

SPECIAL ISSUE ON GIRLS

# World Vision TODAY

SPRING 1998

Is There  
a Better  
Future  
for Our  
Daughters?





- President's Watch
- Health
- Education
- Child Brides
- Girls in the United States

# Female He Created

*For more than a decade, World Vision President Bob Seiple has worked to improve the plight of the most vulnerable and voiceless among us. Often these have been women and children—especially girl children. So it's fitting that as we close the chapter on President Seiple's leadership of this organization this year, we dedicate a special issue to the topic of girls, and ask ourselves, "Is there a better future for our daughters?" —The Editors*

**N**ot long after I became president of World Vision, I flew to Kapoeta in southern Sudan. The region was in the midst of famine; 250,000 people already had starved to death. As is common in Africa, when we landed on the dusty runway families came from miles around to see who had arrived. They knew we were from an aid organization, so mothers held up their emaciated children to show us how much they needed our help.

It didn't take me long to notice the children's distended stomachs—a sure sign of malnutrition. But it was several minutes before I realized that in this sea of humanity, the mothers were only holding up sons; there were no daughters. In the familial hierarchy, girls were the last to be fed and the first to die. By the time we arrived, they were dead.

Did those parents mean for their daughters to die? I don't believe so. Those girls died from the impact of incessant hardships that visit this earth and the desperate choices parents made as they faced those calamities.

Too often for families facing economic disaster, the answer is to sell a daughter into slavery. Sell a daughter into prostitution. Kill a baby girl. No parents should ever have to endanger or exploit a son or a daughter to survive. That they do indicates that something is terribly wrong.

Little girls are being used and abused in shameful ways, and in large numbers, worldwide. Girls are literally fighting for their lives. In China, India, and other places where a desperate preference for sons feeds a big market for the technology to learn the sex of an expected child, little girls are being aborted before they have a chance for a future. Those allowed to live face a future of poverty where education is curtailed and early marriage or prostitution are the options they must choose from.

As a father who provided my daughter with the same opportunities for a college education as my sons, I find it difficult to comprehend when parents make other choices. But decisions become confusing when poverty threatens a family's survival. That desperation, combined with a value



**Roof over her head:** Five-year-old Sunitha in India has a new house, thanks to World Vision's Janaseva Project, which contributed tiling for the roof and encouraged community leaders to donate wood and labor. Homes were built for more than 100 families in Sunitha's community.

# hem



system turned upside down, leads to actions which we struggle to understand.

In the beginning, "God created man in his image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them" (Genesis 1:27). And God pronounced his creation good. But a fall from his perfect plan necessitated the cloak of Christ to restore dignity to his children. To each child, and to the daughters of God who are often among the "least of these," we must also offer a cloak of dignity, a chance for life and life eternal. We can lift the burden of poverty so that families can make different choices. Loans can help parents start a business instead of forcing their daughters to sell their bodies. And sponsorship ensures that girls as well as boys can go to school.

Boys and girls are central to World Vision's ministry, because Jesus is clear on the treatment of children. "If anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and drowned in the depths of the sea" (Matthew 18:6).

Humans have attempted to make girls unimportant, lesser forms of life, or mere objects to be bought and sold. But given a chance to live and learn, a little girl can grow into the woman God intended her to be, and the balance of God's creation can be restored. ✠

Photograph by **MIKEL FLAMM**



**Tata Balou** and her family in Sinje, Liberia, might have died without emergency food from relief workers. For several months in 1996, Tata survived on nothing but potato greens while Sinje was cut off from outside aid because of bloody skirmishes in the country's on-again, off-again civil war. In times of war or famine, girls, already the least fed, are often the first to succumb to disease. But help from the World

▼ Food Program and World Vision saved this little girl in Liberia.





# Health



**Some 585,000 women died from pregnancy-related causes in 1990; 99 percent occurred in developing countries.**


World Health Organization

**I**n an era of increasing affluence, we have witnessed a tragic decline in the investment in women's health," declares Dr. Patricia Giles, Chairperson of the Global Commission on Women's Health.

In South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, girls are often weaned off mothers' milk earlier, fed less, and taken to health clinics later than their brothers. "Boys rarely have serious illnesses because we treat them much better, making sure they get medical help before the illness becomes serious," says a woman in rural India.

Consequently, girls are more vulnerable to chronic disease, and their poor health interferes with learning. In developing countries, the vast majority of adolescent girls suffer from iron deficiency, and an estimated 45 million adult women are stunted as a result of malnourishment during childhood.

AIDS is on the increase for women and girls worldwide, who are more prone to fissures during sexual intercourse and thus more vulnerable to infection. In some parts of sub-Saharan Africa, five times as many girls aged 15 to 19 are infected with HIV than boys.

In its health programs, World Vision gives special attention to maternal health issues, girls' nutrition, and AIDS awareness and prevention. 

