans a USAID-funded trauma healing program in a dozen primary schools in devastated central Kosovo.

**March 1999:** Peace talks collapse; human rights monitors withdraw from Kosovo.

Before NATO begins bombing Yugoslavia, World Vision pulls out of Kosovo. Montenegro staff assist Kosovars flooding over the border at a rate of 4,000 people an hour.

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## World Vision in the Balkans





# Kosovo's Refugees

**By Jutta De Bardelaben,  
World Vision relief worker**

When Serb soldiers expelled Hamida and her family from their home in Saljinovica, Kosovo, she had no time to fetch two teenage sons who were tending sheep in a distant field. "My sons, I don't know where they are," cries Hamida, 40, as her husband, Kadrian, silently weeps. "The police said they had probably been shot. I

She was more articulate, communicating with a hug and kiss. As I got into the car she pressed her small face against the window to kiss me again.

I came here with World Vision to give these people hope. But they are the ones with their dignity and determination to survive,

their loved  
neighboring  
-month-old



# news

■ Between 1980 and 1990, a worldwide child immunization campaign raised coverage rates from 5 percent to 80 percent. (UNICEF)

■ Sierra Leoneans have the lowest life expectancy, averaging 37 years. Japanese enjoy the world's highest life expectancy, an average of 80 years. (World Bank)



## Bringing comfort and hope

**World Vision continues to assist ethnic Albanian civilians with their urgent needs.**

Currently World Vision is providing:

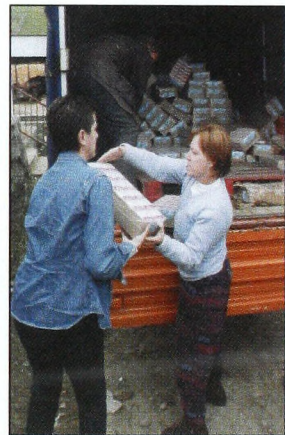
**FOOD:** Distributing food in family survival packs; establishing or equipping soup kitchens; and purchasing large quantities of flour and yeast for baking bread as well as providing long-life milk.

**SHELTER:** Helping to make existing refugee shelters more livable by improving the water supply and latrines.

**EMERGENCY SUPPLIES:** Providing items such as mattresses, blankets, toiletries, and cooking utensils.

**HEALTH:** Providing primary health care and psycho-social programs for traumatized women and children.

**To donate by phone, call toll-free (888) 511-6479.**



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 osis strike people in Asia—specifically, India,  
 Bangladesh, Pakistan, Indonesia, and the  
 nes. (World Health Organization)

■ Nearly 600,000 children under age 15 and  
 2.5 million people aged 15-24 contracted HIV last  
 year. (United Nations)

# Yes, I want to help

I want to assist children and families  
 affected by the Kosovo crisis.  
 Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ 2535 / H5B-S0A

I want to help orphans in child-headed  
 households in Rwanda.  
 Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ 8737 / H5B-S0B

I want to sponsor a child for  
 \$2/month 1800/H5B-S02

a girl  a boy living in  
 Asia  Africa  Latin America  
 Middle East  where most needed

*Adoption is not available in Kosovo at this time.  
 Adoption will begin in Rwanda in 2000.*

Check payable to World Vision  
 Credit card payment  
 VISA  MasterCard  
 American Express  Discover

