Nobel peace Prize Nominees

Sudan famine
Lingering grief: Mayerly Sanchez remembers her neighbor Milton Piragauta, stabbed to death at age 16 in a gang fight.
Peacemaking in Colombia: a Nobel Cause

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


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

Milton, Mayerly's next door neighbor, was stabbed during a gang fight a few blocks from his home in Soacha, one of Bogota's more violent suburbs. Such deaths are so common in Colombia that most go unreported. The country's 34-year civil war has killed tens of thousands and, since 1985, displaced more than 1 million people. The homicide rate in this nation of 36 million is 15 times greater than that of the United States. More than 30,000 people die violently here every year.

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

She kept her promise.

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

"We define peace in four words: love, acceptance, forgiveness, and work," explains Mayerly, one of 20,000 World Vision sponsored children involved in the movement. And work she does. Her activities range from discussing legislation with Colombian congressmen to leading university conferences. Between organizing rallies, lobbying officials, and running a kids' club, Mayerly juggles...
Warm welcome: As a volunteer with World Vision's community project in San Mateo, Mayerly visits local families—people known for their hospitality and generosity.

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

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

In 1996 Mayerly, and her two friends, Monica Andrea Godoy, 15, and Brenda Carolina Monroy, 10—also sponsored children—were elected by their peers as spokespersons for the Children's Mandate for Peace, Life, and Freedom, a UNICEF initiative. Their task was to mobilize children and adults to think and act for peace. In 1996 Nobel Peace Prize laureate José Ramos-Horta of East Timor met Mayerly and the other children during a visit to Colombia. Impressed by their efforts, he nominated the movement for this year's prize. Winners will be announced in mid-

Sharing the peace: Mayerly enjoys a moment with one of the 70 children in her Saturday morning club in San Mateo. "We want to get them far away from the dangers on the streets."
Mayerly volunteers with Centro Nazareno San Mateo, a World Vision project which fosters peace by helping families in this poor barrio develop and grow together.

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

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

Mayerly and her neighbors are all too familiar with these hooded men known only as fuerzas oscuras, or dark forces.

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

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

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

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

*On the ball: Mayerly’s fiery determination reveals itself both on and off the court.
Duck hunting: Luis, Mayerly’s 14-year-old neighbor, insists that’s why he made this pistol. He admits it’s also handy for self-defense. Gang violence plagues Colombia where the homicide rate is 15 times greater than that of the United States.

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

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

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

“We heard a lot about peace in the media. But Mayerly taught us that peace needs to be practiced,” commented marcher Nataly Varela, 15. “If we see two of our friends fighting, we need to intervene and try to motivate them to get along.”

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

Eyes on the real prize: “We aren’t looking for Nobel prizes,” says Edgar Florez, national director of World Vision Colombia. “Our goal is to influence the next generation here to value children, to view them as human beings. Transformation starts with children.”
and releases the bird flapping into the air. Freedom. Freedom from war. Freedom to survive childhood. Milton died not knowing such peace.

Mayerly is determined that this will change. “Adults have to forgive like children do. If we have peace in our hearts, we can provide it to others.”

*From Christianity Today, Colombia’s Bleeding Church* by David L. Miller, May 18, 1998.

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

World Vision in Colombia

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

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

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

Local leaders—including men, women, and children—learn how to mobilize people to work toward building a peaceful, prosperous community.
Enslaved by rebel soldiers in Sierra Leone for five years, Tenema Mansarray struggles with the memories that haunt her soul.

Tenema Mansarray, 16, presents a casual, indifferent front to the world. But her eyes and body language betray the horrors of her past. Sitting, standing or walking, she cringes, readying herself for an invisible blow. Her eyes are unshakably sad; her face unnervingly calm—her capacity to laugh, frown, and even cry somehow stolen. She remains stoic as she recounts the incomprehensible brutality of her years as a child soldier, including seeing her sister slaughtered.

Tenema's saga is shared by thousands of Sierra Leonean children enslaved by fighting forces during the country's seven-year civil war that has killed 10,000 people and produced more than 1 million refugees. According to UNICEF, at least 4,500 children were conscripted during the conflict between the Sierra Leonean government and rebels of the Revolutionary United Front.