Text by **JANE SUTTON**

Photograph by **KAREN HOMER**





# Education

**“Surely a world that spends \$800 billion per year on weapons can find the \$5 or \$6 billion needed annually to get every child an education.”**

—Carol Bellamy  
Director of UNICEF

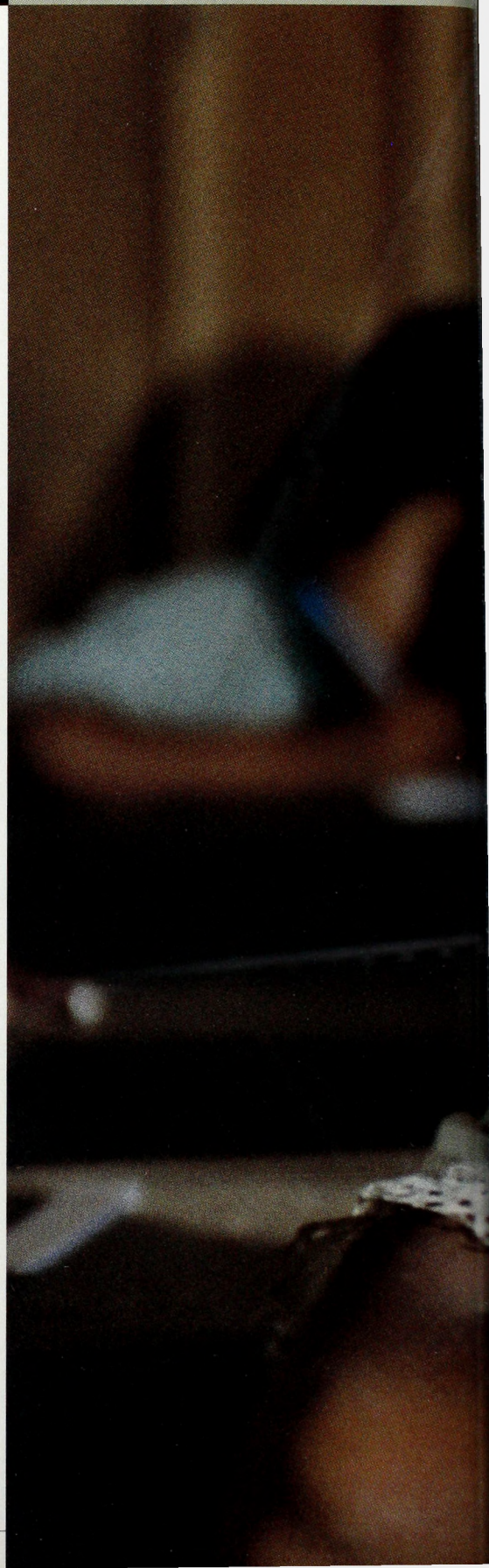
**O**f the 130 million children not attending school in the developing world, 86 million are girls, according to research from the Rockefeller foundation. The causes are both economic and cultural. Free public education is rare in many developing countries, so it is often impossible for families to send all of their children to school. Boys receive priority for education in many families, especially when money is tight. Why invest in daughters, many parents reason, if they are to marry and leave the family?

Girls drop out of school because of early marriage, pregnancy, or to care for the family and home. Without educated mothers—and commonly, few female teachers—as role models, they never go back.

Yet education is vital to improving a woman's life—and her family's. The more education a woman receives, the more likely she is to bear healthier and fewer children, enhance her family's health, and ensure her own children are educated.

Many governments and organizations are developing formal and informal education programs so that girls have equal access to schooling. Women's literacy training also helps to break the generational cycle of poor education. “We used to be asleep and deaf,” says a newly literate Kenyan woman. “Now that we have education, we have woken up, and our ears have opened.” ✎

Photograph by **SANJAY SOJWAL**





**Sokhin Pheung** , 8, concentrates on her grade-two lesson in a rural Cambodian classroom. Without sponsorship, she wouldn't have that desk or notebook. But more importantly, she wouldn't have the educational opportunity denied her illiterate parents, who were teenagers when former dictator Pol Pot destroyed schools and forced the population to work on government farms. Sokhin enjoys learning math, geography, and the Khmer language.

▼ "When I grow up I want to be a teacher," she says, "because I want to teach my people how to read and write."





**Sondhya Rani, 15, smiles shyly now, but photos from her wedding day six months earlier show her collapsing and weeping. It is common for parents to arrange marriages for daughters younger than the legal age of 18 in this Bangladesh village. World Vision discourages this, but because the practice is so deeply entrenched, staff also work to help improve the young brides' situations. Staff encouraged Sondhya, who went to school only through the second grade, to join a women's savings group so she can supplement the income her husband, 25-year-old Swapon, brings in with his small fish-selling business.**





# Child Bride



**In Africa, women with seven or more years of schooling marry five years later than women with no education.**

World Bank

**I** had no choice but to please my mother. She chose my husband, and I could not say no," says Nasima, 15, from Bangladesh. In parts of Asia and Africa, girls are married at Nasima's age and younger, despite legal age limits of 18. The nuptials are usually arranged by parents, and the girls have little say in the matter.

The reasons behind early marriages are often economic. The *lobola*, or bride price, in parts of Africa and the dowry system in parts of Asia have become important income sources for families, and daughters can become mere commodities to be bought and sold—the sooner the better.

The consequences, however, are psychological and physical. Destined for early marriage, girls often are not educated. Illiterate and unskilled young brides consider themselves "owned" by their husbands, and are utterly dependent on them.

Still children themselves, the girls are encouraged to begin bearing children immediately. Worldwide, as many as 15 million adolescent girls become pregnant each year. Teenagers under age 15 are five times more likely to die during pregnancy or labor than women in their early 20s.

Along with other organizations, World Vision is pressing governments to enforce the legal age of consent for marriage. And programs such as sponsorship can ease the economic pressures that compel parents to arrange marriages for their young daughters. ✎

Photograph by **MIKEL FLAMM**





# U.S. Girls

**In 1994, attempted suicides accounted for more than two-thirds of the drug-related emergency room visits by females aged 16 to 17.**


Drug Abuse Warning Network

**W**hile most girls in the United States are economically better off than their developing world counterparts, they nonetheless struggle with their own unique pressures.