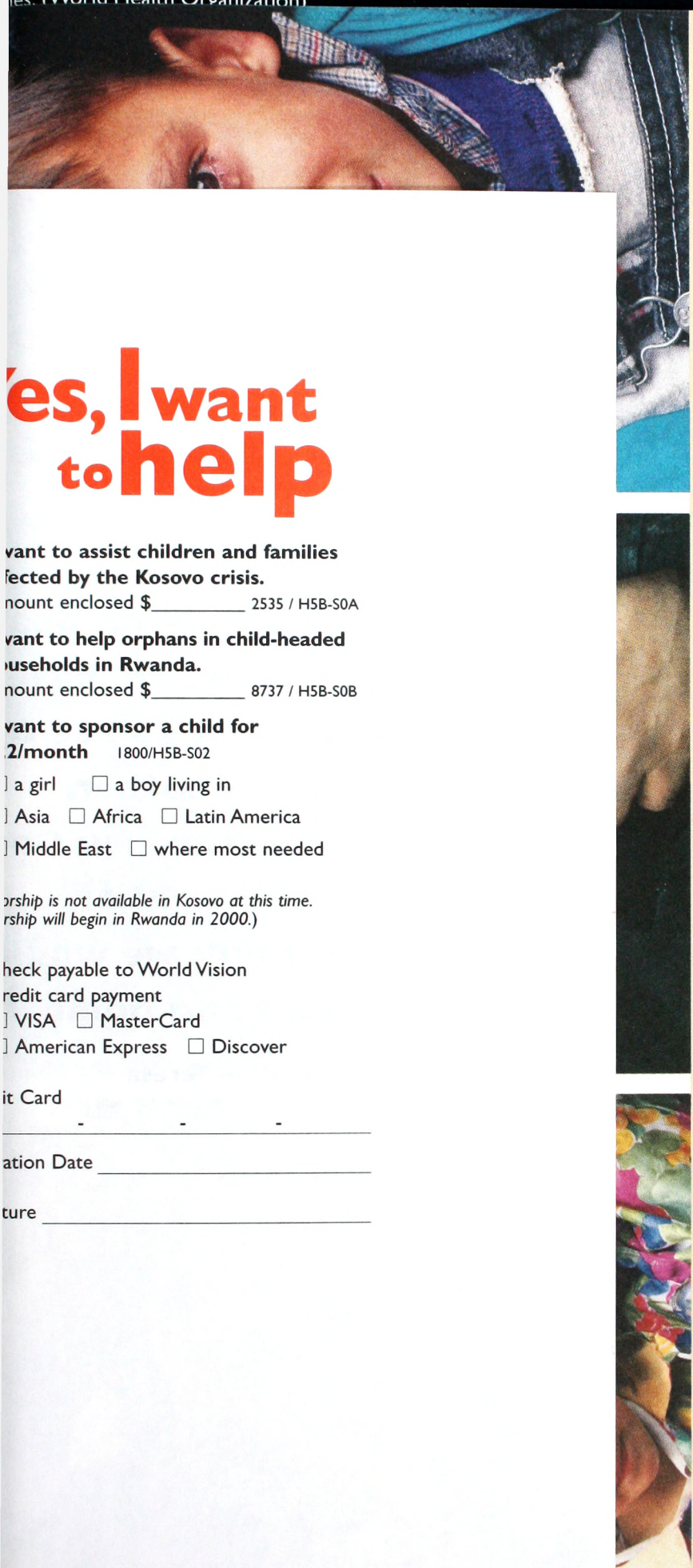
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**January 1999:** World Vision delivers 20,000 cans of beef and winter clothes to survivors of a massacre that killed 45 ethnic Albanians in Racak, Kosovo.  
**February 1999:** Peace talks commence in Rambouillet, France. World Vision establishes four school-based medical clinics and plans a USAID-funded trauma healing program in a dozen primary schools in devastated central Kosovo.  
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**"If now we have no peace  
it is because we have  
forgotten how to see God  
in one another.  
If each person saw God  
in his neighbor,  
do you think we would  
need guns and bombs?"**

