

World Vision

Today

Winter 1999

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Anniversary

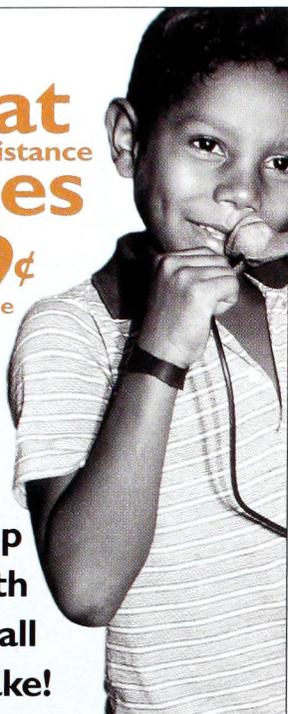
SPECIAL PHOTOGRAPHY ISSUE

our children

prayers & possibilities

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World Vision Today

Vol. 3, Number 2

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Editor-in-Chief **Shelly Ngo**

Design **Journey Communications**

Senior Editors **Karen Homer**

Jane Sutton-Redner

Photo Editor **Jon Warren**

Production Manager **Kris Baldyga**

CORRESPONDENTS

Sanjay Sojwal (Asia), Nigel Marsh, Winnie Ogana (East Africa), Jutta De Bardelaben (Eastern Europe), Kevin Cook (Latin America), Margaret Spencer (Southern Africa), Kate Scannell (West Africa)

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Mikel Flamm, Luis Armenta Fraire, Scott Kelleher, Jon Warren

On the cover: Abdul Kalam Rehamati Parveen, 10, of India, is first in her class. "I want to be a police inspector when I grow up," she says.

World Vision Today, a free 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. In an effort to be careful stewards of our resources, this publication costs less than 30 cents a copy to print and mail.

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. 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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"A dream is the bearer of a new possibility, the enlarged horizon, the great hope."

HOWARD THURMAN, "DISCIPLINES OF THE SPIRIT"

On the eve of a new millennium, our thoughts turn toward the future and to the hopes we harbor for our children. But what of the dreams of children—particularly those who live confined by limited means and opportunities? For this special photo issue, we visited children in World Vision projects in five countries to photograph them and ask them about their prayers and dreams.

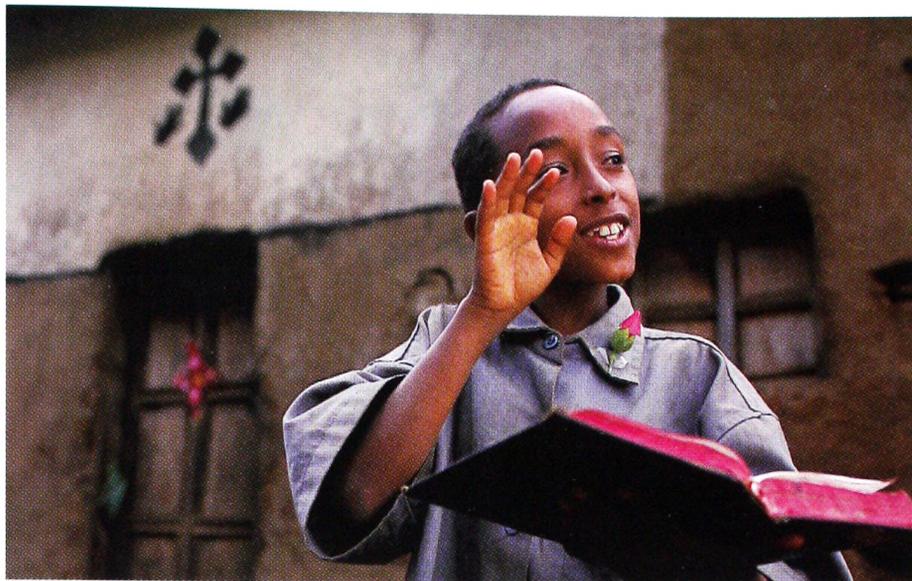
Many of their whimsical wishes and aspirations are not so different from those of children in our own homes, schools, and churches. Even so, the children's joy and their simple desires are poignant in the face of the challenges and material poverty to which they were born.

It is our wish that as you "meet" these children, you will see in them the image of the One who is our Creator, who gives us all a hope and a future. —THE EDITORS



Gigi Graham Tchividjian, the eldest of Billy and Ruth Graham's five children, is the author of several books,

including *Mothers Together* and *Currents of the Heart*. She is also a consultant for the Ruth and Billy Graham Children's Health Center in Asheville, N.C., which serves needy Appalachian children. Gigi and her husband, Stephan Tchividjian, a clinical psychologist, have seven children and 11 grandchildren. They divide their time between Black Mountain, N. C., and Coral Springs, Fla.



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

God's imprint: 8-year-old Mhiretu Tamirat from Ethiopia hopes to be an evangelist. "I'd preach to people about repentance, to return to Jesus."

by Gigi Graham Tchividjian

Precious In His Sight

My father, Billy Graham, spent his life traveling the world proclaiming the Good News that God loves every person so much that he gave his only son to die for us. My father's stories of the diverse cultures he encountered fascinated me. The rich, international culture of my hometown in North Carolina also fostered my interest in other countries. Doctors, teachers, nurses, pastors, and agriculturists retired here; people who gave their best years to serve the Lord abroad—including my grandparents, medical missionaries to China for 25 years.

With this as my heritage, it's no surprise that from a very young age I sang, "Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world, red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in his sight..." I knew this to be true because my parents taught me of Christ's love for children: "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these" (Luke 18:16 NIV).

But as I got older, I became painfully aware that many children in the world go to bed hungry, cold, and sad. Many are separated from their families by war, literally torn from their mothers' arms. Some watch in horror as parents are killed in front of their eyes. For others, diseases, famines, or disasters cause the haunted look we so often see in their faces.

For far too many of those children, there is no laughter; no stuffed toy to hug in the dark, lonely nights; no one to talk to.

These children need to see God. They need to feel his hugs of love. I once heard the story of a small boy who was afraid to go to bed. His mother said, "Honey, don't be afraid, God is with you." To which the child quickly responded, "But I want a God with skin on him."

We are privileged to be God's skin: his eyes to see the need, his ears to hear the cries, his arms to enfold with love. We can raise our own children to understand his great and personal love for each of us—knowledge that lessens our fears and frees us to dream. And we can reach out to children beyond our borders through Christian organizations like World Vision. For 50 years, World Vision has been God's skin to children and families, caring for those in need and enabling them to reach their full, God-given potential.

It is an awesome privilege to participate in the work of helping children discover God's imprint on their lives, to help them realize the unique distinction of being made in his image. Every child is a bundle of possibilities, a child of promise. We don't know what great plans God has for that individual. We don't know which dreams will be fulfilled. But we do know that God sees, God cares, and God loves. And he invites us to help him nurture and care for the precious prayers and dreams of his children. ■

*"I would like to have a red
Suzuki van with a driver to take
me to Apughar [a children's park]
and the zoo. I'd take my parents
when school was out. The driver
would drive, not my father."*

[Rehamati's father is a driver.]