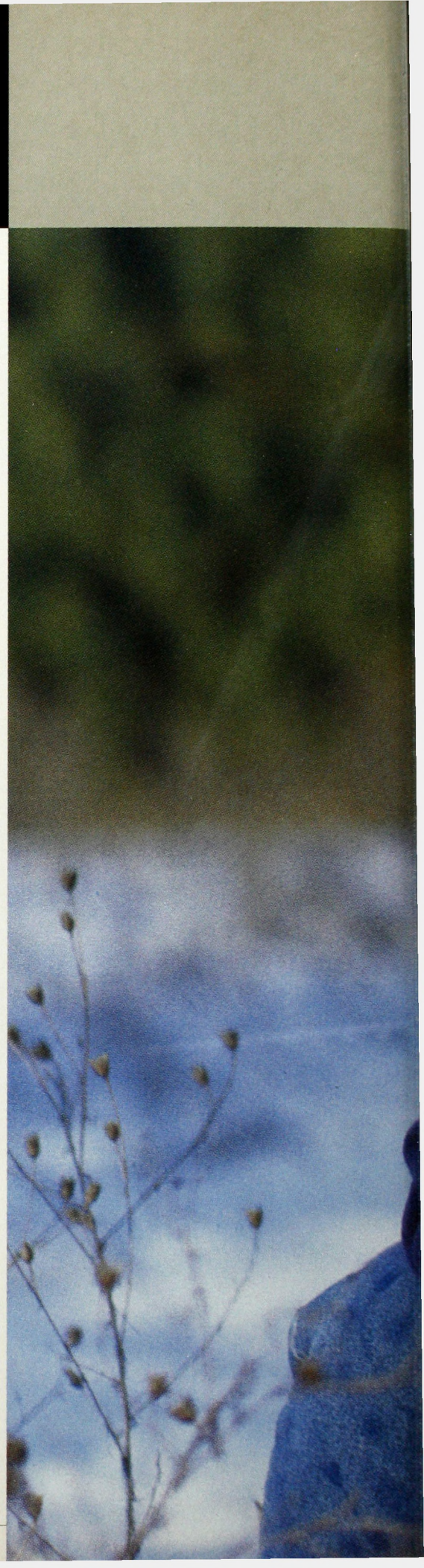
American teenagers have the highest pregnancy rates in the Western world, nearly 1 million births per year. Yet only one-third of pregnant teens receive adequate prenatal care. Babies of young mothers commonly suffer low birth weight and childhood health problems. Later, daughters of teens are likely to drop out of high school and become teen moms themselves.

While girls in the developing world starve without choice, American girls starve themselves. Here, the reason is also cultural—an idealized concept of beauty that few girls can and should attain. As young as age 10, girls begin diets that can lead to anorexia nervosa and bulimia. Eating disorders are devastating to girls' health and can lead to early death.

Teen girls are twice as likely as boys to report that they suffer from depression. And the gender gap is closing in crime; offenses committed by girls increased 125 percent from 1985 to 1994 compared to a 67 percent increase for boys.

World Vision offers a range of programs from tutoring to assistance to pregnant teens through community partnerships in urban centers such as Chicago, New York, the Twin Cities, Los Angeles, the Pacific Northwest, and Washington, DC. 

Photograph by **WILLIAM J. HEBERT**





**Audrey Scheffler** was 16 and pregnant with her son, Victor, when she was referred by World Vision's LOVE INC ministry to the Family Life Center in Allendale, Mich. While living there among other pregnant teens and house parents, Audrey received emotional support, transportation to doctor visits, and training to care for Victor, who was born two months after she moved to the center. Today mother and son live on their own without welfare assistance; ▼ Audrey has gone back to school, completed some college courses, landed a full-time job, and found a good day-care.







# What You Can Do


If it's on your heart to help a girl overseas or here in the United States, World Vision is among many groups working to improve the future for children—girls and boys.


**PRAY:** Use the information and images on the previous pages to guide your prayers. Only God's tremendous power and grace can put right injustices committed against girls.

**SPONSOR A GIRL:** Elect to sponsor a girl in South Asia or sub-Saharan Africa, where the needs are greatest. World Vision intentionally selects girls for sponsorship—at least half the number of children in a project—to demonstrate to communities the importance of health and educational opportunities for daughters as well as sons. But whether you sponsor a boy or girl, the benefits extend to the whole community, helping to build a healthier, more equitable environment for all.


## **SUPPORT A GIRL-FOCUSED PROGRAM**

(use the envelope on this page to send gifts)

 In Guatemala, only one girl for every seven boys completes primary school. *Guatemala's Girl Child Project* provides weekend classes so that girls in Guatemala's rural and marginalized urban communities can attend school as well as complete household chores.

 *Victory Outreach*, a community ministry partner of Vision Los Angeles in San Fernando Valley, Calif., operates a World Vision-supported program called Gang Girls. Through weekly discussion groups and monthly seminars, staff work with female gang members ages 13 to 19 on building

self-esteem and creating identities apart from violence and drugs. They also encourage the girls to stay in school or refer them to vocational training programs.

 *The Family Life Center* in Allendale, Mich., provides transitional housing for up to five pregnant, unwed teenagers at a time for as long as a year after giving birth. World Vision's ministry partner, LOVE INC, refers girls to this home where they study the Bible and learn life skills, including budgeting and meal planning.