**Mother Teresa**

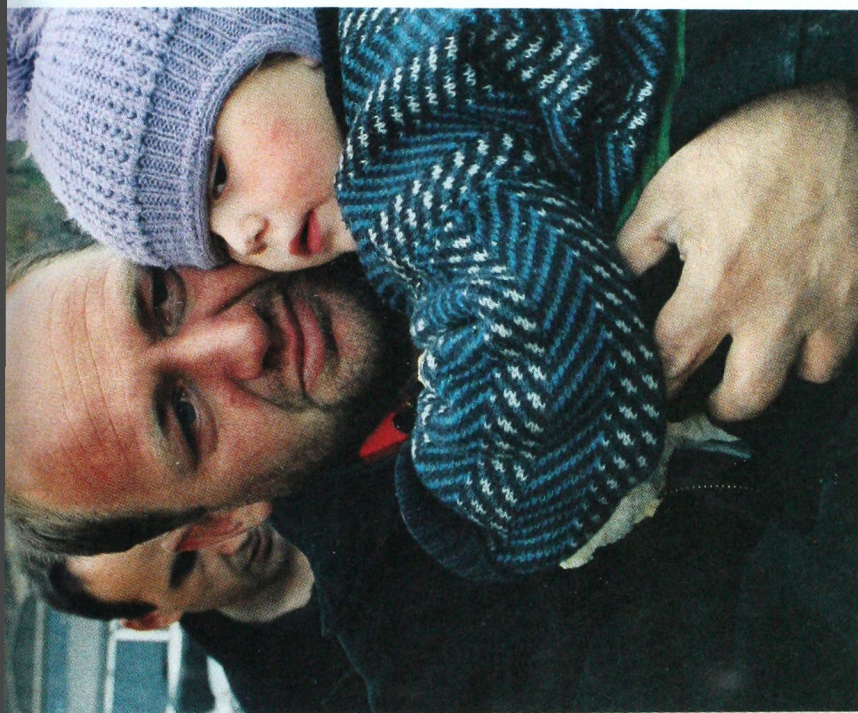
in a 1997 message to fellow Albanians

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## Refugees need your help

### How can you get involved?

#### 1. Give

World Vision aims to raise \$6 million to provide Kosovo's refugees with their most basic needs: food, shelter, clean water, medical care, and sanitation, as well as trauma counseling. Cash gifts enable us to buy goods locally and to defray the shipping costs of items donated by corporations.

#### 2. Alert your church

Church bulletin inserts providing background and details about World Vision's ministry to Kosovo's refugees are available. You can download the insert from our website at [www.worldvision.org](http://www.worldvision.org).

#### 3. Pray

- Pray for protection and comfort for hundreds of thousands of refugees as they cope with the loss of loved ones and of their homes, the hardships of exile, and the uncertainty of the future.
- Pray for strength and safety for aid workers, especially several of World Vision's Kosovar staff who are unaccounted for in Kosovo.
- Pray for families in neighboring countries bearing extra burdens with the influx of refugees.
- Pray for peace in the Balkans, and for wisdom and compassion to direct the decisions of NATO, Serb, and KLA leaders.



**Children in need:** Children represent a large and particularly vulnerable segment of refugees—half of the estimated 340,000 Kosovars entering Albania are children younger than 15. World Vision is feeding and caring for them in Albania and Montenegro, and preparing to help them cope with long-term trauma through psycho-social programs.

To give a gift,  
call toll-free (888) 511-6479

World Vision

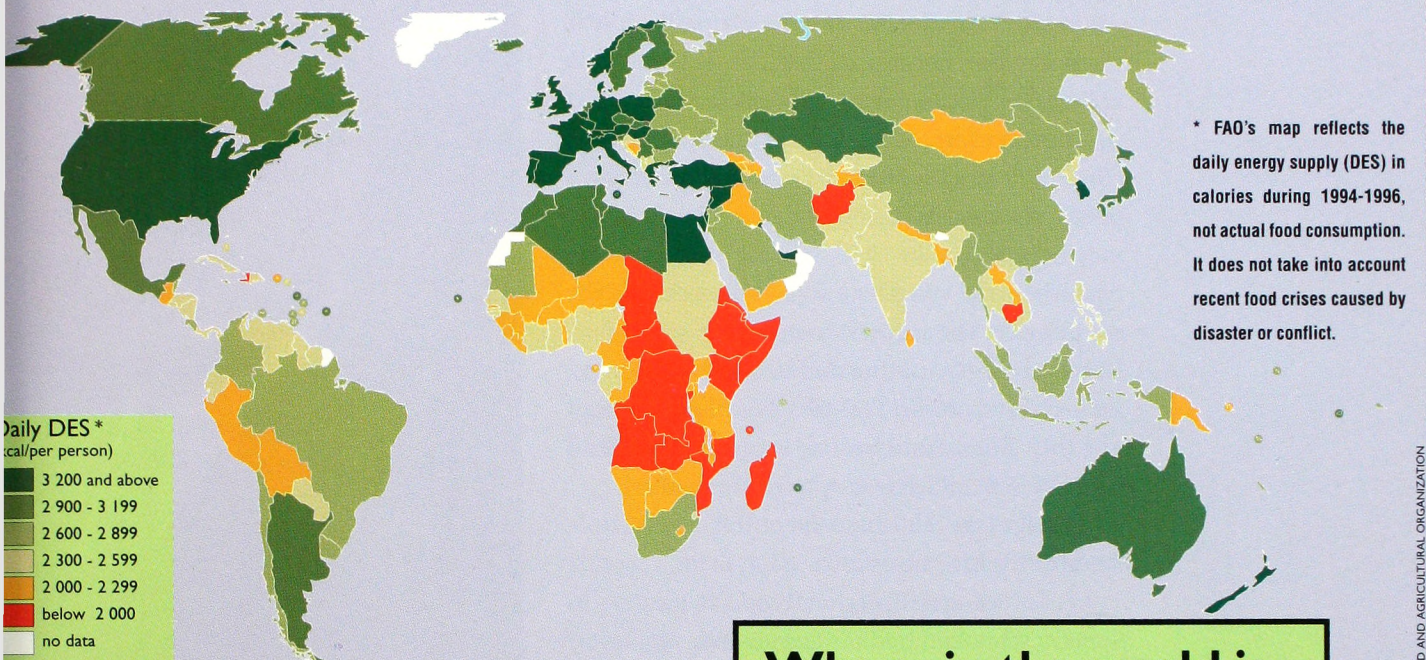
P.O. Box 9716  
Federal Way, WA 98063-9716