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

"They said they were taking us to Bomi in Liberia," Tenema recalls, speaking Creole English, the lingua franca of this small West African country. Tenema and her friends were forced to serve as porters.
carrying the rebels' booty after their looting sprees in nearby villages.

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

Tenema served Mom for four years, traveling with the rebels as they mutilated and terrorized villagers across Sierra Leone. "Sometimes we would cook for them, and they would eat in front of us while we had nothing," Tenema explains. "They would make us stand for long periods with our faces to the sun. They said this was part of our training."

The rebels routinely executed children when they had enslaved too many to control. "They would just line them up and slaughter them or put them in a house and set it alight," says Tenema.

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

"After they shot Safi, a lady commando cut her head off. They made me dump my sister's head. This was agony for me."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

By Karen Homer

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

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

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

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

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

visit our website at www.worldvision.org
Indonesia: suffering amid recession

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

—Reported by Sanjay Sojwal

Bosnia: program helps traumatized children

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

For two years, World Vision's Creative Activities for Trauma Healing program has been helping children like Alen in 100 primary schools in Sarajevo, Tuzla, and Zelarnica readjust to everyday life in the wake of the war. CATH teams train teachers to help children cope with common trauma symptoms such as lack of concentration, communication difficulties, and aggressive behavior. The therapy's positive results are reflected in the children's improved grades. Alen, who completed a four-month program, now has new friends and dreams of becoming a professional soccer player.

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

10g Akot, 2 walked three days to World Vision's feeding center in Thiet, southern Sudan. His little [name] was dehydrated, horribly malnourished, and fever from malaria. We treated him with appropriate interventions. He gets better for a day and then relapses into lethargy. Deng's big, hollowed eyes look up at me from his shrunken body. He is an innocent victim of a senseless and human injustice.

Every day I see hundreds of children like Deng, weighing less than 70 cent of what's normal for their height. And every day I wonder, as you too, why children have to suffer these consequences.

It's way up there on my list of things to ask God when I get to heaven. Often, I think about my seven wonderful, fat, and happy grandchildren — the way

Karen Easterday, a nurse from Burnsville, Minn., cares for some 1,100 starving children and adults in southern Sudan.
children should be. But I have yet to see a child in Sudan like that.

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

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

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

Thank you for reaching out in the name of Christ!

Karen E. Easterday

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**Sudan Q&A**

**What is the current situation in Sudan?**

**How did it become so critical?**

The famine, which threatens 1.2 million people with starvation in southern Sudan, is the direct effect of war, politics, drought, and crop loss. The south has been ravaged by a long, brutal civil war between the northern Khartoum-based government and the southern Sudan People's Liberation Army. Daily bombings uprooted families, cutting them off from their food supplies. In the last two years, poor rains have increased the food shortages, especially in Bahr el Ghazal province, where 100,000 people fled. Then a two-month government ban on humanitarian relief flights earlier this year temporarily prevented agencies like World Vision from reaching already hungry and ailing people.

**Why hasn't more attention been paid to Sudan?**

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

The latest

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black Christians and animists

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Thank you for reaching out in the name of Christ!

Karen & Easterday

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Provides food for a family of six for 3 weeks.
- Allows therapeutic feeding for a malnourished child at a clinic for 100 days.
- Provides a family of six with a survival kit including plastic sheeting, cooking and fishing lines.
- Transports one ton of relief supplies from northern Kenya to southern Sudan.
- Provides therapeutic feeding for a malnourished child for 100 days.
- Covers the costs of running a feeding center for one day, feeding between 1,000 and 1,500 children.

Want to help? Total enclosed: $8736/H9A-S0A

Dial by phone,
all (888) 511-6465.

Please send me information about sponsoring a child.

(*Ship is not available in Sudan at this time.)

Raging since indepen- dent in 1956; the latest violent clash between the northern and the south's slate's Liberation Army in 1983.

