

World Vision TODAY

SUMMER 1998



Leaving the World in Their Hands:

Leadership's Legacy

Leadership's Legacy

PRESIDENT'S FAREWELL



Leaving the World in Their Hands

Leadership's Legacy

World Vision TODAY's issue on leadership is inspired by Bob Seiple, who this month ends 11 years as God's servant at the helm of World Vision. Bob has been an indefatigable champion for children because he understands that they are our emerging leaders—indeed, the world's future. In this spirit, the following stories celebrate Bob and his exemplary tenure by introducing you to people who have been faithful, as he was, when called to leadership and service.

BRUCE BRANDER / WORLD VISION



Bob visits and helps re-establish ministry in Vietnam. Having flown 300 combat missions over Vietnam as a U.S. Marine nearly two decades before, Bob is moved by his trip. Reconciliation becomes a major thrust of World Vision's ministry during the next decade.



The Washington Forum is established. In an effort to raise awareness among World Vision donors in the United States, an annual gathering brings together experts on issues of global importance.

1987

Bob Seiple begins his tenure as the fourth president of World Vision United States.

1988

A three-year Child Survival and Beyond campaign begins. World Vision United States raises \$500 million to support immunization, medical care, food aid, and parent education. In 1988, 38,000 children died each day from malnutrition and preventable diseases; today that number has been reduced to 33,000 thanks in part to the work of agencies such as World Vision.

1990



Bob visits Romania shortly after the overthrow of Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu. World Vision United States commits to help neglected children in Romania's orphanages and to improve the country's medical system. On a subsequent visit, Bob helps negotiate the first working agreement between the Orthodox and Reformed churches in Romania since the Communist takeover in the 1940s.

1992

The 30 Hour Famine begins in the United States. In an effort to educate youth and to cultivate a future donor base, Bob encourages the development of this program. An estimated million young people will participate in 1998.

World Vision
United States
PRESIDENT



World Vision United States provides more than \$1.3 million worth of food, medicine, and relief supplies to Somalians suffering from famine as a result of drought and anarchy caused by clan warfare.



The World Vision United States headquarters relocates from Monrovia, Calif., to Federal Way, Wash. Completed on schedule and on budget, the move should result in a \$5.8 million savings.

World Vision establishes its Institute for Global Engagement. In an effort to increase donor awareness of worldwide humanitarian issues and to create more effective partnerships with the church, World Vision United States launches this new policy, strategic planning, advocacy, and education arm.

1994

World Vision plays a major role in rebuilding Mozambique. Following an October 1992 peace treaty, World Vision United States helps supply relief goods, resettlement help, and agricultural rehabilitation to Mozambican families.

After Bob visits Rwanda twice in 1994, World Vision United States dedicates \$8.2 million to providing emergency relief and reconciling children with parents and relatives in this country torn apart by brutal fighting between Hutu and Tutsi tribes. "This will be the most important task in which the partnership has ever participated," Bob wrote after his trips. "The choice is obvious: reconciliation or more massacres."

1995

Relief and reconciliation work intensifies in Bosnia-Herzegovina. After four years of war, which fragmented the former country of Yugoslavia and claimed some 1.5 million lives, Bob visits the region and focuses national attention on the situation by hosting World Vision's Bosnia Briefing in Washington, D.C.



1997

Bob celebrates 10 years of faithful service to World Vision.

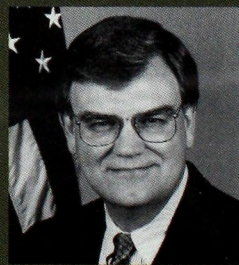


Playing to an Audience of One

"Our ambition is not leadership, but servanthood. Our task is not to grow leaders, but to make disciples who will follow Jesus," writes Steve Hayner, president of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship U.S.A., in this reflection on Christian leadership.



Servant and leader:
Bob Seiple in Cambodia.



World Vision
one of the U.S.
Agency for
International
Development's
principal part
in providing ch
survival activi

food assistance, and emergency relief services, as well as longer-term agricultural and physical rehabilitation and training. Bob Seiple's vision, compassion, and leadership help World Vision expand its scope in carrying out its mission of feeding the hungry, caring for the sick, sheltering the homeless, and helping to rebuild and bring peace to suffering humankind. I wish him well and congratulate him on a job well done.

—J. Brian Atwood
Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development



Leaving the World in Their Hands

Years ago I framed a magazine ad of a teenage boy doing a handstand on the grass. Behind him is a grade school boy somersaulting. And behind them is a little guy with his bottom up in the air, trying to get his body over the hump. The caption says: "When you're out in front and others follow, that's leadership!"

Being a leader is not about a title or position. It is about influence and modeling. I'm convinced that it's our daily journey—with its myriad of small decisions either toward or away from the Savior—that really matters. Leaders can either help or hinder those journeys. That is precisely why godly character is so important in leaders; we never know who is watching and following. Recently I recognized a politician on an airplane and watched as he very humbly and gently cared for an older person who was having difficulty carrying his luggage off the plane. That politician didn't know I was watching. He didn't

know he was being a leader for me at that moment.

Working at leadership is not the first step in becoming a leader. Following Jesus is. Jesus was clear on the importance of the integrity and consistency of our walk with him. "Good people bring good things out of their hearts but evil people bring evil things out of their hearts" (Matthew 12:35). Thus what we are as a disciple will be evident in all that we do, including our leadership. Our obedience, both in the interior life and also in our relationships with people and our possessions, becomes far more important than well-crafted plans or impressive programs.

The most fundamental quality the Bible connects with godly leadership is servanthood. Learning leadership begins with learning humility, vulnerability, a willingness to do what is needed, "preferring one another," giving our lives away, and recognizing that we are stewards—never owners—of the gifts of God. Jesus repeatedly admonished his disciples whenever they talked about exerting



I will never forget the week Bob Seiple led me and a few other pastors through Bosnia. Never before has my heart been so

broken. Bob helped me see that a lot of good can flow from a broken heart. This was the beginning of our church's investment in the healing of Bosnia. We are thankful that, under Bob's leadership, World Vision has included congregations in its vision of global partnership.