 **Child Survival:** These community-based programs, targeting areas with high risk of infant mortality, work with local agencies to provide prenatal, maternal, and infant care and training. *South Africa Child Survival* helps 19,000 children under age 5 and their mothers in a country where a black child is 10 times more likely to die before her first birthday than a white child, and a black woman is 70 times more likely to die in child-birth than a white mother. *The Kean Svay Child Survival Project*, with the Cambodian Ministry of Health, provides health and nutrition assistance for more than 43,000

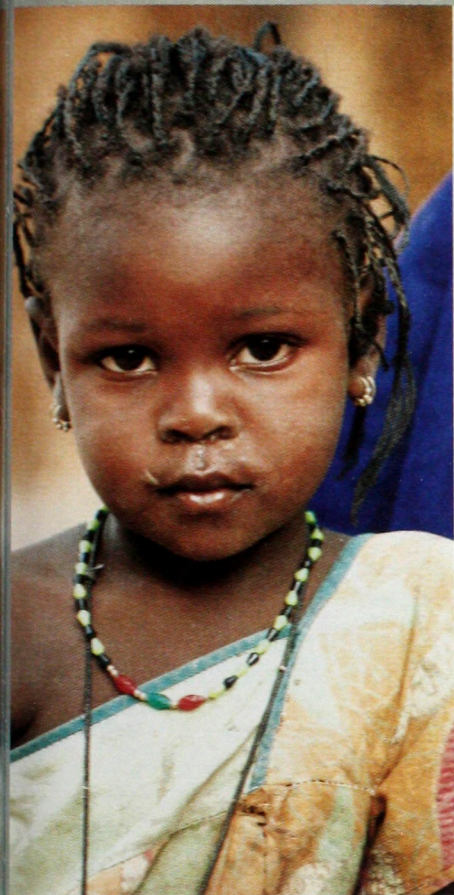
**Phong Rak**  
age 2, Cambodia



Text by **KAREN REED-MATHEE**  
Photograph by **KITH VEASNA**



"They began bringing children to him, so that he might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, 'Permit the children to come to me; do not hinder them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it at all.' And he took them in his arms and began blessing them." **Mark 10-13-16**



Photograph by **KAREN HOMER**

children in a nation that lost most of its doctors during the brutal Pol Pot reign. And the *Quang Nam Danang Child Project* reduces death and illness among young children and mothers in Vietnam's impoverished Tien Phuoc and Hien districts,

boosting a nation's gross national product. In this Mauritanian literacy program, 210 men and 886 women have learned to read.

✂ In 30 communities throughout the United States, World Vision's *LOVE For Children* program mobilizes churches to assist more than 31,000 families in need. LOVE For Children works with the Women, Infant, and Children program and Headstart to help beneficiaries. Church volunteers assist in various ways—collecting baby furniture or reading to children at WIC offices while mothers are with counselors. Last year, the program involved 2,147 churches and 13,162 volunteers, and provided \$1.5 million in goods and services.

#### RESOURCES

✂ A 12-page booklet highlighting major challenges faced by the girl child can be ordered for \$4 by calling World Vision's Institute for Global Engagement at (888) 552-1508 or via E-mail at [ige@worldvision.org](mailto:ige@worldvision.org). This booklet features worldwide statistics on the plight of the girl child and case studies of World Vision's work with girls throughout the world.

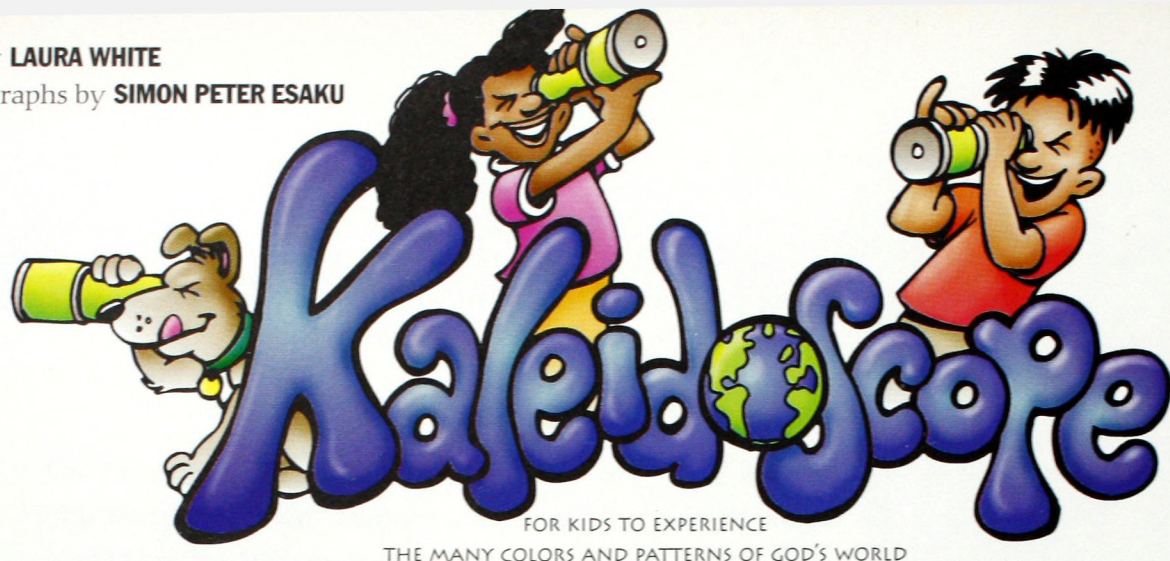
✂ A reader and four-week study guide entitled "The Girl Child: Enhancing Life, Sustaining Hope" will be available from the Institute for Global Engagement in late September.

u, age 5, assisting 47,000 people, 8,000 of whom are children.