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## MAPPING NUTRITION AND MALNUTRITION

Dietary Energy Supply (1994 - 1996)



\* FAO's map reflects the daily energy supply (DES) in calories during 1994-1996, not actual food consumption. It does not take into account recent food crises caused by disaster or conflict.

© U.N. FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION

### Where in the world is the food supply?

Denmark has the most food available per person; Somalia the least, according to a recent report by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. FAO's map (above) illustrates the daily dietary energy supply available in 177 countries, highlighting the disparity between poor and wealthy nations. Although enough food is produced to feed everyone in the world, access to food is the issue. More than 800 million people in developing countries are chronically undernourished. They subsist on nutritionally deficient diets of fewer than 2,060 calories a day compared to an average 3,340 calories available in wealthier nations.

Some good news in sub-Saharan Africa: Ghana increased its available food per person by 22 percent between 1989 and 1996.

## RESOURCES

### Online shopping helps World Vision



Visit World Vision's Gift Center, [www.wvgifts.org](http://www.wvgifts.org), a convenient cyberplace featuring opportunities to help children such as sponsoring a child. You can also link to popular merchant sites that support World Vision: Surf and shop at amazon.com and eToys.com; snag educational and motivational materials at Incite.net; send your sweetie flowers from OurGift.com. Between 5 and 25 percent of your total purchase price will benefit World Vision if you link from World Vision's site, [www.wvgifts.org](http://www.wvgifts.org), and use your credit card.



# Obedience ov

Dr. Bishara Awad, 59, founder and president of Bethlehem Bible College in the West Bank, received World Vision's 1998 Robert W. Pierce Award for Christian Service, honoring his role in strengthening the church in the Holy Land while serving the poor in his community.

Born in Jerusalem, Bishara has faced many challenges as a Christian Palestinian leader in a politically volatile region under continual military occupation. In 1948, when Bishara was 9, his father was killed by a stray bullet during the conflict over the establishment of the state of Israel. Bishara's mother and her seven children joined the estimated 750,000 Palestinians who lost their homes and became refugees. Unable to support her children, she placed them in an orphanage where Bishara spent the next 12 years of his life.

As a teenager, Bishara attended a local Sunday school and, in his own words, "gave my life to God and decided to follow him." Graduating from high school, he was awarded a scholarship to Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell, S.D., where he earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics. In 1967 renewed fighting erupted in Israel. Palestinians abroad were forbidden to return to their homeland. Bishara became a U.S. citizen and returned to Jerusalem in 1971 as a missionary with the Mennonite Central Committee to serve as principal of a boys' school.

As the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians intensified, Bishara worried about the growing exodus of Christians from the Holy Land. Thousands emigrated, frustrated by years of brutal occupation and depressed by repeatedly stalled peace talks. The percentage of Palestinian Christians has dropped from 17



**Blessed are the peacemakers: Dr. Bishara Awad received World Vision's 1998 Robert W. Pierce Award for Christian Service.**

percent of the population at the turn of the century to less than 2 percent in 1999. To help stem the tide, in 1979 Bishara founded Bethlehem Bible College to educate believers, equipping them to minister in their homeland. Some 250 students have graduated from this prestigious institution, the area's only Arabic-language Bible college. Ninety-eight percent of

these graduates have remained in their homeland, many serving the community as pastors, teachers, and counselors.

Bishara is widely respected for his peace-building ministry among Christians, Muslims, and Jews.

"Bishara Awad represents the reconciling love of Jesus in his life and ministry in the Palestinian community. He has returned to his land and people to be a seed for the gospel of peace in a place that knows little of it. We thank God for him and all of our friends at Bethlehem Bible College, for what they teach us through their lives of witness and service for Christ."

**The Reverend Dr. Don Wagner**, Executive Director  
Evangelicals for Middle East Understanding

# Bitterness

By Randy Miller

was awarded an honorary doctor of divinity degree from the Jerusalem University College. World Vision has supported Dr. Awad's crucial ministry since 1983.