—Rev. Dr. Craig Barnes, Pastor,
National Presbyterian Church,
Washington, D.C.



World Vision has challenged Christians with the importance of creating a clear presence of caring in a world of tremendous need.

For that reason, World Relief is honoring Bob Seiple with its Helping Hands award this year. We appreciate the partnership with World Vision in meeting the needs of the poor, a task which all of us have only just begun.

—Clive Calver, President,
World Relief



Bob Seiple not only carried on the great tradition begun by World Vision founder Bob Pierce and followed by former presidents Stan

Mooneyham and Ted Engstrom, he brought the ministry to new heights. Not only have millions of children been helped; not only has starvation and hunger been alleviated, but a great witness has been made to the world, showing that it is Christians who take their faith seriously enough to care for the least of these.

—Charles W. Colson, Chairman,
Prison Fellowship Ministries

1987 World Vision
United States
PRESIDENT
Bob Seiple

power: "The greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like the one who serves" (Luke 22:26).

There is a growing amount of modern literature on servant leadership. But I'm not sure I agree with leadership as the fundamental concept and servanthood as the modifier. Jesus gives an unmodified call to us to be servants—serving God and serving one another. Along the way, God may also call us into specific roles of leadership. But there is no indication that obtaining those roles should be a believer's ultimate ambition.

Once again, Jesus turns the world's—certainly the Western world's—idea on its head. Our ambition is not leadership, but servanthood. Our task is not to grow leaders, but to make disciples who will follow Jesus. Our goal is not to get out there and get things done, but to listen and obey. Our call is not to exercise power but to be faithful to our Lord and the way of the servant.

How God chooses to use his servants is his concern. We may be called to lead or to follow, to exert authority or to submit, to turn our God-given gifts in one direction or another. But that is God's business. Our identity, our meaning in life, our sense of significance, and our self-worth are not to be based on the roles we fill, the power we wield, or the numbers we lead. We play to an audience of one, who loves us, affirms us, and uses us. Whether we are called to perform the handstand or simply watch and clap from the sidelines, we should long to hear from our God the words, "Well done, you good and faithful servant!" ■

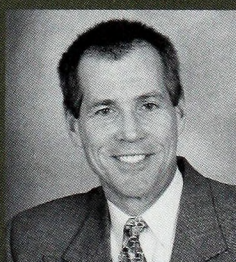
Steve Hayner has 10 years of experience leading InterVarsity Christian Fellowship U.S.A., the Madison, Wis.-based ministry that nurtures college students' spiritual and vocational growth in nearly 800 campus charter groups nationwide. Hayner holds a Ph.D. in Old Testament, and is a Presbyterian minister, husband, and father of three.



I recall World Vision's work in Laos in the mid-1970s. World Vision staff exhibited a deep concern and compassion for

the people, as well as being highly efficient, which made their efforts unique. My own visits to countries where World Vision serves have confirmed without exception that its people perform beyond duty. They are committed individuals engaged in mission and ministry. I have always been very proud to be identified as a staunch advocate on behalf of World Vision.

—Mark O. Hatfield,
U.S. Senate (retired)



People who are citizens of this world and the world to come can ill afford not to care about what World Vision does if we are truly

interested in biblical stewardship of our resources and Christian care of the disadvantaged. As President of World Vision, Bob Seiple draws from the tragedy he witnesses and lights a fuse among us for an educated, compassionate response. Under his leadership, World Vision has become more proactive—now preventing what were once considered inevitable calamities.

—Mike McIntosh, Pastor,
Grace Church, Federal Way, Washington



The poor, marginalized, disadvantaged and oppressed Jesus in his distressing disguise. I salute Bob Seiple and the World

Vision team for calling caring Christians and people of good will to make a difference in our hurting world.
—Dan O'Neill, President
Co-Founder, Mercy Corps International



Leaving the World in Their Hands

Wrestling Through the Call

Richard Stearns accepts position as World Vision's fifth president

When things get stressful at Lenox, Inc., manufacturer of fine china, employees remind each other, "Relax, it's only dishes." But in his new role as World Vision president, former Lenox CEO Richard Stearns knows "there's a lot more at stake than a product line. People are in desperate need around the world, and they are depending on organizations like World Vision."

Q: When did you become involved with World Vision?

A: My wife and I have been donors since 1984. In 1986, I traveled to Haiti to visit World Vision's work. It was a real eye-opener because I realized that the problems of poverty are solvable. I saw that World Vision has a philosophy of creating change within a community that will sustain itself.

Q: What was your reaction when World Vision's search committee asked you to apply for this job?

A: I was quite content at Lenox and in my life in Pennsylvania but I went through the hiring process for one reason: I'm a believer that God does work in our lives, and this might be a way that God was going to work in my life and in the lives of my family.

Q: How did you respond when World Vision offered you the position?

A: When you make a decision like this, you see clearly the things you are giving up—the kids see school and friends; my wife sees her involvements with our church and community; I see my career, 23 years in the corporate world. It took a tremendous amount of prayer and wrestling with God.

Ultimately, I came to believe that this was God directing my life. Reneé and I felt

that [accepting the job] was a way to demonstrate where our priorities need to be. If God calls one to serve, one has to be willing and ready to do that.

Q: What do you hope to accomplish at World Vision?

A: If the Book of Revelation were written today, and there was a letter to the church in America, I think it would decry the fact that our materialism and wealth have deafened our ears and blinded our eyes to the cause of the poor. I'd like to connect the poor with the wealthy. There are blessings on both sides of that equation.

I also want donors to know that they can invest their dollars with great confidence in the ethics and integrity of World Vision. That will be a very high level of commitment on my part, to make sure that everything is done with financial accountability.

Q: How can people pray for you?

A: I'd ask that God equip me to do the job he has led me to and that I would be faithful in the trust that has been placed in me. ■



Back: Andrew, Sarah, Richard, Reneé, Hannah

Front: Grace and Peter

Telling It On

Father Benigno Beltran worked with garbage scavengers in Manila, the capital of the Philippines, helping to transform them into a productive Christian community. His ministry has earned many honors, including World Vision's 1997 Robert W. Pierce Award for Christian Service. But Fr. Ben points to obedience: "I would not do otherwise. Jesus would not do otherwise."