✂ *Senegal Water Development*: Girls in Senegal spend many hours a week gathering water from distant sources, leaving little time for school. This year, World Vision will drill 22 new wells in communities, freeing girls to devote more of themselves to education. At project completion, 600 wells will provide safe water to more than 550 villages.

✂ *Mauritania's Nouakchott Literacy Project*: UNICEF studies show that education for women has a proven impact on lowering infant mortality rates, increasing maternal health, and





## PLAY WHAT?

CHILDREN all over the world love to play games. Try *Kibaare*, a game from Uganda, Africa. *Kibaare* means "stone." You will need 8-12 stones and a ball. Ugandan kids make balls from rags or banana leaves, but you can use any ball or make your own.

### HERE'S HOW YOU PLAY:

**1** Grab two friends and stand with one "dodger" in the middle. The "shooters" on the outside try to tag the dodger with the ball.

**2** If the dodger is hit, he leaves the middle and a shooter takes his place.



◀ If John dodges Tapisa's throw, he can stack another stone on his pile.



▲ Abel Ampamya (7), John Bos Nabimanya (10), and Tapisa Muchimba (9), are ready to begin playing *Kibaare*.

▶ Look out! Abel is about to throw the ball.

**3** Each time the dodger avoids the ball, he gets to stack one stone on his pile.

**4** Once the dodger stacks all of the stones, he wins and becomes a shooter.

### RULES FOR KIBAARE

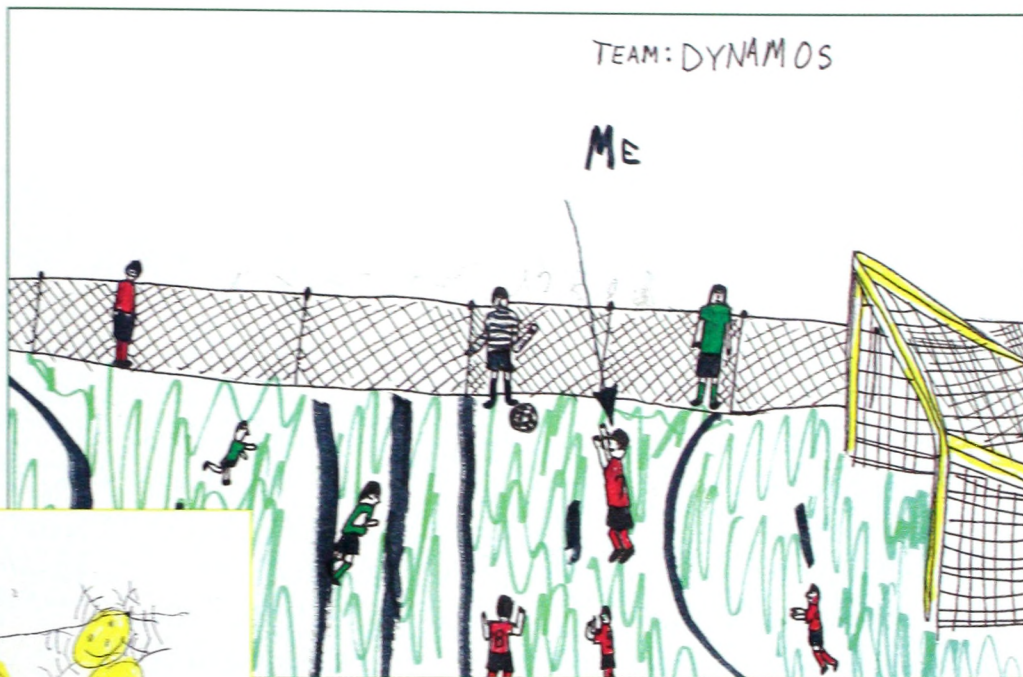
- If the dodger accidentally kicks over the stones, he has to start over.
- If one of the shooters doesn't catch the ball, the dodger gets to stack as many stones as he can while the shooter chases the ball.
- Once all three players have been dodgers, a new game begins.



# YOUR TURN

know you like to play games, because some of you sent drawings of your favorite ones. Have a look!

A picture of my friends and me playing soccer.  
Matthew Wolfer, age 9



Fox and Geese tag game played on paths made in snow.  
Anna Pettersen, age 5 1/2

Playing around with a ball outside.  
Jessica Jones, age 10



DO YOU HAVE a question for a child in another country—what they like to eat, what pets they have, what they do for fun? Send us your questions (include your name, age, and telephone number in case we need to contact you) and we'll ask children around the world to

answer your questions in an upcoming issue of World Vision TODAY.

## SEND YOUR QUESTIONS TO:

World Vision TODAY  
P.O. Box 9716  
Federal Way, WA 98063-9716  
E-mail: [WVToday@worldvision.org](mailto:WVToday@worldvision.org)