**You are known for bringing together diverse groups: Messianic Jews, Palestinian Christians, Muslims. Practically, how do you do this?**

Jesus is the common factor between Messianic Jews and Christian Palestinians. We can't see eye-to-eye on political issues. The Jewish believers say, "God gave us the land." The Palestinian believers say, "God loves us. He would not give you the land and kick us out." But when we come together, politics is not a hindrance. We just worship the Lord Jesus.

Muslims believe in God and in Jesus as a prophet. We can meet on that common ground. At the Bible college, we reach out to Muslims in our community who are living in refugee camps. Their situation is terrible. We give them food and clothing and send visiting medical teams to them. Three years ago, we were grateful to see a big sign saying, "We appreciate the work of Bethlehem Bible College" in front of one of the camps.

**Can you give an example of reconciliation between Palestinians and Jews?**

There are many examples because you cannot generally say, "The Jews are not concerned [about reconciliation]." In 1989, during the *intifada* (rising) period, things were very tense. Israeli soldiers patrolled Bethlehem day and night. I ran into a commander while visiting one of the monasteries.

We began talking. I asked him, "When are we going to live together in peace?" And he said, "The sooner the better." I said, "Our generation, I don't think we can start, but how about our children? My children have never met a Jewish family." He said, "What if we come together?"

A few days later, he called and invited us on a Saturday to visit a *kibbutz*—a community of Jews who work and live together. At first my children refused to go. To a Jewish place? To a soldier's house? This is the image of the enemy. But finally they agreed. The soldier's family was wonderful. They were human. I don't say this lightly, because Israelis and Palestinians do not look upon one another as human.

At first, the visit was very tense. But slowly, our children began talking, and we shared a meal in the commune where hundreds of people eat together. Later, they came to our home. We still correspond and see each other from time to time. It takes things like that to look at other people and see them as created in the image of God.

**Q: Reconciliation could not have come easily to you, losing your father in the war and growing up in an orphanage. What made reconciliation possible in your life?**

**A:** I grew up with much bitterness and hatred, especially for the Jewish people who did much harm to us Palestinians. I was raised in a Christian home, and accepted the Lord Jesus

as my personal Savior when I was 17, but I could not get rid of this hatred.

I came to a point in my life [in 1978], when I was in charge of Hope Secondary School, that I wanted to be used by God. I saw

"I am saddened by the fact that we in the West have so often ignored the plight of the Palestinians and especially the Palestinian churches. Bishara Awad and the Bethlehem Bible College play a key role not only in preparing Palestinians for diverse ministries, but also in helping the Church around the world to understand how Jesus continues to bring light to Israel and Palestine."

**Steve Hayner**, President  
InterVarsity Christian Fellowship U.S.A.



myself in those children, growing in hatred. They had all suffered in one way or another because of the Israeli occupation, or the Israelis demolishing their homes, or killing their loved ones, or something like that. But there I was, preaching in chapel every day. I asked the Lord to forgive me this hatred, and he did. He filled me with his love and with his Spirit.

I can say to you with all honesty that I have no hatred. I still don't like what the Israeli Jews are doing to the Palestinians, but there are alternatives to hatred. If you hate, the enemy will never know or care about that better way—the way of Jesus.

**Q:** What Scripture has provided you with comfort or guidance?

**A:** Psalm 27:10, "If my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will take me up."

**Q:** How did you choose your life motto, "Faithfulness, honesty, service, and love"?

**A:** If you are faithful to the Lord, he is faithful to you. There is no way I could have built a Bible college with a \$20 donation from a local pastor into an institution worth \$2 million with my own power and my own skills. It is God.

**Q:** Many Christians in the West have certain attitudes about the historical and biblical role of Israel. What are your beliefs?

**A:** The New Testament teaches that in Jesus Christ there is no Jew, no Gentile, and all who accept him become the children of God. The New Testament interest is not in a piece of land, but in redeeming people, through salva-

tion that all would come to know the Lord Jesus Christ. I believe that the return of the Jews is not a spiritual one, but rather political. I don't believe that the book of Joshua is being repeated and that the Israelites are coming into the Promised Land. These promises have already been fulfilled, whether in the return from Sinai or Babylonia.

The Jews suffered in the Holocaust. They needed a place to stay and they picked Palestine. They deserve a place to live. But the Palestinians are paying a big price for what happened to the Jews in Europe. To say it's God-ordained, I don't think so.

**Q:** How can Christians in the United States support our brothers and sisters in Palestine?

**A:** I think evangelicals, and I include myself in this group, should take another look at the Bible in the light of Jesus Christ. The old covenant had its time, and now we live in the new covenant of Christ. We should not pick verses from the Old Testament and build a whole theology on them. As a result of this wrong interpretation, people are suffering, people are dying.