When Father Ben Beltran came to Smokey Mountain 20 years ago, he saw a garbage heap almost 100 feet high, reeking of methane gas and polluting the air and water. The dump-site—ironically named for its resemblance to the Smokey Mountains in the United States—was a blight on the landscape, a political hot potato, a shameful symbol of urban decay. It was also home to a large squatter population.

from humiliating scavenging to better jobs, and converted the squatter settlement into something resembling a real neighborhood. The success earned Fr. Ben international attention, funding, and access to Philippine President Fidel Ramos. But to this modest man, none of that equals his long, loving association with Smokey Mountain, where children take his hand and press it to their foreheads in a gesture of honor.

GOING TO THE MOUNTAIN

Fr. Ben's life is inextricably entwined with Smokey Mountain. He has become more a product of this place than the forests of Mindinao (a southern Philippine island) where he was born in 1946. His parents, Benigno Sr., a retired government official, and Concepcion, a teacher, recall that Ben, the oldest of five, was drawn to the religious life early, signing up to be a church altar boy before he could see over the altar. A serious student, he was valedictorian of both his elementary and high school graduating classes.

After college, Ben entered the seminary of the Society of the Divine Word, assisted by Benigno Sr., who quit smoking and drinking and put that money toward Ben's expenses. Although originally interested in missions work in Africa, the newly-ordained Fr. Ben seemed destined to teach in the seminary. But he was troubled by his inability to

The young Catholic priest resolved, "In a Christian country, there should not be 25,000 people surviving by picking through the garbage." That day, he began to dream of a new Smokey Mountain.

Now, the dream is being realized by *Sambayanang Kristiyano*, Smokey Mountain's self-sufficient, spiritually-strong community. Under Fr. Ben's tutelage, community members have turned

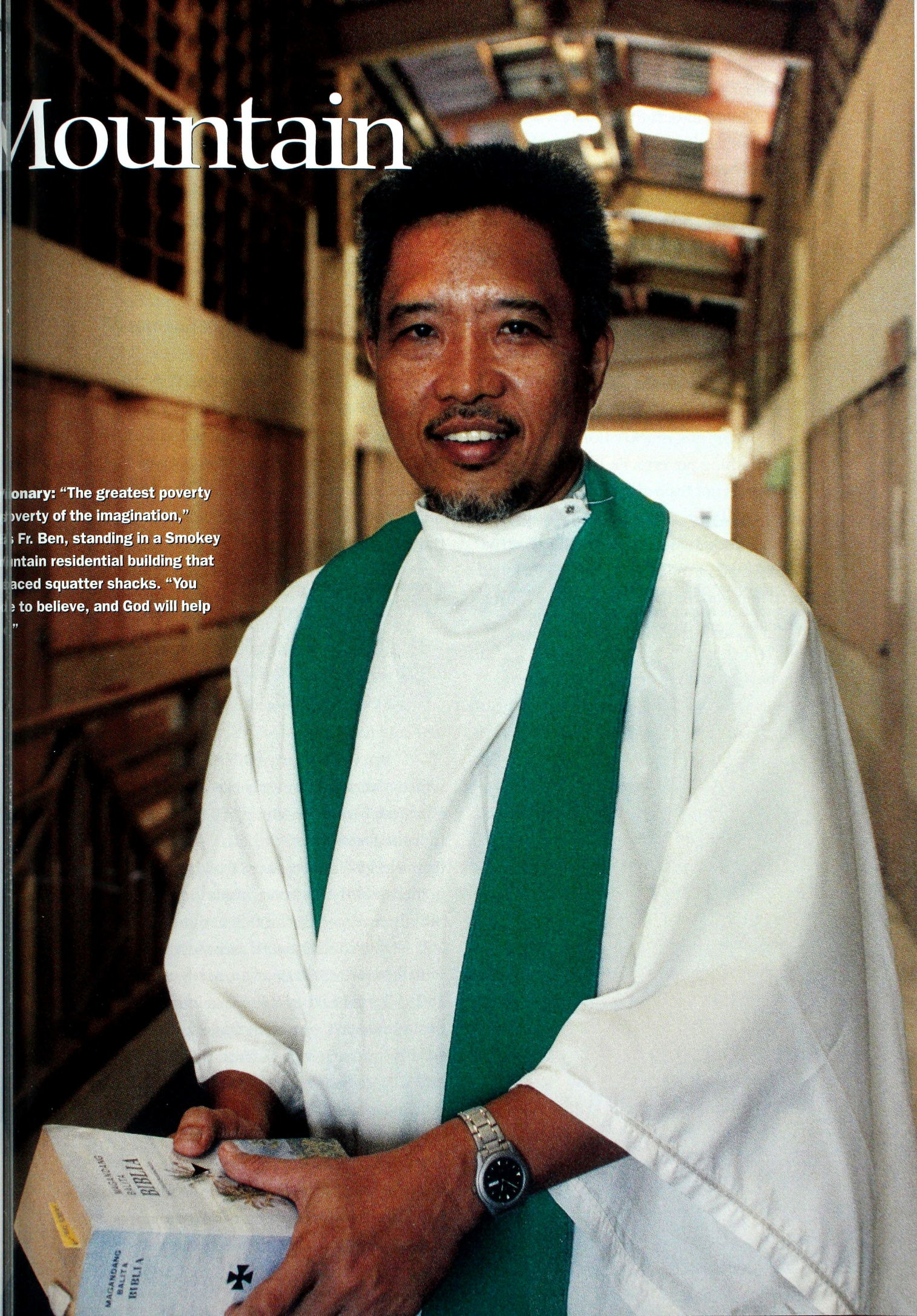


MIKEL HAMAN / WORLD VISION

▲ Once upon a dump: Even children used to scavenge for recyclable items, breathing in carcinogens and risking cuts and skin infections.

Mountain

Monary: "The greatest poverty
poverty of the imagination,"
Fr. Ben, standing in a Smokey
Mountain residential building that
faced squatter shacks. "You
e to believe, and God will help
"



connect theory with practice. His solution: "I decided to look for the poorest of the poor and just be with them." He asked the Sisters of Charity, Mother Theresa's order, to help him find a needy place. They sent him to Smokey Mountain.