## UGANDA: MADELEINE ALBRIGHT VISITS WORLD VISION PROJECT

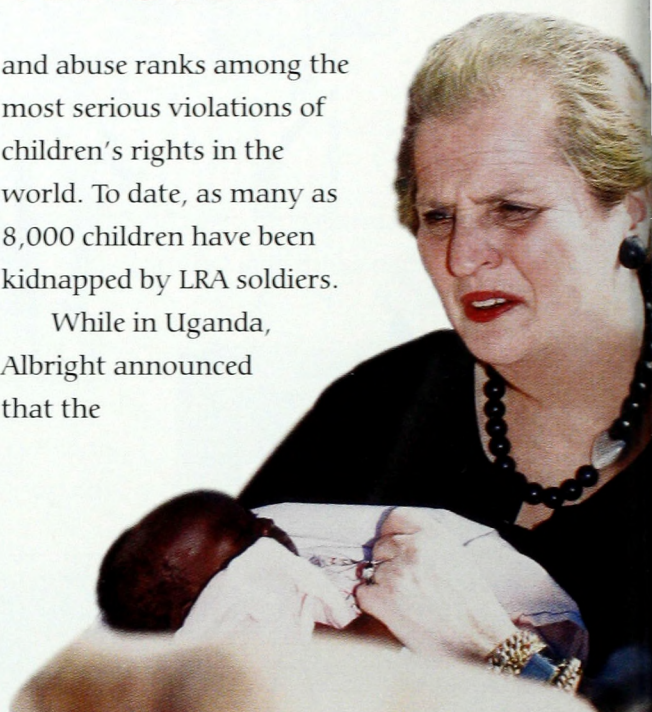
**O**n her first tour of sub-Saharan Africa last December, U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright visited World Vision's Gulu Rehabilitation Center in Uganda. The center provides care and trauma counseling for children who were abducted and forced to fight by brutal rebels called the Lord's Resistance Army. More than 3,000 children have been helped since 1995.

Cradling a baby named Charity in honor of World Vision Uganda's associate director, Charity Kivingerie, Albright whispered soothingly, "It will be all right now." Two weeks earlier, little Charity was rescued by her 5-year-old brother from a village massacre that left their mother and 13 other women dead.

Albright's visit increases visibility for those suffering from years of fighting in northern Uganda, especially children, whose abduction

and abuse ranks among the most serious violations of children's rights in the world. To date, as many as 8,000 children have been kidnapped by LRA soldiers.

While in Uganda, Albright announced that the



U.S. government will provide \$2.2 million worth of American wheat to World Vision in support of its activities in northern Uganda and southern Sudan.

## UNITED STATES: NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

**A**mericans nationwide will pray for spiritual renewal and the advancement of Christ's kingdom during the 10th annual National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 7. Individuals and groups are encouraged to plan events for the day and tune into a concert broadcast nationwide on radio and television that evening, hosted by about 50

prominent Christian leaders and recording artists (8-11 p.m. EST; 5-8 p.m. PT).

A prayer guide is available highlighting specific prayer needs such as personal renewal, strength for national leaders, the persecuted, and greater Christian impact in communities. For information and resources, call the National Day of Prayer Task Force at (800) 444-8828.



## INDIA: SPONSORSHIP MOTIVATES A MASTER'S DEGREE

**I** never thought in all my life I'd be a social worker," exclaims Sudanthira, a former World Vision sponsored child in India.

"Thank you, Jesus, for leading me so beautifully!" Sudanthira, sponsored from third grade through college, is pursuing a master's degree in psychology while working at a mental hospital. "Having received help from someone, I now have the urge to help others," she says.

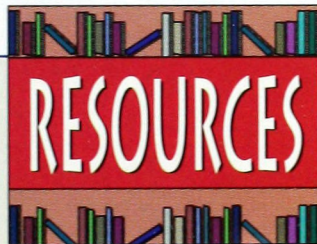
Before sponsorship, Sudanthira's mother, a retired schoolteacher, had to pawn her belongings to pay school fees for five children.

Sudanthira longed to go to school, yet was saddened by her mother's struggle to care for the family without much help from her alcoholic father. "I did not want to add to my mother's burden," she recalls, "so I was contemplating if I should get a job as a housemaid. It was at this time that my church told me I would be sponsored by World Vision. Was I thrilled!"

With an education and career opportunities, Sudanthira is grateful to God, "for he is guiding me step by step." And she is grateful to her sponsors. "A couple who has never seen me has helped me," she says. ■



What is the connection between a vehicle in your driveway and a needy child in another country? Kars for Kids is a new program created by World Vision that accepts donated vehicles (cars, trucks, RVs, or boats) in support of World Vision's ministry. World Vision works with auction houses around the country to sell the vehicles to benefit World Vision. For more information, call (888) 783-KIDS.

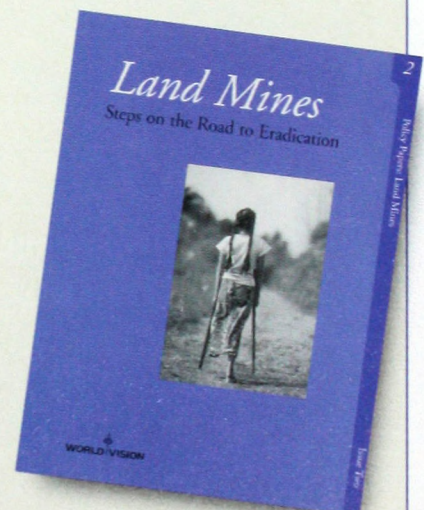


### Land Mines, Steps on the Road to Eradication

A teenage girl gathers firewood in Cambodia. A young boy runs across an empty field in Angola. Suddenly, there is the quiet "click" of the detonator, followed by the loud blast and the cries and wails of the girl or the boy as an arm or leg is shattered by a land mine.

World Vision is hard at work caring for land mine victims and advocating a ban on the production,

sale and use of anti-personnel land mines. To receive more information you may request World Vision's paper, *Land Mines, Steps on the Road to Eradication* by calling (202) 547-3743.