Unless the world understands the precariousness of this remnant of faithful believers—Palestinian and Jewish—who are determined to keep the gospel light shining, pilgrims to this land of promise may visit our shrines and churches yet never meet a local Christian. Christians here believe that despite

the darkness of the hour there is still hope for the Middle East, for Palestine/Israel. Why? Because God's people, those redeemed by the blood of Jesus, are still here. ☺

*Randy Miller is a World Vision journalist.*

"Surrounded by venerated 'dead stones,' Bishara Awad's work with the Bible college and its great impact on the community stands out as an excellent, much-needed 'living stones' ministry. The Church cannot survive without developing vigorous and effective training for Palestinian Christian leaders. Bishara is the man who does that. I wholeheartedly support him."

**Brother Andrew**, Founder  
Open Doors ministry

# World Vision at work in the Holy Land

World Vision began working in the Holy Land in 1975. Serving the poor regardless of race, nationality, or faith, World Vision supports community projects benefiting more than 150,000 people, including 100,000 children in sponsorship programs in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and Israel.

**Health:** World Vision assists hospitals and clinics for needy families in the West Bank, particularly in Gaza where the diseases of poverty (malnutrition, parasites, diarrhea, respiratory infections) are widespread while health services and facilities remain limited. By introducing well-baby clinics, World Vision is developing child health care practices in the most remote villages.

**Education:** World Vision supports 36 schools, ranging from kindergartens to colleges, as well as rehabilitation centers and counseling for traumatized children. Six adult vocational training projects equip men and women with new job skills.

**Justice:** World Vision partners with Israeli and Palestinian organizations, providing legal assistance to villagers facing home demolition and land confiscation orders. The agency also works



KAREN HOMER / WORLD VISION

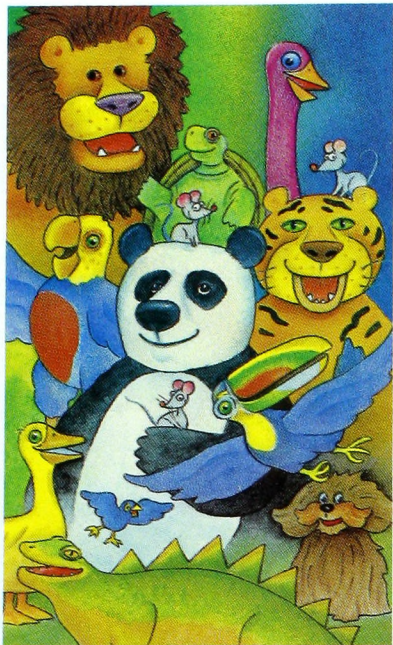
**Words of joy:** Fatma Omar was a student at the Atfaluna School for Deaf Children in the Gaza Strip in 1993, when World Vision began supporting this institution. The school now has more than 100 students and provides services for the local deaf community of 15,000 people. Here, Fatma teaches her mother, Nahala, a new sign language word. "Since she started at the Atfaluna school, there has been a big change in my daughter," said Nahala. "She is much less inhibited because she can communicate with the family."

with human rights groups such as the Israeli Coalition Against Home Demolition and the Christian Peacemaker Team-Hebron.

**Reconciliation:** World Vision works with Jewish, Muslim, and Christian leaders, encouraging dialogue and facilitating reconciliation at a community level. 🌍

**Giving peace a chance:** Israelis from the Peace Now organization demonstrate alongside local Palestinian youths in Jerusalem's Old City. World Vision encourages dialogue and facilitates reconciliation between Jews, Muslims, and Christians.





**World Vision donors' gifts of love ensure special birthdays for sponsored children.**

For families in Nueva Jerusalem, Peru, it was a first: celebrating their children's birthdays. "We don't celebrate birthdays because we are poor and not able to buy presents for our children or to prepare special meals. It is like any other day," explained mother Justina Tapara. "But World Vision and the sponsors gave us birthday presents."

At least one day a year, children everywhere deserve to know they're special—to their parents, their community, and most of all, to God. World Vision produces birthday cards like the one above which sponsors sign and return to their children. Recently, sponsors have done even more by sending generous birthday donations above their monthly sponsorship commitment. Last year, 246,430 American donors gave \$2.9 million. Not only did this money

# it's a

Story by **Jane Sutton-Redner**

treat sponsored children and their friends to group parties, it also provided community presents such as playground equipment, library books, and even computers.