Since 1954, Manila's government had been dumping garbage on this former fishing area. As the dump grew, so did the number of scavengers—people broken by the hardships of the city who had no choice but to live among refuse and rats. Politicians, journalists, and aid workers came to gawk at the dumpsite, quickly fleeing the stench and crushing poverty. Fr. Ben stayed.

"I was not trained for breathing in smoke and particles 24 hours a day, or eating inside mosquito nets because otherwise the food would be full of flies," he says. "Nobody can train you for that." He developed chronic bronchitis and allergies.

Fr. Ben led the celebration of the Eucharist every Sunday in a run-down chapel that was later repaired to become the Church of the Risen Christ. "[The Mass] was the answer to the people's prayers," Fr. Ben says. "It gave them a sense of identity." He walked around the shantytown and talked to people, gradually earning their trust.

Fr. Ben's vision for the community crystallized in 1983. The government, eyeing the financial opportunities of a revitalized waterfront, forcibly resettled the Smokey Mountain squatters to another area. "The people came back because there were no jobs," Fr. Ben recalls. "They were starving to death." He set up a tarpaulin for a temporary chapel, and the work began in earnest. Starting with the natural leaders, he began training people to form "basic Christian communities"—families grouped into cells with elected leaders representing their interests on various problem-solving committees, including

livelihood, health, education, culture, spirituality, sport, and housing.

Some community factions opposed the work. Fr. Ben received death threats. Once, a grenade was hurled onto the roof of his living quarters. It didn't explode, nor did it deter him. He dismisses the incident as a nuisance "on equal terms with the flies." His parents remember Ben's perseverance: "I cannot run away from problems," he told them.

Smokey Mountain changed Fr. Ben. "I learned that God is speaking through the poor," he says. "We should not think that only theologians understand the Bible. We have not listened to the poor. Just because they are unlettered does not mean that the truths of the Bible cannot be revealed to them."

Fr. Ben discovered during his two decades of urban ministry: "You should not come to the poor to save them, but to save yourself."

Fr. Ben implemented Bible sharing, in which community members read and discuss Scripture, empowering them to take a more active role in their faith without cues from clergy—a break with tradition in this predominantly Catholic country. "Even in our absence, people can talk about problems and settle issues," says Fr. Jerome Marquez, who joined the Smokey Mountain staff in 1995. "It makes the Bible the key to community organizing, sustenance, and growth."

As funding came in from the Philippine and U.S. governments, private donors, and relief agencies (World Vision supported leadership training), the community launched education programs and built a water system, a multi-purpose center, and paved walkways between people's homes and the dump. Such changes had great impact on residents such as Christine

Calisterio, who used to be shunned at the market because she smelled after trudging through muddy garbage. Families also moved from their squatter shacks into temporary housing, and soon will live in attractive permanent apartments. "I only started to believe in miracles when I came here," says Fr. Jerome.

MISSIONARIES TO THE ASPHALT JUNGLE

The Society of the Divine Word seminary in Tagaytay, a three-hour drive from Manila, offers a glimpse into the other side of Fr. Ben's life—contemplation, regeneration. The quiet seminary, surrounded by lush banana and coffee plants and colorful bougainvillea, provides the perfect setting. Fr. Ben teaches here two days a week, preparing young seminarians for urban ministry. "You have to read and keep up with theorists, otherwise you run out of ideas," he explains.

Part of Fr. Ben's effectiveness in the classroom is that he lives what he teaches, says Fr. Jerome, a former student. "[The work] becomes very concrete when you see it in action."

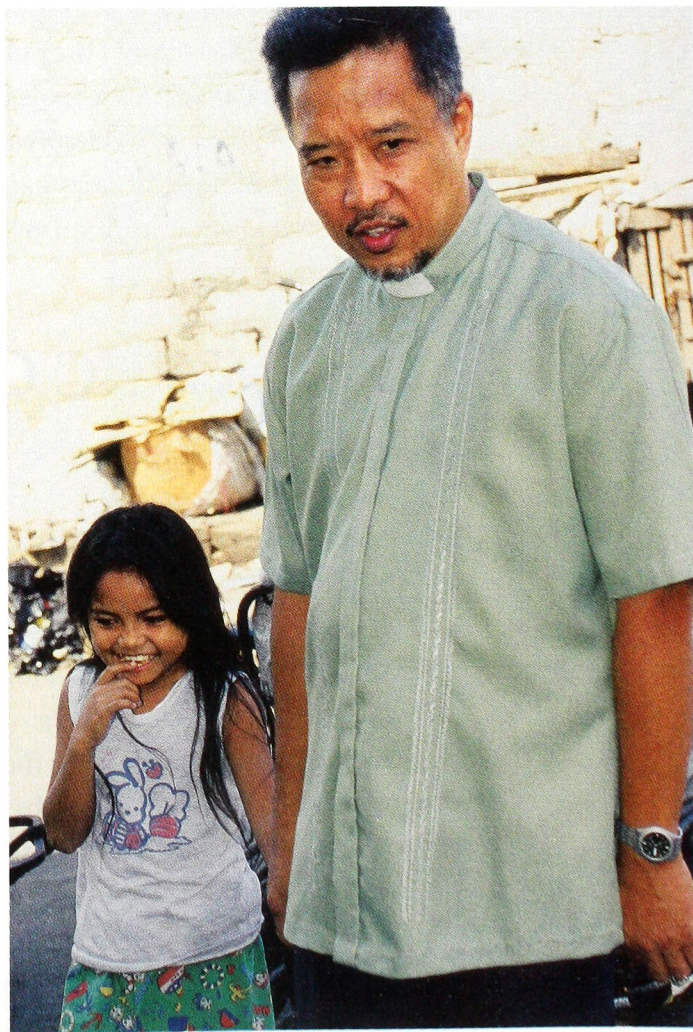
"A new humanity is being born in the city, and that's why missionaries should go there," insists Fr. Ben. "Our romanticism tells us we should go to places like New Guinea. But the decisions influencing the lives of hundreds of millions are not made in the villages, but in the asphalt jungle."