Abdul Kalam
Rehamati Parveen, 10
India

our children

p r a y e r



PHOTOGRAPHY BY JON WARREN

& *p o s s i b i l i t i e s*

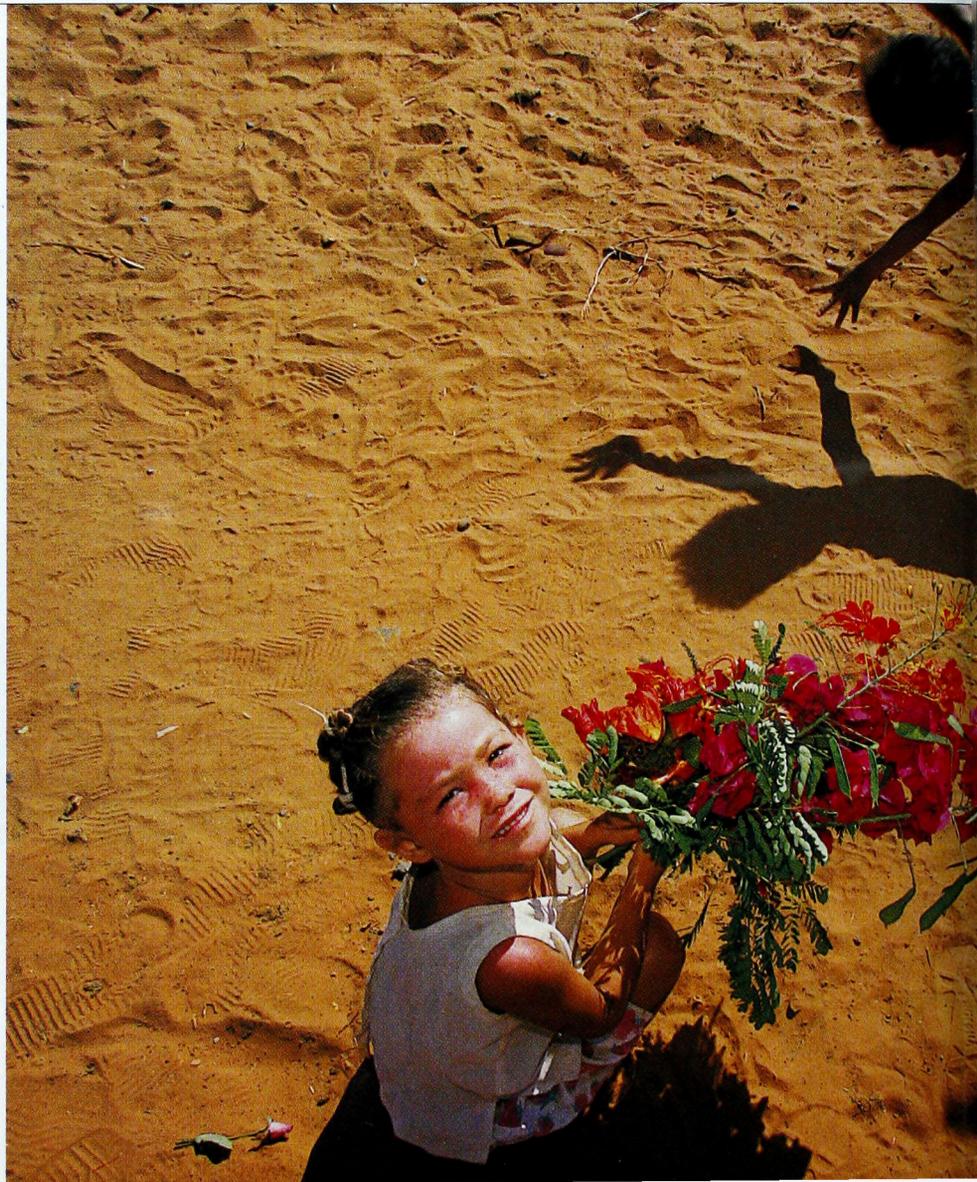


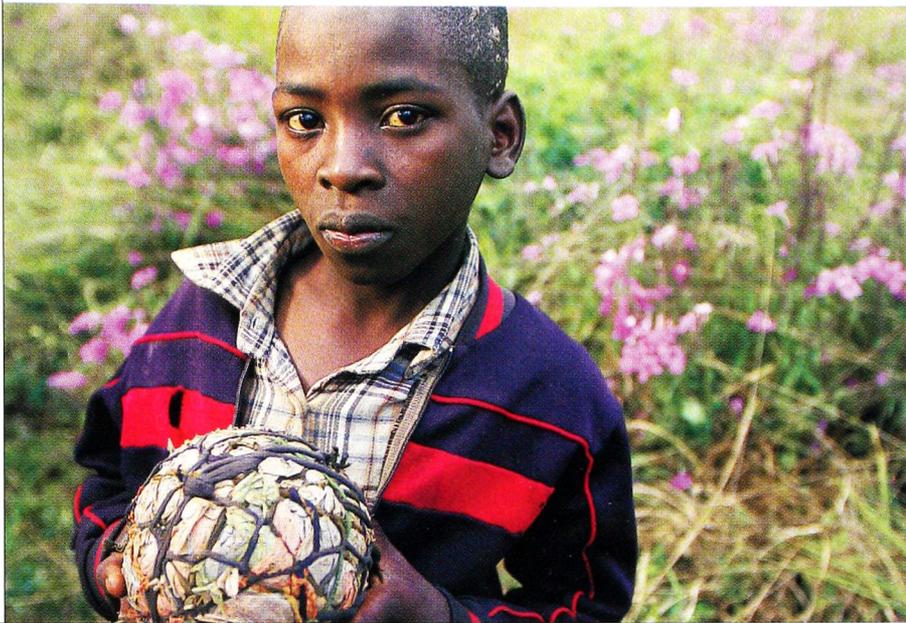
◀
“I want to become a veterinarian. I like animals a lot and would like to take care of them, especially dogs. I have two dogs. Dogs are special because they can be guides for the blind and take care of children.”

**Sandra Guadalupe
Perez García, 12
Mexico**

▶
“When I grow up, I want to work making candy; first to eat and then to sell. I dream of a mountain of sweets, little and big candies, all different colors.”