"In our families where parents can't afford our basic needs, how could we think about a birthday gift?" said Shilpi Rani Baidya, 15, a sponsored child from a slum in Bangladesh who received a new school bag. With last year's funds, local World Vision staff chose appropriate gifts—soccer shoes for kids in a Brazil barrio who used to

cut their feet playing barefoot; lanterns so students can study night in a slum in Nairobi, Kenya that has no electricity. In north Lebanon, \$12,000 will be used to renovate and equip a much-needed recreation center.

World Vision Zimbabwe staff bought each of the 2,300 sponsored children in one community a \$6 goat which can potentially breed at least twice a year, providing an income source. One sponsored girl's gift multiplied almost immediately when her goat



STEVE LEVITT / WORLD VISION

# party

vered a kid on the walk home  
n the birthday celebration.

Maria do Amparo, a teacher  
Brazil project which received  
ary materials, explained,  
can enrich our educational  
k with the children of the  
rio. The library is a bridge  
better world."

World Vision also used spon-  
' funds to organize parties for  
whole community, with adults  
children joining in the singing,  
cing, games, and feasts. "Thank  
for giving us the chance to

share happy moments with other  
children," said Jenny Torres Lapa,  
10, of Ccano, Peru. Joel Mukasa  
of Kyantale, Uganda, observed that  
his community party was the first  
time he had ever cut a cake, "let  
alone eaten a big chunk." In  
Lefikeng, Lesotho, local horsemen  
delighted the women and children  
by performing in full uniform.

For children in destitute and  
troubled places, the celebrations  
provided a rare day of fun. Young  
people in Gulu, northern Uganda,  
are often caught in violent clashes

between government troops  
and the terrorist rebels known  
as the Lord's Resistance Army.  
The 4,500 party-goers at the  
December event included street  
kids, children with AIDS,  
orphans, and rehabilitated teen  
soldiers. Children performed  
poems, songs, and drama,  
and enjoyed games and  
refreshments—all under the  
protective watch of a phalanx  
of police officers.

Many events opened in  
prayer and incorporated  
Scripture readings or Christian  
videos. The celebration in a  
shantytown in Peru featured a  
biblical message teaching chil-  
dren to "give thanks to God in  
everything." A respected local  
evangelist, Pastor Stanley  
Kalindekagwe, spoke at a party  
in Malawi, reminding the  
children to follow Jesus.

"We enjoyed the food, the  
drinks, and the sporting events,"  
said Fanizo Kapilima, 13, on  
behalf of the 8,000 kids honored  
in the "Big Day for the Children"  
in Nthondo, Malawi. "We thank  
our sponsors and World Vision  
for their assistance: good water,  
beautiful schools, and above all,  
quality education. May God  
bless them all." 🌐

**Birthday bash: World Vision  
President Richard Stearns (center)  
helped children celebrate their  
birthdays in Cebu, the Philippines.**





## did you know?

In many poor countries, children have more responsibilities than most American kids. They have to take care of their younger brothers and sisters, cook, clean, collect water, tend animals, and do their homework.

## At Home

Pretend you are taking care of your brothers and sisters by yourself. Choose a few of these activities. Try to do them on your own, but if you get stuck, ask your parents for help.



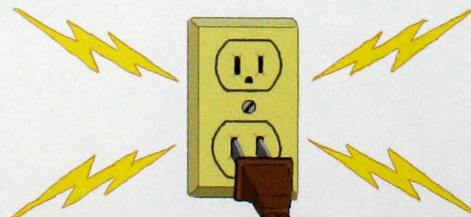
### So...what's for supper?

Can you feed your family? Make a list of all the foods you can make or cook. Pretend you have only \$30 to plan meals

for a week. Go to the grocery store and write down prices for the food on your list.

### Safety first!

Can you protect your siblings? List all the things that might be dangerous to young children in your house. How would you keep kids away from them? In an emergency, what telephone numbers do you call for the doctor, police, or an ambulance?



### A little child shall lead them...

Can you help your brothers and sisters know God's love and follow his commands? How

would you set a good Christian example?

Can you read the Bible to them and pray with them?



## The super fixer-upper!

What can you fix? On a limited budget, it's better to mend things than buy new ones. Can you sew a button on a shirt? Repair a tear in your jeans? Glue a broken mug back together? List the things you can fix.



## Way to go!

Since you can't drive, how would you get around? Is there a bus stop or train station near your house? Get bus/train schedules and maps. Plan

ways to travel to school, the library, your church, or the grocery store.