Recently he presented a multi-media symposium on "The Church in the City," introducing seminarians to global urbanization trends and the complex needs of the urban poor, ending with a challenge to the church to respond. The information overwhelmed many of the young men from rural regions. But in the open forum, one student commented, "Hope for the city is in our hands. We are the church. But before we can change the world, we must change ourselves."

Such is the task of those who will follow in Fr. Ben's footsteps. At 51, he is ready to leave Smokey Mountain in the capable hands of community leaders. At the year's end he will travel to the United States to set up an urban ministry training program with missiologist Ray Bakke. There are, after all, many Smokey Mountains in the world needing the "new heavens and new earth" promises of Isaiah 65.

"What we have reaped here is all because a man had a vision," says Fr. Jerome. "It's like Jesus' vision for everybody—the kingdom of God." ■

End of an era: Despite his popularity in Smokey Mountain, Fr. Ben worked himself out of his job by equipping the people to continue the community's development. "They know what should be done," he says. "They know hundreds of things."



SIERRA LEONE: REBUILDING LIVES

Farmers in Sierra Leone are pleading for seeds to replant their fields after seven years of sporadic civil war.

Sierra Leoneans rejoiced this spring when democratically-elected President Alhaji Ahmad Tijan Kabbah, who was deposed in a military coup in May 1997, returned to power after the illegal junta was ousted.

However, villagers emerged from hiding only to find their homes emptied or burned to the ground. Even their handmade hoes were gone; their seed stock stolen or eaten by retreating "junta boys"—rebels as young as 10. Health services are almost non-existent and the public education system has collapsed; all schools have been closed since the 1997 coup. Widespread neglect of water and sanitation facilities has caused rampant disease. Families are surviving on yams and other bush food.

World Vision plans to provide farmers with seeds and tools, enabling them to grow food for their families. "I know that I am doing God's work, trying to help people get back on their feet," says World Vision worker Abu Yarmah.



▲ With seeds, tools, and technical advice from World Vision, farmers like Baidu Williams will be able to grow enough rice to feed her three sons.

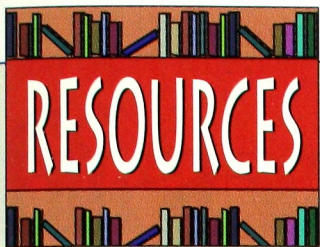
ASIA: ECONOMIC CRISIS HITS THE POOR

The poor in Asia's neediest countries are shouldering the long-term impact of the region's financial crisis: job losses, food price hikes, and social service cuts. World Vision staff expect the crisis to exacerbate social and economic problems, including the expulsion of migrants to preserve local jobs, higher interest rates, and increased prostitution and narcotics use.

Korea, one of the wealthier, more stable countries, has also been affected. The local cur-

rency lost half its value. Korean government funding for World Vision's 13 community development centers has been cut by 10 percent. Oh Jae Shik, director of World Vision Korea, is concerned about the impact rising fuel oil costs will have on the 76 orphanages World Vision assists.

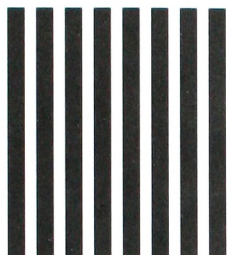
Despite budget constraints, World Vision Korea plans to provide counseling and job placement assistance to the surge of newly unemployed. World Vision has nearly 30,000 supporters in Korea, including 15,000 child sponsors.



RESOURCES

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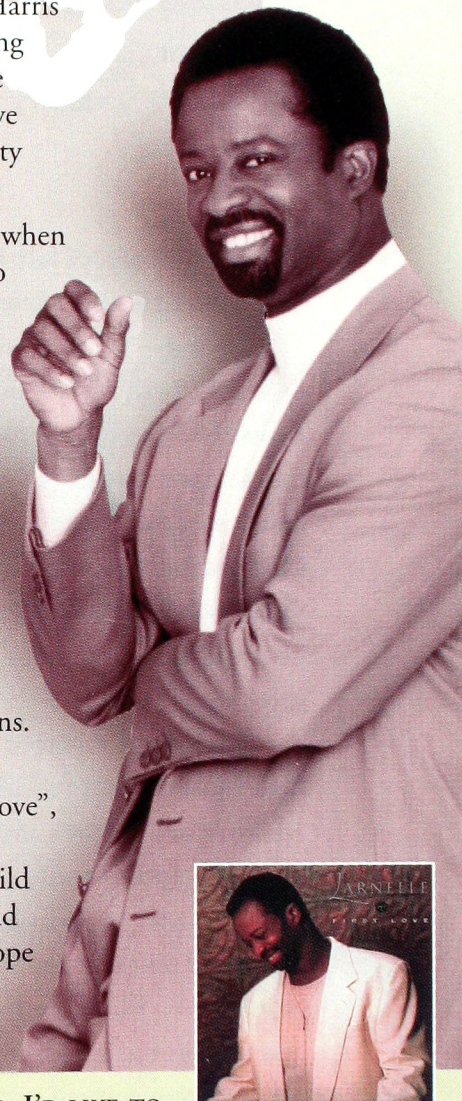
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SIERRA LEONE: I

Farmers in Sierra Leone are planting seeds to replant their fields after years of sporadic civil war.

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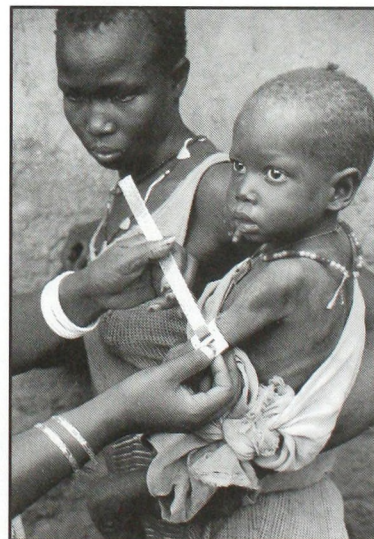
How can you contribute to a legacy of leadership?

CHRISTIAN WITNESS programs provide opportunities for people to open up to the love of God and discover his plan for their lives.