**Patricia Goncalves
da Silva, 5
Brazil**





▲
*“My wish is for a real ball.
My friends and I
only have a rag ball.”*

**Richard Chilimo Lotani, 14
Tanzania**



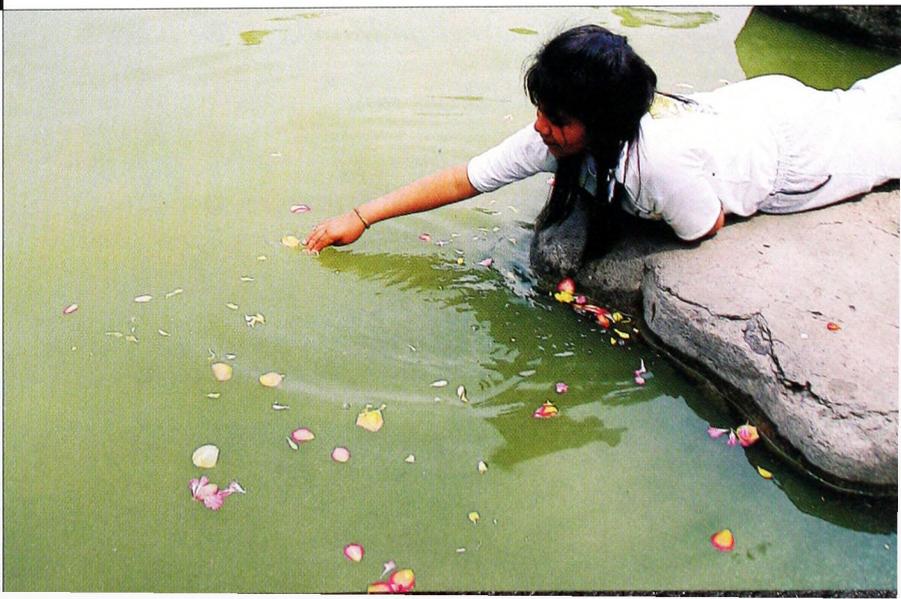
▲
“If I had one wish, I’d ask for my father’s love. He leaves at 8 a.m. and comes back at 9 p.m. He even works on Sundays. Otherwise he sleeps all the time.”

Mohamed Faiz Badrul Haq, 6
India



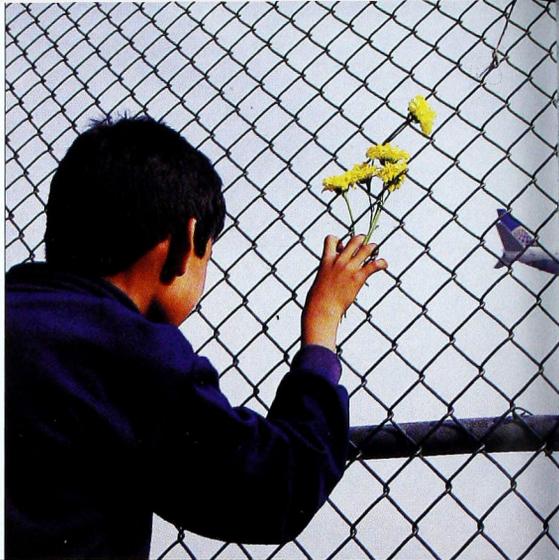
▼
*“Ever since I was small,
I’ve been fascinated with
water. I would like to make
reports about the sea and
research marine animals. I
would interview people who
know about the sea and ask
them about pollution. My
reports would be on
television.”*

Jaqueline Hernández, 11
Mexico



▶
“I’ve never been in the air, but I think I would be free there, without any weight. I want to become a pilot.”

Eduardo Baltazar, 12
Mexico



▲
“We wish for shoes: white boots that cost more than 100 birr [\$12.50], with laces and high heels. We’d wear them to church on Sundays and to the market on Mondays. We have rubber shoes now.”

(LEFT TO RIGHT)

Eteye Abere, 11; Martha Degu, 10;
Habitu Hailu, 9; Martha Lombeso, 10
Ethiopia



“I would like to have a better life, to be an actress or a model to make some money. I would like to have things to help other people. What God has done for me, I’d like to do for others.”

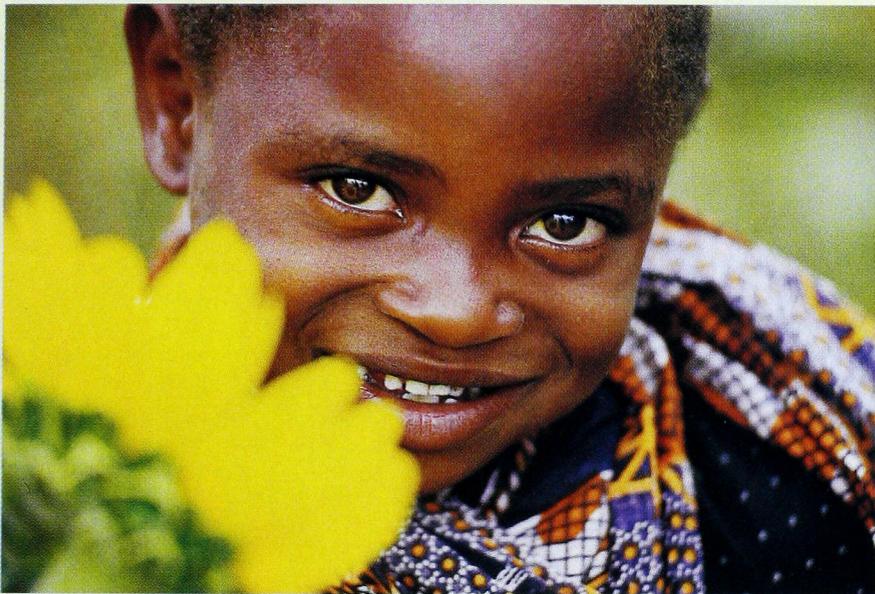
Kely Patricia Silva, 12
Brazil



Protecting Possibilities

World Vision's Childcare Ministry Fund

Defending Dreams



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

Eyes of faith: 7-year-old Faith Aloni Stanley of Tanzania dreams of becoming a nurse.

Children dare to dream despite the most daunting realities—poverty, disease, discrimination. World Vision's ministry, built on 50 years of prayer and practice, helps protect children and their fragile hopes through sponsorship and community development. Health and nutrition programs promote their physical growth; education and spiritual support allow their spirits to soar.

But sometimes, that's not enough. Unforeseen emergencies—ranging from critical illness to earthquakes or floods—can devastate families who are already struggling to survive. Their needs escalate beyond World Vision's usual assistance.

Through World Vision's Childcare Ministry Fund, you can reach out to children and families in crisis worldwide. Your donations enable World Vision staff to respond quickly and appropriately to urgent situations that budgets and best-laid plans cannot always anticipate.

Seven-year-old Michel Martinez of Tulpetlac, Mexico, would have died without a kidney transplant. World Vision paid for the surgery to replace Michel's failing kidney with his mother's healthy one. The Childcare Ministry Fund provides the best available treatment for children needing surgery and those suffering sudden injuries or long term physical disabilities—costly

care their parents can't afford.

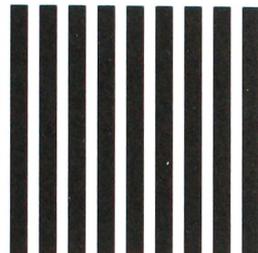
"If we hadn't received the food, we would have died of hunger," said a grateful mother of eight children after Hurricane Paulina destroyed homes and crops in her coastal community in Mexico in 1997. The Childcare Ministry Fund helped families recover from the worst storm in the country's history with food aid and agricultural assistance.

In a crisis, food, medicine, and other emergency items are in high demand. Corporations and private donors respond generously with gift-in-kind donations and the U.S. government supplies food aid. But sending the goods and distributing food is expensive. Childcare Ministry Fund donations often contribute freight costs, ensuring that supplies reach desperate families before they lose hope.