1. 32 million people divided into Arabic the north, black Christians and animists the south.
2. 1,000 die before birthday, compared 1,000 in the United States.

...the size of the United States.

1. 400 people need food in the Darfur province.
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Sudanese children have nothing; they have clothes. They eat leaves, grass, skins. And many of them stumble into a Vision feeding center, like Deng. Fortunately, they do respond quickly to therapeutic feeding. They're given them an oral rehydration solution for a time, and then nutritious milk. So in a few days there is a marked difference. I believe it's the same child.

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

I believe that because of your commitment to helping children through World Vision and the like I do, in 1998, people should not die of hunger. I'm honored to work hand in hand with compassionate people who want to end this kind of suffering through sacrificial giving and ongoing support. Together we meet the critical needs of children.

Thank you for reaching out in the name of Christ!

Karen L. Easterday
should the world care about Sudan?

Reds of thousands of people are suffering. The greatest victims of Sudan's civil war are the children and families of the poorest people, who live in mud-and-thatch huts, quieting cattle and crops. Bombs rain on their homes, and soldiers loot and burn homes, carry off women and children as slaves. Displaced, impoverished victims often must walk for days to try to help. Some succumb to starvation within sight of feeding centers.

Can aid really make a difference?

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

Is relief assistance getting to people in need?

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

What are humanitarian organizations like World Vision doing for Sudan?

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

SUDAN:
Fast Facts
Size: Largest in Africa, about a quarter of the size of the United States.
Population: 32 million people divided into Arabic Muslims in the north, black Christians and animists in the south.
Infant mortality:
74 infants in 1,000 die before their first birthday, compared to eight in 1,000 in the United States.
Civil war:
Raging since independence in 1956; the latest conflict between the northern government and the southern Sudan People's Liberation Army began in 1983.
Need:
1.2 million people at risk of starvation in the south; 701,000 people need emergency food in the Bahr el Ghazal province.
Here's how:

1. **Give a gift:** Help provide lifesaving food and other necessities for starving children and their families. **Enclose your gift in the envelope in the middle of this magazine, or call toll-free (888)511-6465.**
   - $35 provides food for one family for two weeks.
   - $50 supplies 10 days of therapeutic feeding for a malnourished child.
   - $70 provides a family of six with a survival kit.

2. **Pray:** Lift up to the Lord the vulnerable children, suffering families, and persecuted Christians of southern Sudan.
   - Praise God that World Vision is allowed in the country by the government.
   - Pray for perseverance and safety for World Vision staff and other humanitarian workers.
   - Pray for a peaceful end to the civil war.

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

4. **Learn more about Sudan:** World Vision has compiled the following resources to help you and your church learn more about the crisis. They are available in a special Sudan section on World Vision’s website at www.worldvision.org/worldvision/pr.nsf/stable/SudanInfoKit.
   Or you can order them for a nominal fee by calling toll-free (888) 511-6422.

- **Sudan: Cry, the Divided Country:** Thorough background information on the war, human rights abuses, and the humanitarian relief effort.
- **Fact Sheet:** Up-to-date information on the crisis and World Vision’s response.
- **Bulletin insert:** Information ready for use in church bulletins.
- **Videos:** “Starvation in Southern Sudan,” a compelling report from a World Vision feeding center. Also the “Dateline NBC” segment featuring World Vision nurse Karen Easterday.

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

World Vision
Kosovo: on the brink of war

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

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

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

—Reported by Kevin Cook

resources

the birth of hope

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

gifts of hope and joy

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

cards for kids

World Vision's colorful, special-occasion cards are an easy way to keep in touch with your sponsored child. We send you cards created especially for your sponsored child. Sign and return them, and we will forward them directly to your child. Look for a Christmas card in the mail in October, an Easter greeting in February, a back-to-school card in August, and best wishes for your sponsored child's birthday. Sponsored children treasure these cards as symbols of your friendship.
Most mornings, Naomi Moragas, 32, drags herself out of bed at 1 a.m. and begins her work washing other people's clothes by hand with cold water. She labors until dawn, when Jonathan, 12 (pictured), and her other children rise to help her deliver the clean laundry.