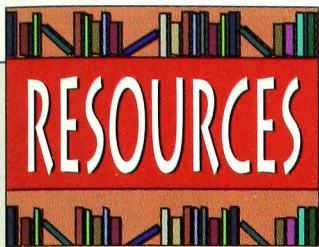
CHRISTIAN TRAINING, including pastors' conferences, Bible studies, and Christian youth camps, nurtures people's response to God's call to leadership.

THE MAASAI PEOPLE'S PROJECT focuses on agriculture, water, education, sanitation, housing, and spiritual needs for 23,000 Maasai in Kenya.

THE SUDAN RELIEF program promotes health care for families and children, anticipating a day when peace will allow Sudanese families to support themselves.



A World Vision nurse assesses this child's level of malnutrition: "If he does not eat he will not develop properly and could even die."



1997

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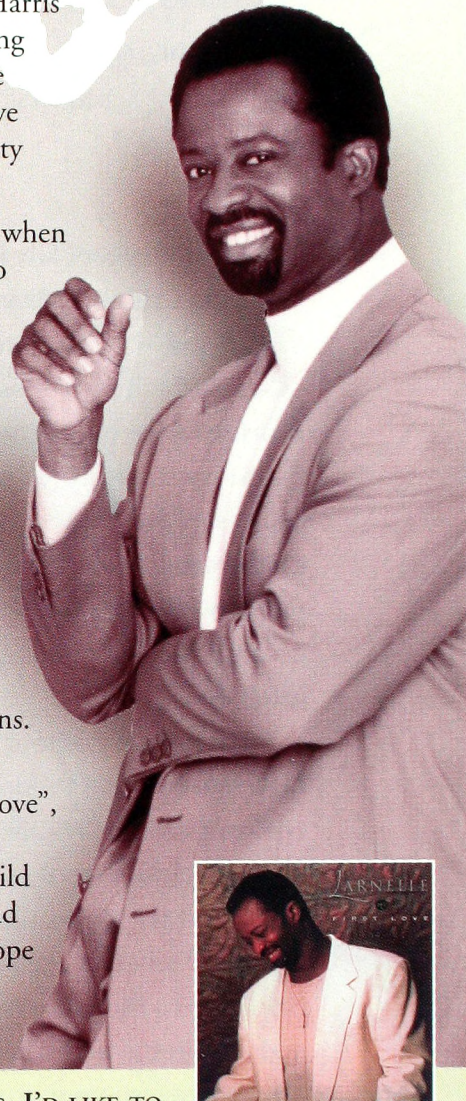
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Vision friend and five-time
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...AND RECEIVE LARNELL HARRIS'
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SIERRA LEONE:]

Farmers in Sierra Leone are pl seeds to replant their fields af years of sporadic civil war.

Sierra Leoneans rejoiced this spring democratically-elected President Alh. Tijan Kabbah, who was deposed in a coup in May 1997, returned to power. An illegal junta was ousted.

However, villagers emerged from to find their homes emptied or burned ground. Even their handmade hoes their seed stock stolen or eaten by rebels. "junta boys"—rebels as young as 10 services are almost non-existent and education system has collapsed; all schools been closed since the 1997 coup. With neglect of water and sanitation facilities caused rampant disease. Families are on yams and other bush food.

ASIA: ECONOMIC HITS THE POOR

The poor in Asia's neediest countries shouldering the long-term impact of the region's financial crisis: job loss, food price hikes, and social service cuts. World Vision staff expect the crisis to exacerbate social and economic problems, including expulsion of migrants to preserve livelihoods, higher interest rates, and increased drug and narcotics use.

Korea, one of the wealthier, more developed countries, has also been affected. The

Leadership is all about serving others.



World Vision nurse Dorothy Scheffel examines a Somali patient. Please see story on page 20 of this issue.

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RESOURCES

1997 Annual Report

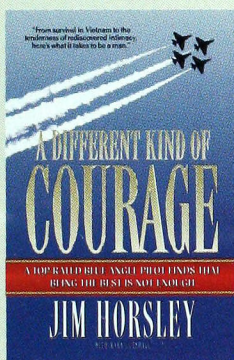
World Vision's life-changing, Christ-centered ministry is only possible through

dedicated donors, caring staff, and courageous community members. Thanks to them, the number of World Vision projects last year grew to 4,408, boosting the number of beneficiaries to 30,105,512.

To request a copy of World Vision's Annual Report, which includes information and figures on the lives touched through new and continuing programs, call (800) 777-5777. You can also look it up on our website at www.worldvision.org/worldvision/comms.nsf/stable/ar.

A Different Kind of Courage

Jim Horsley, World Vision's director of development, is a decorated Navy combat pilot who flew with the Blue Angels, the elite flight demonstration team. His career was filled with adventure, applause, and glory. But none of it mattered when his life began to unravel. *A Different Kind of Courage* (Word Publishing) is the engaging account of one man's struggle to move beyond the masked pain of a forged public image in his search for significance. This one-of-a-kind story speaks to anyone who has ever stood at life's crossroads and asked, "What's next?" Horsley's book is available in Christian bookstores.



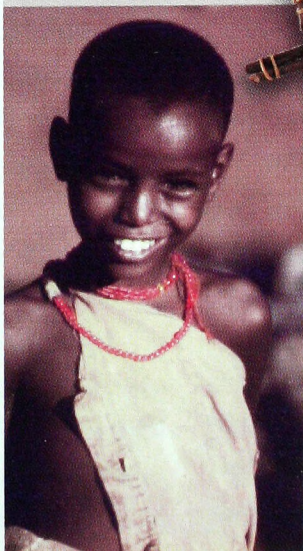
A SPECIAL OFFER FOR YOU AND DREAMS OF HOPE FOR A CHILD

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.



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...AND RECEIVE LARNELL HARRIS'
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Moses in

Moses Sinet Pulei, a former World Vision sponsored child from Kenya, grew up a Maasai in a home made of cow dung and sticks. But he entered a strange, new wilderness when he ventured to the United States to go to Whitworth College in Spokane, Wash., five years ago. Now attending graduate school at San Francisco Theological Seminary, Moses tells in his own words how he became a “man of two worlds.”