In recent years, the Childcare Ministry Fund has helped countless families in dire situations. But tremendous obstacles continue to confront children around the world, including the countries represented in this issue. Drought-induced famine stalks families in northern Ethiopia and northeastern Brazil where children are dying from drinking contaminated water. Crushing urban poverty in Mexico forces children into dead-end lives on the street. In India and Tanzania, preventable diseases like polio continue to cripple children.

You can help remove the obstacles that inhibit children's dreams by giving to World Vision's Childcare Ministry Fund—special insurance against life's unexpected perils. ■

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World Vision

'There's never anything to eat around here!'



Give your group a new perspective.

With World Vision's 30 Hour Famine, your group can experience their faith in action.

And in a world where a child dies every time you take a breath, that means a lot.

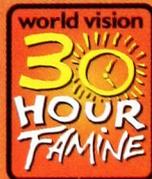
In 1999, more than 600,000 young people in the United States joined together to save kids' lives. This year, even more will be a part of a movement that is changing the world.

Don't miss out on this great opportunity to *feed the need* in your youth and around the world.

Your kids will never look at their refrigerator the same way again.

Sign up today for the 30 Hour Famine.

feed the need



The national Famine dates are February 25-26, 2000 . . . but you can do the Famine any-time!

Call today for a free video
1-800-7-FAMINE

Or for those of us who can't match the numbers with the letters on the phone, 1-800-732-6463. In Canada, call 1-800-387-8080.

www.30hourfamine.org

B03G

Protecting Possibilities

World Vision's Childcare Ministry

Defending

World Vision



In impoverished countries,
where hope is already fragile,
children's dreams
are precarious.



Eyes of faith: 7-year-old Faith Aloni Stanley of Tanzania

Children dare to dream despite the most daunting realities—poverty, disease, discrimination. World Vision's ministry, built on 50 years of prayer and practice, helps protect children and their fragile hopes through sponsorship and community development. Health and nutrition programs promote their physical growth; education and spiritual support allow their spirits to soar.

But sometimes, that's not enough. Unforeseen emergencies—ranging from critical illness to earthquakes or floods—can devastate families who are already struggling to survive. Their needs escalate beyond World Vision's usual assistance.

The Ministry's children and donors respond to urgent plans of

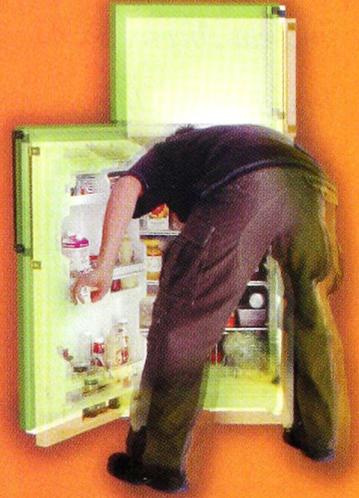
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Through World Vision's Childcare Ministries Fund, you can help meet urgent needs including costly medical treatments, disaster relief, and freight costs for emergency supplies.

With your minimum donation of \$15 or a new child sponsorship pledge, we will send you a set of notecards featuring four beautiful children's photographs from this issue (left). Check the box on the attached form to receive your set of eight notecards. Allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

'There's never anything to eat around here!'



Give your group a new perspective.

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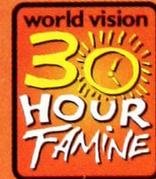
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www.30hourfamine.org

803G

Yes, want to help a child

I want to help protect children's dreams by giving to the Childcare Ministry Fund.

Enclosed is my gift of \$_____

0300/HBB C04

I want to sponsor a child for \$22/month.

1800/HBB C02

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

a check payable to World Vision
 a credit card payment



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Date

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Please send me a set of World Vision notecards for my minimum donation of \$15 or for a new child sponsorship pledge.

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Protecting Possibilities

World Vision's Childcare Ministry
Defending



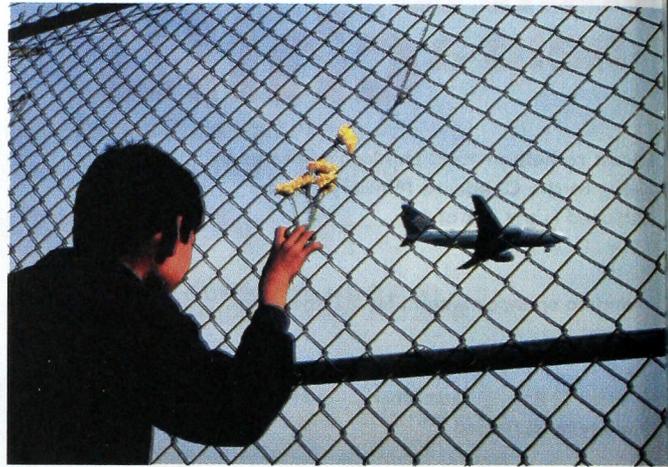
Eyes of faith: 7-year-old Faith Aloni Stanley of Tanzania

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But sometimes, that's not enough. Unforeseen emergencies—ranging from critical illness to earthquakes or floods—can devastate families who are already struggling to survive. Their needs escalate beyond World Vision's usual assistance.

The Ministry of Children and Women's Affairs in Tanzania has a plan to help children and their families.

Seven-year-old Faith Aloni Stanley is a child who has been orphaned by the sudden death of her mother. She is now in the custody of her grandmother. Childcare services are available through the ministry, but her grandmother cannot afford to pay for them.



Hold fast to dreams
For if dreams die
Life is a broken-winged bird
That cannot fly.

LANGSTON HUGHES, POET

'There's never anything to eat around here!'