How much does it cost to ride each way? Figure out how much money you'd need for a week of transportation.

## now that you know...

Aren't you glad you don't have to do those things on your own? Go give your parents a hug and tell them you appreciate them.

## Write to us

Tell us how it went. We are always interested to hear from you. Please include your full name, age, and address.

### Send letters to:

**World Vision Today** magazine

P.O. Box 9716

Federal Way, WA 98063-9716

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A59WAW

Wo

Every mother is a working mother so the old adage goes. But Maria Yolanda Suruy Cotzojay de Carrizosa, whom I met during a recent women's trip to Guatemala, fits the definition better than most.

Maria Yolanda stood out among the brightly costumed women crowded into a World Vision office in San Reymundo, a small village about 20 miles from the capital, Guatemala City. She is 20, the age of my daughter Sarah. But a certain maturity belied her youthfulness as she tended her two small children, one tugging at her skirt, the other tied upon her back.

The women had come to share with us how they had used the money loaned to them by World Vision. In microenterprise development programs across Latin America, World Vision distributes loans to groups of people who have access to financial credit. Members divide up the money and start small businesses to support their families and provide jobs for others in the community. Each group holds its members accountable to repay the loans. In San Reymundo, about 30 women received funds for various projects. A seamstress bought a sewing machine so she could make garments to sell to her neighbors. Another woman became the local grocer, setting up shop right in her home.

Maria Yolanda used her share to buy chickens, which she raised and sold in the market. We asked her which was easier: raising chickens or raising children? She thought for a moment, then, through our translator, Maria Yolanda explained that both tasks are difficult. Her experience as a mother has taught her that all of God's creatures need love and attention in order to thrive. As she enthusiastically described her work, it became obvious that raising chickens was the perfect job for this young mom, using her nurturing skills to provide added income for her family.

# ing Moms

Story by **Reneé Stearns** Photography by **Jon Warren**

What does Maria Yolanda's husband do when she is busy keeping her flocks, feathered and otherwise? He tends to his own flock as the pastor of the village church. Not only is Maria Yolanda responsible for her young family, but she also shoulders the duties of a pastor's wife. What does she do in her spare time? She weaves beautiful shawls on a simple loom. While I held her youngest son, Abner, she demonstrated her work. In the house she was working on, a colorful shawl adorned with complicated patterns, it would take her about four months to complete. What with the children, and the chickens and the church, I can only imagine when she finds the time.

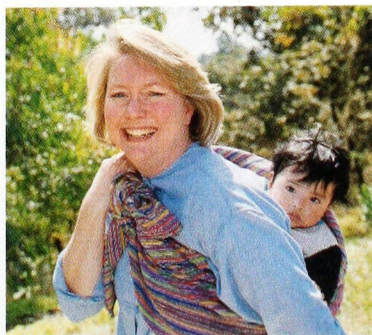
I traveled to Guatemala expecting to see the blessings flowing from World Vision's work. Instead, I was the one who was blessed. In San Juan, I met the woman spoken of in Proverbs 31. Maria Yolanda personifies the virtues of a godly woman: hardworking, gracious, dependable, supportive, an excellent wife and mother. "She is clothed with strength and dignity...speaks with wisdom...she manages over the affairs of her household...does not eat of the bread of idleness" Proverbs 31:25-27(NIV). Maria Yolanda has faith, motivation, and integrity—all she lacked financial resources. A World Vision micro-enterprise loan met her need.

Proverbs 31:30 tells us that a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. What does that mean for a wife and mother like Maria Yolanda, for you and me? It means standing in awe of the invisible hand of God at work in our everyday lives, whether our days are filled with children and children, or briefcases and board meetings. Maria Yolanda's example reminded me that while every mother is a working mother, every mother is also a child of God. 🌍

Reneé Stearns, mother of five and wife of World Vision executive Richard Stearns, traveled to Guatemala with her son of Faith in January.



**Mother's touch:** Above, Maria Yolanda holds her son, Abner, during a meeting with her loan association. Below, Reneé carries Abner in the local style.



## Microenterprise at work in Latin America

- In 1998, World Vision disbursed 8,900 loans worth \$4.4 million to associations and individuals in 15 Latin American countries.
- Women account for 53 percent of the loan clients.
- Since the program's inception, 1,067 new jobs have been created and 4,478 jobs sustained.



# Showing love

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

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

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



Christian artist Twila Paris and her sponsored child.

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Bill me later.

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American Express  Discover

Card no. ---- Exp. Date --

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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