I started school late because my dad didn't think a Maasai needed an education—“white man's magic.” He asked whether it was possible to be an educated Maasai, to hold a spear and knife in one hand and books in the other. He didn't see how those two things go together. That created some tension because my mom really wanted me to go to school. I did not go until age 8 or 9, and I worked hard to catch up.

The primary school was close by, but high school was 14 miles away. I ran or walked barefoot 28 miles a day. To keep my uniform clean I would carry it in my book bag and wear my regular clothing while I ran. Near school there was a farm, so I would go to the cattle trough and wash up and put on the uniform to walk into class.

The government provides free primary education, but you have to buy your own books and materials. Probably by American standards it is not expensive, about \$40 or \$50 per term. For a Kenyan family, that is a month's salary. We could afford food to survive, but without World Vision intervening, I would not have been able to go to school and neither would my three brothers.

It was like night and day, what life became after sponsorship. I got my uniform and things I needed for school. Before,

if I got sick I would go to a government hospital and wait in a long line. Sometimes they did not have the medicine and they would give me a slip to go buy it. I could not do that. After getting sponsored, I gave the slip to the World Vision person and she brought me medicine. World Vision also started a tree planting project in my community, because people were desperate and cut down trees to burn into charcoal to sell. World Vision talked with people about the importance of the environment.

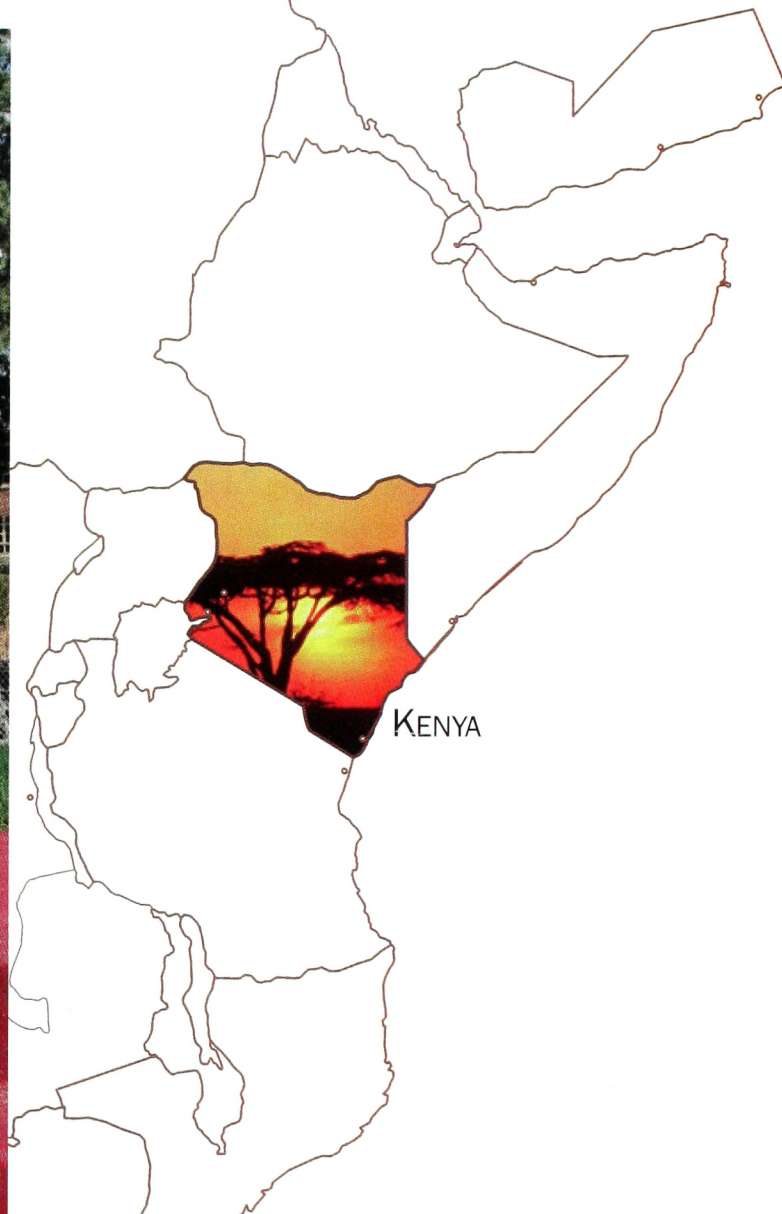
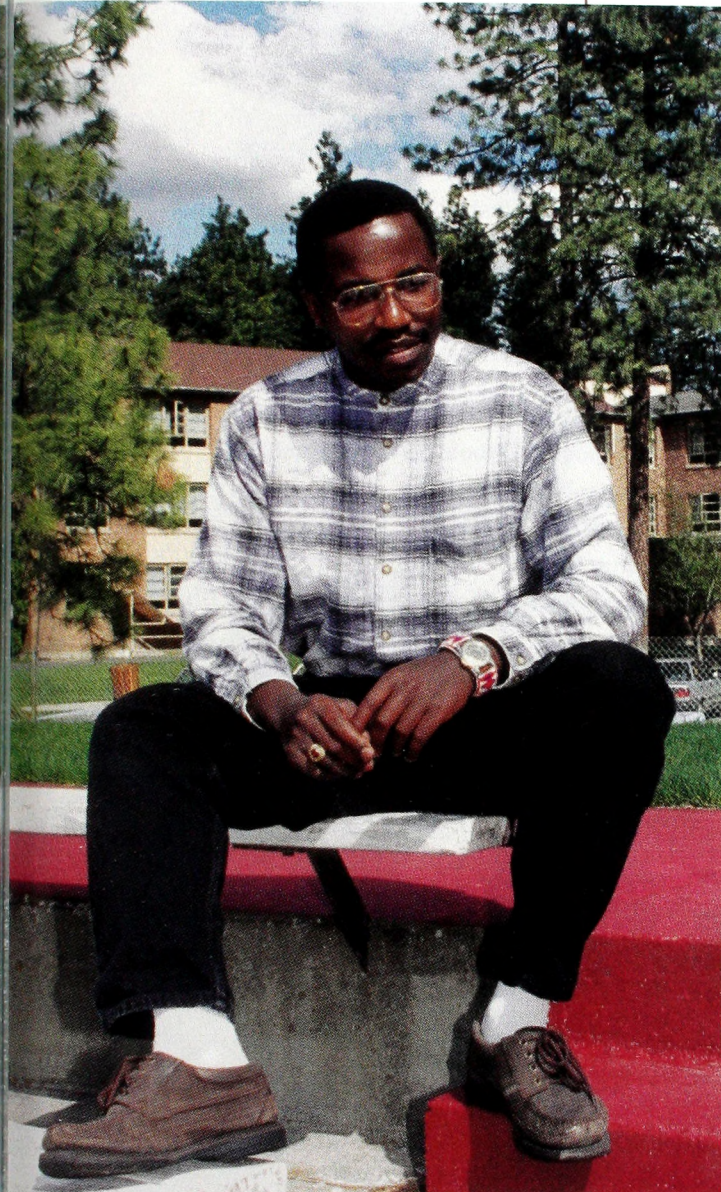
At first I thought World Vision was just some people connected to the church who went from home to home talking to people. I was skeptical. As time passed, I got to know World Vision people who really cared about me. They did not try to force me into what they believed.