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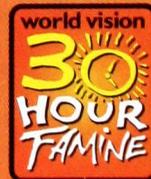
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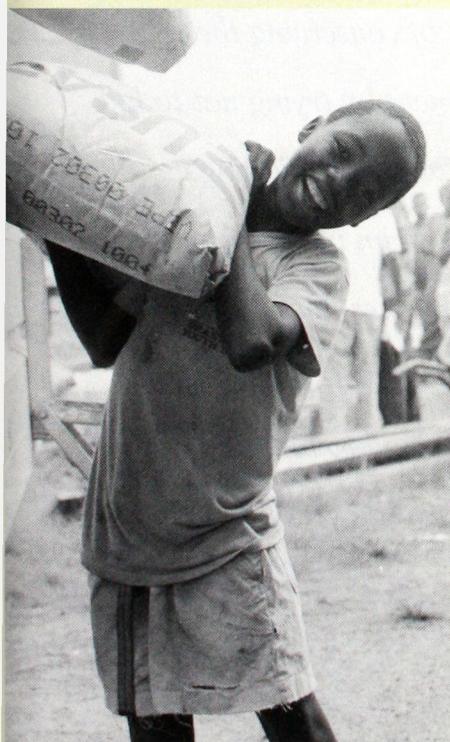
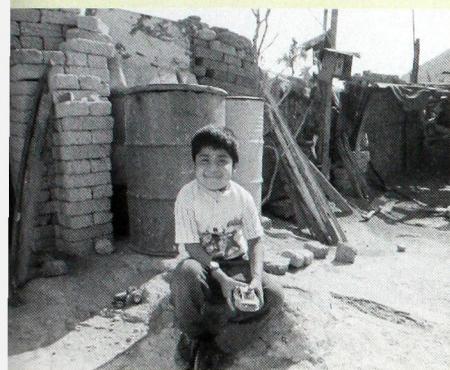
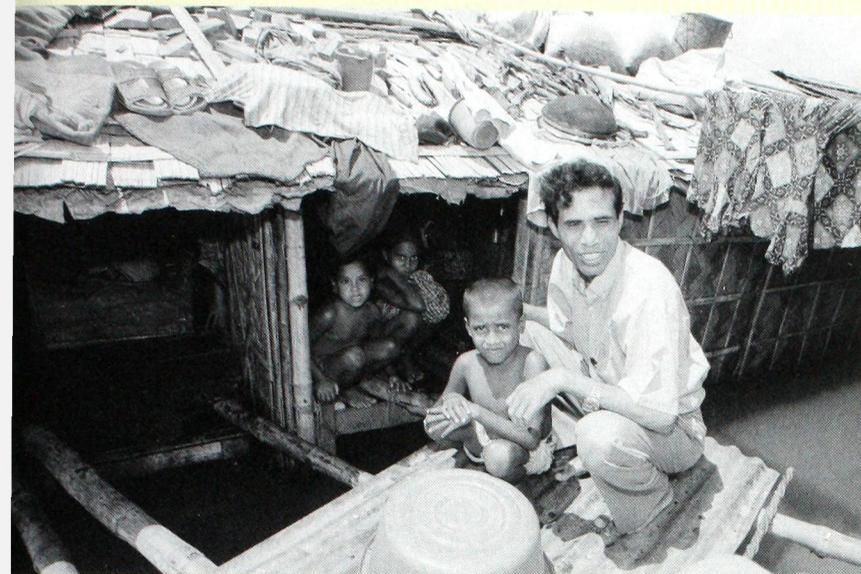
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www.30hourfamine.org

803G



▲ **Help pours in:**

Childcare Ministry Fund donations assist victims like 9-year-old Rokeye Begum and his family, endangered by floods in Bangladesh in 1998.

◀ **On the mend:** Michel

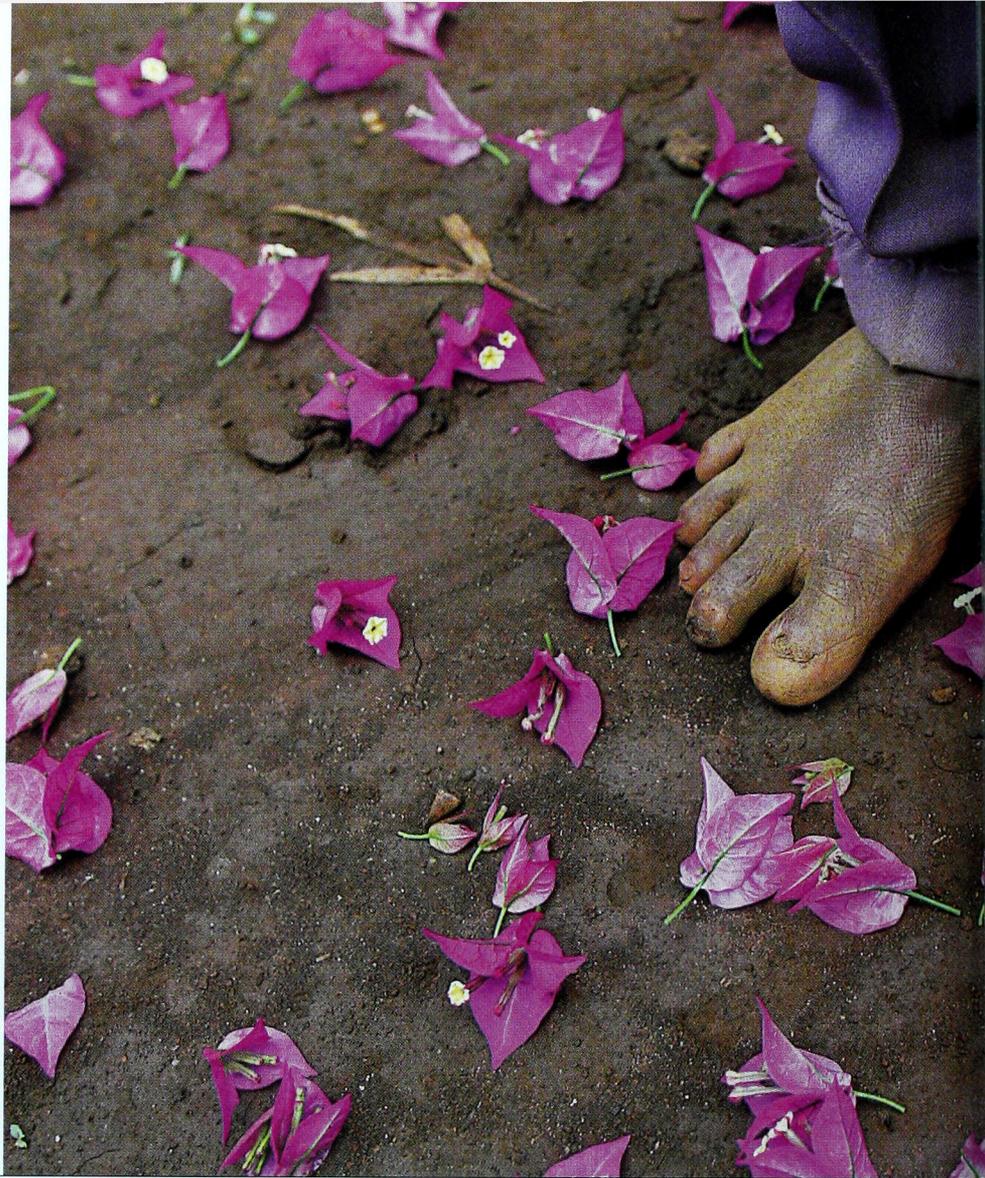
Martinez, 7, from Mexcio, is gaining strength after his kidney transplant surgery funded by World Vision.

◀ **Grateful for goods:**

World Vision distributes emergency supplies to hot spots like civil war-ravaged Liberia, where Doe Tarley, 11, helps unload sacks of corn-soy blend.

▶
“My favorite thing to do is to play football, and eat cheese, hard bread, and cabbage. I wish I could have some new shoes.”

Irda Goniso, 9
Ethiopia



“I dream of conserving the environment by trying not to kill animals and not polluting. I used to swim in the dam water, but my mother doesn't allow me to anymore because it is so dirty. I pray to God to help my family, that we will be healthy.”

Neudson de Souza Santos, 10
Brazil





"I had typhoid once and had to go to the doctor. He examined me, took my temperature, and prescribed some medicines. After that I decided I wanted to become a doctor."