# Gifts o

**E**ach year, U.S. corporations generate hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of surplus inventory. Ever wonder what happens to these products? Some companies sell them at reduced prices; some discard them. Others donate their goods to World Vision—turning surplus items into valuable resources for needy children and families. Last year, 775 corporations contributed \$108 million in gifts-in-kind to World Vision.

Many of the high-quality items—including clothing, text books, pharmaceuticals, medical supplies, toys, and seeds—go through World Vision's International Distribution Center, located near Pittsburgh, Pa. Staff prepare donations for shipment to where they're needed most around the world and throughout the United States, assisted by more than 2,200 volunteers.

This map gives a mere sampling of the huge volume of GIK distributions in 1997.



① **EAST GRAND FORKS, MINN./GRAND FORKS, N.D.:** More than \$100,000 worth of clothes, personal care items, food, and cleaning products come to the aid of flood-affected residents.

② **HONDURAS:** Donated seeds and tools distributed through a loan program ensure bountiful crops for rural farmers, boosting the welfare of their families.

World Vision's  
International  
Distribution Center



# Kindness

## WORLD VISION'S GIK AT WORK

To maintain the highest standards of accountability, the Association of Evangelical Relief and Development Organizations (AERDO) developed guidelines to monitor gift-in-kind donations. World Vision led the way in drafting these guidelines, which address issues including the value of a donation, how it was used, and how it supports the organization's mission. Corporations interested in donating inventory may call (253) 815-2388.

### 3 GINIA:

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**MONGOLIA:** Day-care children receive their first toys while caretakers learn about the important role of play in youngsters' development.

6

### BANGLADESH:

Thousands of children are saved from blindness, disease, and death thanks to high-potency vitamin-A capsules.

8

5

5

**LESOTHO:** Clothing and shoes protect children from the winter cold in this mountainous country.

8

### INDONESIA:

Upon receiving 1,000 pairs of eyeglass frames, World Vision works with the Ministry of Social Affairs and a local lens manufacturer to provide free eye exams and glasses to children in orphanages.

### 5 ANA:

to-date  
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eir education.



# How much do you know about sponsorship... **Test Your Sponsorship Savvy**

**QUESTION:** You've written a letter to your sponsored child. How long might you wait for a response?

- A.** One week.
- B.** A fortnight, British for "when I get around to it."
- C.** Six weeks or more.

**ANSWER: C.** First, the letter travels by post to the main country office, where it is translated. Then it is sent along—often hand-carried—to the project area, which may be a great distance away, traversed, variously, by vehicle, boat, or foot. Sometimes weather conditions make the child's home difficult to reach, or our staff only travels to an area once a month. When your sponsored child responds to your letter with the help of a staff member, the long journey of that letter begins in reverse.

**QUESTION:** You are notified that your sponsored child is no longer available for your assistance and you are given a new child's information. What happened?

- A.** The child's project has closed.
- B.** The child's family has moved to another region.
- C.** Your child hit an amazing growth spurt and joined the Los Angeles Lakers.

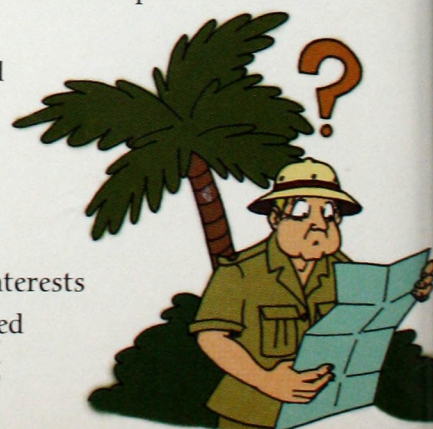
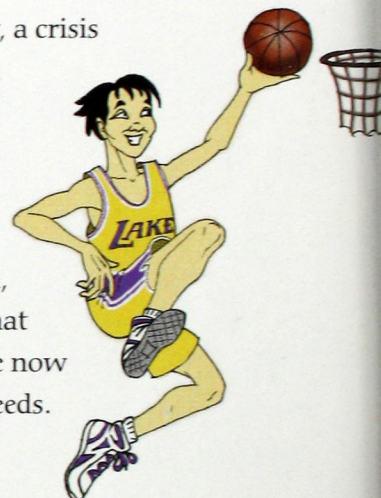
**ANSWER:** Either **A** or **B**, and a host of other reasons, ranging from changes in the project, the family, the child's education

process, and occasionally, a crisis in her country. Although losing a sponsored child is disappointing, it is not necessarily negative. A project completion can be a cause for celebration, because often it means that community members are now able to meet their own needs. A child's graduation is another happy event, although it also may mean the end of her sponsorship. By sending you a different child's information, World Vision is inviting you to begin a relationship with another child in which you can express God's love in a tangible way.

**QUESTION:** You are planning to go on a safari in Tanzania, where your sponsored child lives. You want to visit him. How do you go about it?

- A.** Show up at World Vision's Tanzania office and announce your intentions.
- B.** Call World Vision several months before you leave and ask them to help you plan the visit.
- C.** Try to find the child yourself, because you have a really good atlas.

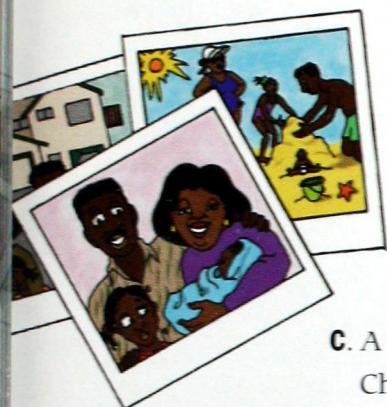
**ANSWER: B.** In the interests of protecting sponsored children and ensuring





memorable sponsor visits, World Vision prefers to help you plan such a meeting well in advance of your trip. In many cases, the child lives in a remote area; World Vision staff can arrange for your transportation or for the child to be brought to a central location (at your expense). Our staff members, known and trusted by the families in sponsorship programs, will prepare the child for your visit, make the introductions, and translate if necessary. The rest is up to you!