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

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

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

Jonathan's concern for his mother drives him to work hard at school and at his part-time job picking beans and corn. "When I become a doctor, I'll give money to my mom, and then she won't have to do laundry anymore," he vows.
Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. —Luke 6:38
Your Turn

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

What are your favorite subjects in school?
“Mathematics, English, French, and religious and moral education.”  Vida Adjeley Quarshie, 13
“Science and cultural studies.”  Ebenezer Akuamoah

What kind of music do you like?
“Gospel music. My favorite song is ‘Fight the Good Fight With All Your Might.’”  Vida

What kind of food do you like?
“Okro stew.”  (Made with vegetables, fish, and palm oil.)  Leticia Akweley Nmashie, 14

What did you think of President Bill Clinton’s trip to Africa? Did you see him?
“Though I went to Independence Square [in Ghana’s capital city, Accra], I didn’t see him because the crowd was so thick.”  Ebenezer

“Yes, I saw Bill Clinton on television. He came to Africa to help us.”  Vida
Water is Joy: In Ghana, the lack of clean drinking water is a health problem. World Vision has drilled 1,200 wells in Ghana, like the one pictured above, helping many families avoid disease.

What clothes do you wear?
“Shirt and shorts, and occasionally a cloth hung around the body, leaving one arm bare.” Ebenezer
“A kaba and a slit.” (A kaba is a blouse and a slit is a long skirt with an opening either on the side or the back. Both are made of cotton.) Leticia

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

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

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

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

Call today for a free video 1-800-7-FAMINE (1-800-732-6463)
In Canada, call 1-800-387-8080.
www.30hourfamine.org
30 hour famine study tour participants: the adventure continues

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

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

Meeting landmine victims also made a strong impression, piquing her interest in reconstructive surgery for amputees. Kelly's experience typifies that of many former study tour winners. Years later, these high achievers with busy lives and many stamps in their passports confirm that their education, career, and travel goals have been influenced by their sojourn to the developing world.

**Peter Greyshock**, 19, of Huntington Beach, Calif., vividly recalls spending time with malnourished children and war orphans in Mozambique in 1994. "Holding kids who have been helped [through World Vision] affected me..."
in a way I still don’t fully understand,” he reflects. “This kid is alive because of the dollars I raised. It hits me pretty hard.”

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

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

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

Brooke Kolconay, 20, of Raleigh, N.C., changed ambitions as a result of her trip to Mozambique in 1994. Then, she hoped to someday become president of the United States. “When I came back, I didn’t want to do that anymore. I wanted to go back to Africa.” She plans to join the Peace Corps after completing a communications and international studies double-major at Boston College.

“When people see tragedies, they think, ‘How can God allow this?’” Brook adds. “But for me, coming face-to-face with struggles [in Mozambique] helped me become secure in God’s love, that he wants the best for all of us.”

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

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

Kenya in 1995. The full-scholarship premed student at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Mich., served the past two summers in Thane, India (outside of Bombay), in a small Christian hospital that provides free medical care to the poor. Toby’s East
Knowledge is power: Andy Ayers (right, with a friend in Mexico), believes travel "leads to understanding and acceptance."

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

Kelly Polacek, 23, from Fresno, Calif., remembers her amazement at the sight of people "coming out of the earth" to get grain in Bubisa, Kenya, during her 1992 trip. Though she was struck by Africa’s cultural differences, she came away with a realization that people around the world have much in common. "A child’s smile is the same, no matter what country you’re in.

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

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

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

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

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


Individuals and groups can get involved by calling (800) 7-FAMINE (732-6463). Study tour winners are chosen through an essay contest and interview process from among participants who personally raise at least $500.
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CORRECTION:
In the Summer 1998 issue we incorrectly stated the number of people killed in Bosnia's war. The actual figure is 200,000. We regret the error.

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

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

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

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

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

Richard Stearns

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

Although my childhood and young adulthood contained nothing close to the horror experienced by children such as Tenema and Mayerly, my upbringing...
World Vision
from President
Richard Stearns

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

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

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