Negash Tagesse, 10
Ethiopia



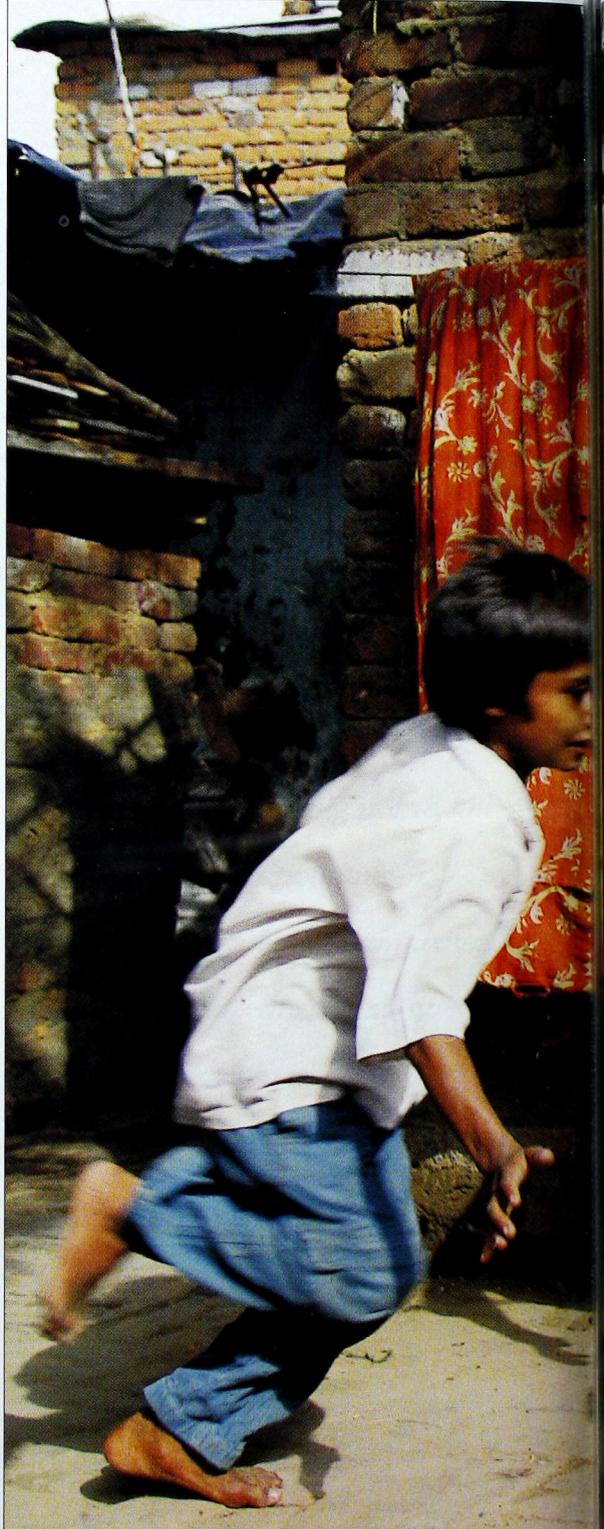


◀
“I like to play with cars and trucks. When I grow up, I want to work on a farm, planting beans.”

Itamar Antonio de Melo, 5
Brazil

▶
“I wish I could have a fridge full of kulfi [ice cream], big kulfi, as big as my hand. I had it for the first time last week. It was cold and sweet.”

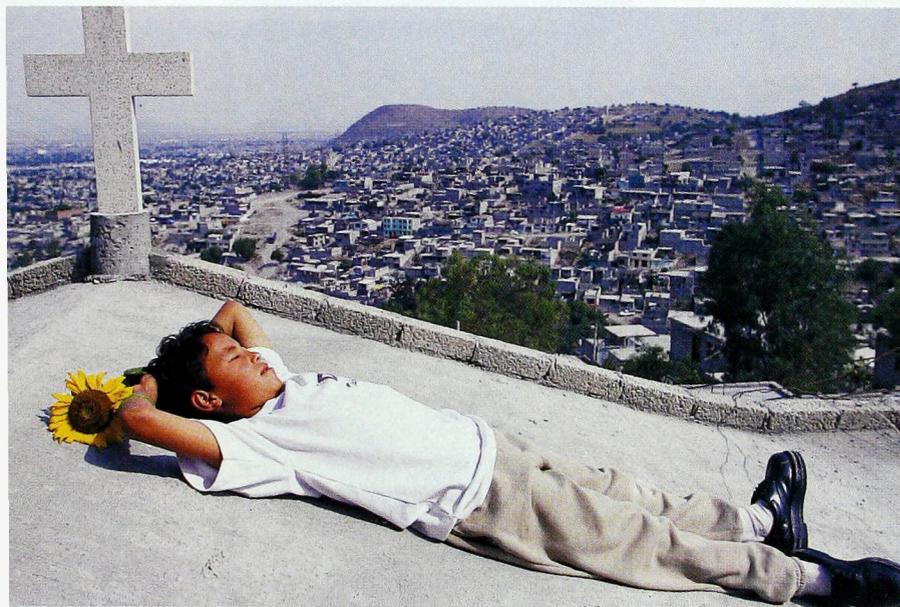
Mukesh, 8 (right)
India





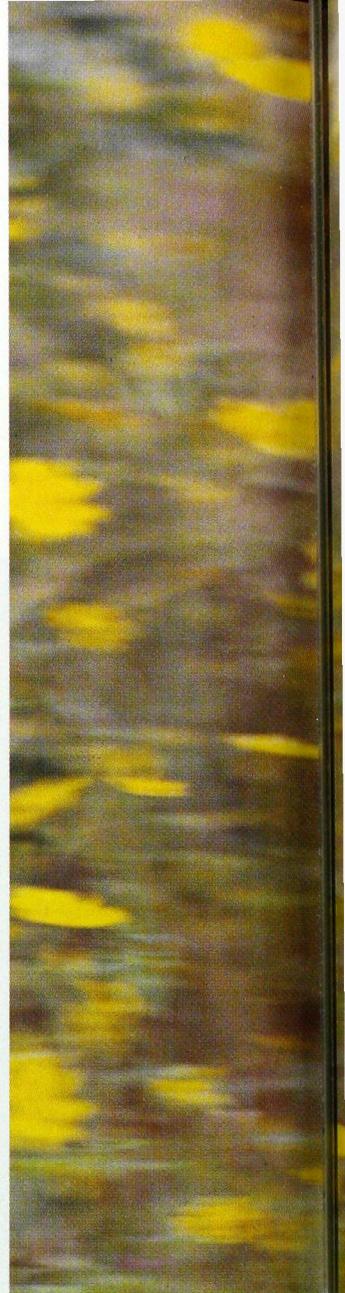
"I dream of becoming a Formula One driver. If I was granted three wishes, they would be for cement for our streets, drinking water and a sewer system for our community, and to have my own Formula One car."

Jonathan Rangel Urbina, 12
Mexico



"I dream of having many, many hens: red ones and white ones. They would be for eating. When they got fat, I would sell them in the marketplace. Some we would also eat ourselves."