**QUESTION:** You want to send a family photo to your sponsored child. Which of these do you send?



- A. Your family at the beach, everyone in bathing suits.
- B. Your family in front of your two-story home with your cars and recreational vehicles visible.
- C. A family picture taken last Christmas.

**ANSWER: C.** The purpose of sending photographs is to communicate an image of you that your sponsored child can carry in his heart and mind. He is much less interested in your surroundings and belongings. Also, his culture may be sensitive to clothing—or lack thereof—so, to be on the safe side, avoid the bathing suit shots and send something you'd also send to your grandmother.

**QUESTION:** Your sponsored child's birthday is coming up, and you want to send her something special. What should you do?

- A. Send an extra gift as part of a World Vision birthday card campaign.
- B. Ask World Vision to handle a special cash gift of \$75 or more, with which staff can purchase something the child and family need.
- C. Send a big package containing a Game-boy, brownies from your Aunt Rita's special recipe, and a jumbo Barney doll.



**ANSWER: A.** The best way to acknowledge your sponsored child's special day is with the colorful cards World Vision provides. The only "wrong" choice is C, mostly because your child might not receive the gifts on time. In some countries, boxes from the United States end up in customs where World Vision staff must retrieve them for a price. Also, big packages are difficult for staff to deliver on foot, perishable foods can go stale in transit, and electronic items risk theft. If you want to send something personal, make sure it fits in a flat, padded 6-inch by 9-inch envelope. Some creative ideas: notebooks and colored pencils, harmonicas, compact sewing kits, or hair ribbons.

**QUESTION:** If you have questions about sponsorship, who should you call?

- A. Your favorite radio talk-show host.
- B. A World Vision customer service representative.
- C. The author of this article.

**ANSWER: B.** Toll-free (888) 85-CHILD. Or, if you surf the Net, visit World Vision's website at [www.worldvision.org](http://www.worldvision.org).



# A SPECIAL OFFER FOR YOU AND DREAMS OF HOPE FOR A CHILD

As a World Vision friend and five-time Grammy award winner Larnell Harris knows about the needs of suffering children—and how compassionate people like you are helping to save them from lives of hunger, poverty and despair.

And now—as a special thank you when you send a gift of \$25 or more to help children in need—World Vision is offering you Larnell Harris' latest recording, "First Love".

Your gift will help provide things like clean water, nutritious food, health care and clothing to children and families in need. And you will help bring about long-term change as World Vision helps communities find lasting solutions.

And each time you listen to the inspirational songs from "First Love", you can be assured that your generosity provided a hurting child not only with things like food and clothing... but with dreams of hope and a chance for a better life.



YES, I'D LIKE TO  
HELP CHILDREN IN NEED,  
...AND RECEIVE LARNELL HARRIS'  
LATEST RECORDING, "FIRST LOVE"

PLEASE USE MY GIFT OF \$25 ☐ OTHER \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
TO HELP SUFFERING CHILDREN. (1300)

I PREFER A ☐ CD (60) ☐ CASSETTE (60)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ (A38747)

PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO WORLD VISION. THE AMOUNT OF YOUR GIFT IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE, MINUS THE VALUE OF THE CD/CASSETTE. MAIL TODAY TO WORLD VISION, ALBUM OFFER, PO BOX 0104, TACOMA, WA 98471-0104

**WORLD VISION**  
Acting on Faith

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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 increasing 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.

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# Dancing

"You turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, that my heart may sing to you and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give you thanks forever." Psalms 30:11-12

**Y**ou can almost enjoy the image of these girls in mid-dance without knowing anything about them. The sight of joyful children makes all of us, and surely our Lord, happy. But in a world where children and especially girls are suffering—detailed in the previous

pages of this magazine—the scene becomes even more precious.

These girls from Sri Lanka come from farming families who struggle with weather and environmental conditions to grow enough crops to survive. Usually that would mean daughters

are passed over for school, in favor of sons. Not these daughters. Sponsored by World Vision, they can study and participate in cultural activities in the community hall that World Vision helped build. They clap and sway to the beat of brass bells, their confidence and beauty gracing their land. *JS*





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or a change of address,  
you may call toll-free:  
(888) 85-CHILD (24453)

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
World Vision

# You turned my wailing into dancing

Psalms 30:11



**SPONSORSHIP** is bringing children to God, that he might touch them. Sponsorship assists in educating children which in turn lessens economic pressures that force parents into making decisions which often endanger their daughters. We can lift the burden of poverty so that families and communities can make choices to protect their children. Sponsorship is letting children be children.

**Call (888) 511-6474 or mail in the coupon below.**

## TODAY YOU HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPONSOR A CHILD.

I WILL COMMIT to sponsor a child for \$22 a month. I prefer to sponsor a ☐ girl ☐ boy, living in  
☐ Africa ☐ Asia ☐ Latin America ☐ Middle East ☐ Where the needs are greatest.  
☐ Enclosed is my first month's gift of \$22 to help a needy child and his or her community.  
☐ Bill my monthly sponsorship payment to my credit card:  
☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ 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. 1700

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_



  
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