Misgane Petros, 6
Ethiopia

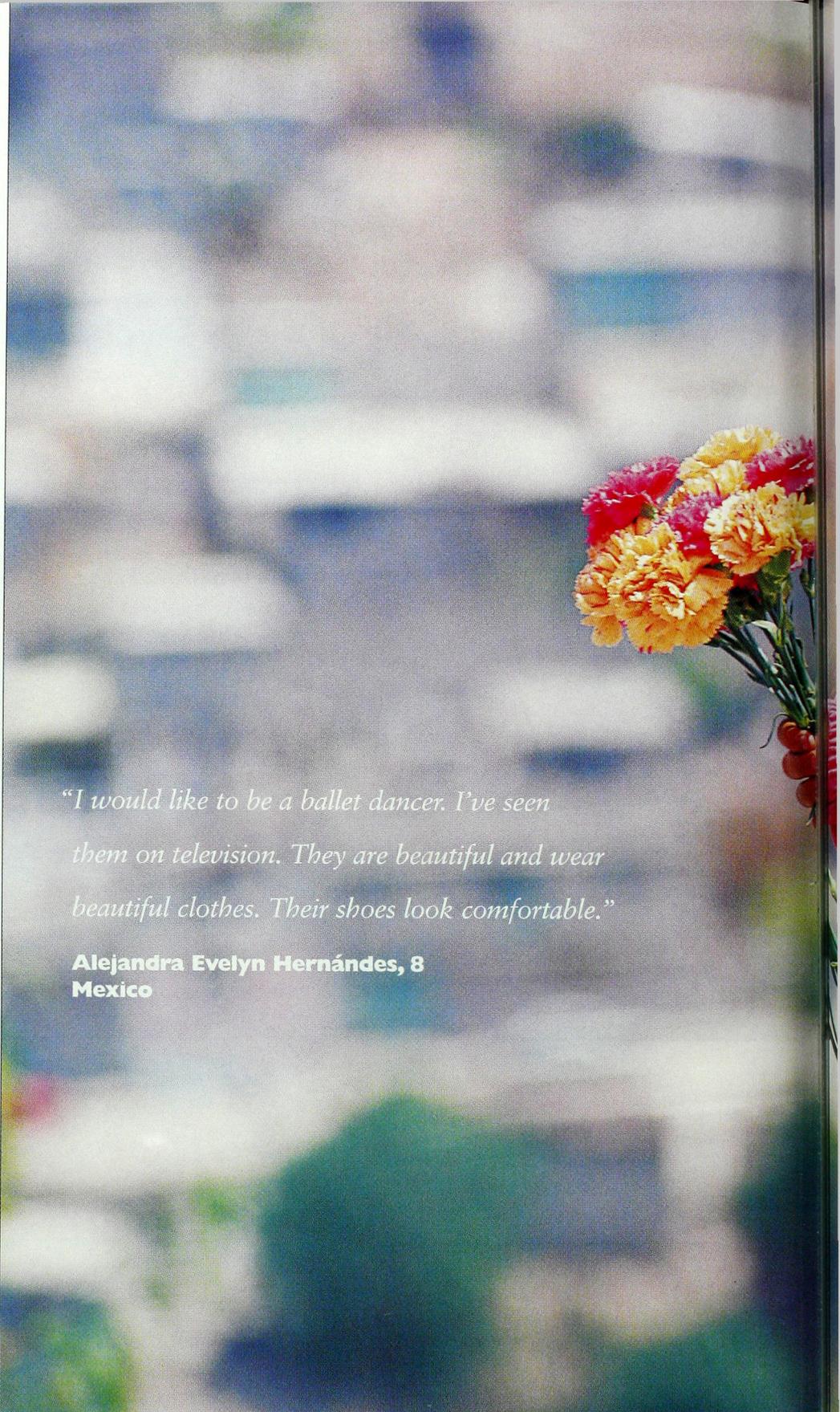




▲
“My father abandoned us. My mother is a farmer. I take care of my sister, except when I’m in school. She loves me very much. I wish I had a bed with a mattress. I’d share it with my mother and sister.”

**Miriam Kombe, 10, and her sister, Josephine, 2
Tanzania**





"I would like to be a ballet dancer. I've seen them on television. They are beautiful and wear beautiful clothes. Their shoes look comfortable."

**Alejandra Evelyn Hernández, 8
Mexico**

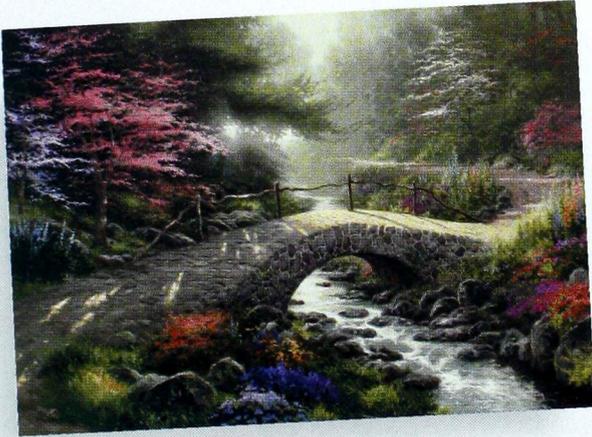
The future belongs to those who believe



the beauty of their dreams. —*Eleanor Roosevelt*

light the way

for a needy child and receive Thomas Kinkadee's "Bridge of Faith" free.



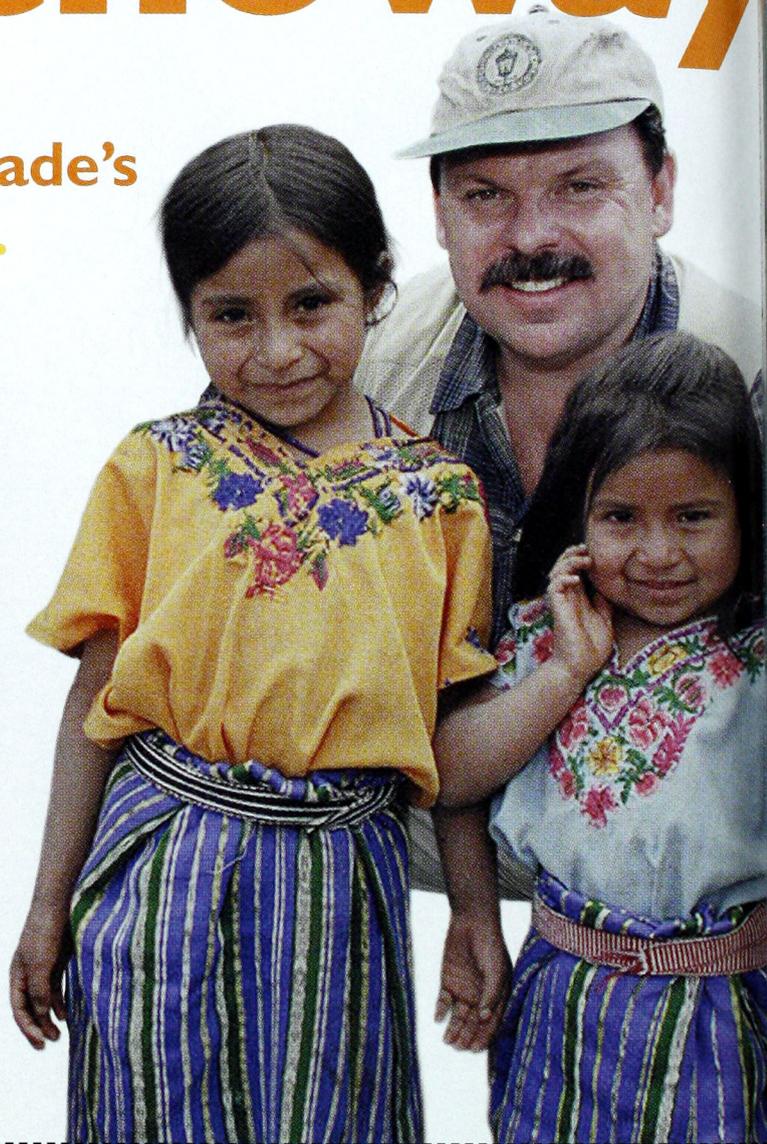
"I pray that this painting will remind you that you are a bridge of faith and hope to children in need."

Thomas Kinkadee, World Vision Sponsor

"Bridge of Faith" is one of Thomas Kinkadee's most inspiring paintings. And now, the renowned Painter of Light™ is making this 12" x 16" commemorative print available as a "thank you" to sponsors who reach out to another child through sponsorship.

As a child sponsor, you already know the difference just \$22 a month can make in the life of a child. This is your opportunity to light the way for another child and his or her community.

To sponsor another child, return the coupon today or call 1-888-511-6446. We will send you a certificate for your free Thomas Kinkadee print when we receive your first sponsorship gift.



Yes! I'll light the way for a child

We will send you a certificate for your free "Bridge of Faith" print when we receive your first payment.

- I would like to sponsor another** boy girl living in
- Africa Asia Latin America Middle East where the needs are greatest
- Enclosed is my first monthly gift of \$22 to help a needy child and his or her community.
- Check (made payable to World Vision).
 Bill me later. Visa MasterCard
 Bill my monthly sponsorship payment to my credit card: American Express Discover

Card no. _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

- Instead of or in addition to my sponsorship, I would like to give a gift of \$ _____ to help children in need. (1400)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

ZIP _____

(_____)

Telephone Number _____

World Vision

Child Sponsorship
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Tacoma, WA 98471-0104
www.worldvision.org



AB9CSC

A Dream for the Tiny Tims

“Spirit,” said Scrooge, with an interest he had never felt before, “tell me if Tiny Tim will live.”

“I see a vacant seat,” replied the ghost, “in the poor chimney corner, and a crutch without an owner, carefully preserved. If these shadows remain unaltered by the Future, the child will die.”

“No, no,” said Scrooge. “Oh, no, kind spirit. Say he will be spared.”

—Charles Dickens, “A Christmas Carol”

One of my favorite holiday stories is Charles Dickens’ “A Christmas Carol.” It endures as a timeless story of hope: hope embodied in the spirit of Tiny Tim, and hope newly kindled in the hardened heart of Ebenezer Scrooge.

Tiny Tim, like so many of the children featured in this issue, had a sunny disposition and was rich in hopes and dreams in spite of his crippling handicap and dreary circumstances. I met many such children during my first year at World Vision who, like Tiny Tim, often seem unaware of their own poverty and are grateful for the little they have. Their faces and stories are the memories I will cherish this season.

In Uganda, I met three brothers orphaned by AIDS who dream of becoming a doctor, a teacher, and a pilot. From my trip to the Philippines, I still can see the bright smile of 11-year-old Sunshine, thrilled beyond description about moving into the new cinderblock house built for her family. At a dump outside Manila, I will never forget the sight of two little girls standing alone in 50 acres of garbage, laughing while playing house with a broken doll and discarded pots and pans.

In Honduras, I distributed new toys to 250 children, many of whom lost their homes and even their parents to Hurricane Mitch. I remember, too, the boy in Kenya who proudly showed me a treasured truck he made

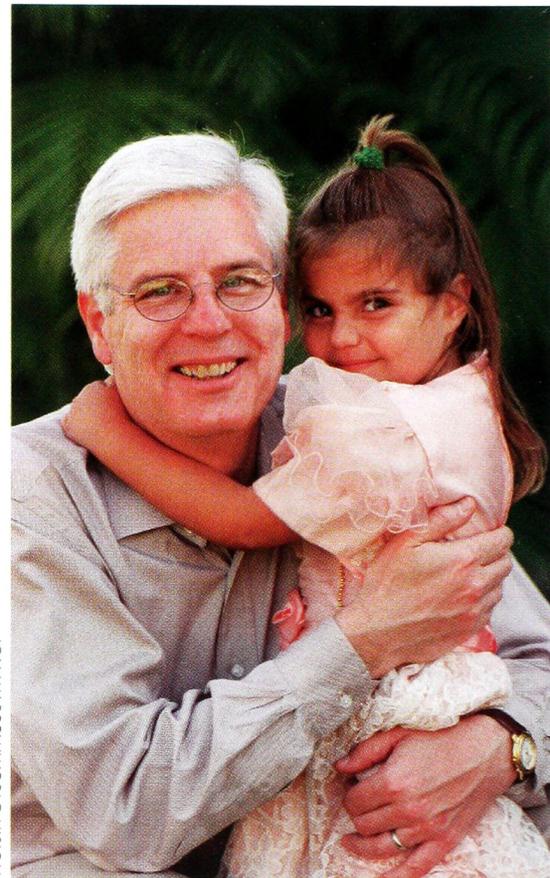
from discarded cans and chicken wire, perhaps the only toy he will ever know; and in Ghana, the sheer delight of children drinking a cup of cold, clean water for the first time in their lives from a World Vision well.

We can learn much from the Tiny Tims of the world, but what of old Scrooge? Wealthy, powerful, self-absorbed, a workaholic hungry for material things. It isn’t too much of a stretch to see glimpses of Scrooge in people we know well . . . perhaps even in ourselves. Yet the magic of this story is that Scrooge and Tiny Tim found the fulfillment of their hopes in each other. Scrooge’s life was transformed by the love of a child and Tiny Tim’s future was changed by Scrooge’s generosity.

This coming year, World Vision will celebrate 50 years of linking children with sponsors, transforming both lives. As you read about the hopes and dreams of the children in this magazine, consider the privilege God gives us when he enables us to invest in a child’s life.

“Scrooge was better than his word. He did it all, and infinitely more; and to Tiny Tim, who did not die, he was a second father.”

Richard Stearns
Richard Stearns



JON WARE/WORLD VISION

Blessed by a child: Meeting his sponsored child, 5-year-old Ivis Lineth from Honduras, was a highlight of Rich’s year.

your change will
deliver relief
to Kosovo



Although Kosovar families are back in their home country, the crisis is not over. Many have lost everything. Food is scarce, houses are destroyed, and with the harsh winter quickly approaching, families will surely suffer. World Vision's Love Loaf program offers the perfect opportunity for you and your church to help. By dropping your spare change and bills into a Love Loaf, your church will provide returning Kosovar families with basic necessities like food, blankets, and cooking utensils. More important, it will allow them to see God's love at work in their midst.

For more information on how your church can bring relief to returning Kosovars, call (800) 444-2522 or visit our Web site at www.loveloaf.org.

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