Maasai pray to *Enkai*, the creator of everything. Enkai is the same word we use to describe the skies—so big they are beyond description—that is our god. At first, Christianity did not make sense to us, that there is one God but there are three parts to him.

I became a Christian at a World Vision-sponsored youth camp in my senior year of high school. My grandfather had died two years before, and I was devastated. I tried to be strong, but I still felt emptiness. At this camp, when they talked about Christianity,

Different Wilderness

STUTTON / WORLD VISION



Man on campus: Moses at Whitworth College, now more at ease with American customs and academic life.

it seemed that it absorbed all those things—blessed are those who are mourning because they will be happy. I started connecting my own experiences with what was being taught.

My dad thought it was a passing cloud. Eventually my parents came to accept it.

My mom became a Christian when my dad died last year, through Christian friends who visited her.

When I was still a new Christian, I was told about a missionary, Dr. Fred Strang, who was learning the Maasai language and could help answer my questions. We became great friends. Then I started work-

ing with another missionary, Tim Fairman, with Young Life who ministered to street kids in Nairobi. Both Tim and Fred said, "There is a lot of potential in you. It would be great if you could get a college education." Tim's daughter went to Whitworth, and she talked very highly of it. The Fairmans worked with a few churches to get me some scholarships. That is how I ended up in Spokane.

My first impression of the United States: People move too fast. You would think they are late to catch a train. In Africa, there is no hurry. Everything here was different—food, driving on the wrong side of the road.

In my freshman year at Whitworth, I was the cultural diversity advocate, mediating communication between different cultures on campus. I was also a dorm resident assistant, and senior year I was student body president.

I was also a teaching assistant in several classes. The more I am exposed to teaching, the more I feel it is God's plan for me. One of my goals is to understand how to communicate theology in other cultures. How do you explore the idea of culture and Christian faith with the Maasai and help people feel that it's their own faith?

I go back to Kenya every summer, leading missions trips and study groups. I appreciate the beauty of my homeland now. There are some things in my culture that I want to hold on to, and there are some things

that I feel I have to let go to be who I am.

I'm living proof that sponsorship works. I'm just one of many. I know people who have done something with their lives because someone sponsored them—teachers in Kenya, a friend in medical school who is going to be a surgeon. When you sponsor a child, you invest in someone. I think that's what Christian faith is all about; Christ invested in his disciples. You create hope, a sense of dignity. You bring the whole love of Christ to the child. ■

Vibrant culture: Moses says that if he hadn't gone to school, he would be living much like these Maasai villagers. "But we say that a zebra never leaves its stripes, so I guess I'm always going to be a Maasai."



JOHN SCHENK / WORLD VISION



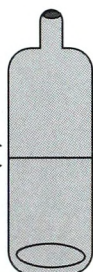
YOUR TURN

In some places in Africa, children play the *sanku*, a musical instrument similar to a harp, but with only one string. With the help of an adult, you can make your own sanku.

YOU WILL NEED:

Knife; scissors; 12-inch thin string; 26-inch bendable stick; construction paper; paints and brush, crayons, or markers; matchstick or toothpick; large empty plastic bottle with flat bottom; clear tape.

- 1 Cut the plastic bottle in half about five inches from the base. Use the bottom half of the bottle and cut a small hole in the center of the base. Make



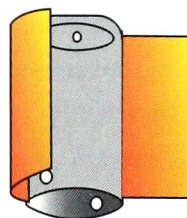
Strumming in Sudan: Wisdom
Sabit plays hymns on his **adungo**, which is like a sanku.



WINNIE OGANA / WORLD VISION

two holes opposite each other at the brim (big enough for the stick to fit through).

- 2 Turn the bottle upside down so the bottom is facing up. Cover the sides of the bottle with construction paper and clear tape.



Where the construction paper covers the holes, cut a star shape and then push the construction paper flaps into the holes in the bottle. Decorate the construction paper with paints, markers, or stickers.

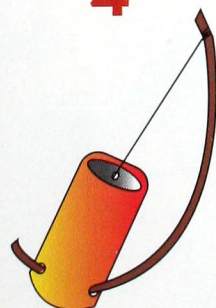


- 3 Push the stick through the two holes in the sides of the bottle. Tie one end of the string



around the matchstick or toothpick and thread the match through the small hole in the base of the bottle. Pull the string tight. Fasten the other end of the string to the stick as shown.

4 TO PLAY:



Hold the instrument and pluck the string. Different tensions on the string produce different sounds. You could use a small piece of wood as a bow. Have fun!

Instructions for making a sanku instrument are adapted from "Some Crafty Things To Do," a collection of craft ideas for children and teachers published by Oxfam United Kingdom and Ireland and are reproduced with permission of Oxfam Publishing.

ILLUSTRATIONS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF MUSICAL INSTRUMENT BY DIANA MOORE

Love in An

Foreign language Teacher of the Year David R. Williams imparts more than vocabulary and grammar in his Maryland classroom. Through the World Vision Club, he helps his students take an active role in caring for children in the developing world.

In a room festooned with colorful flags and *pinatas*, a group of teenagers move in unison, their wild gestures accompanied by French phrases and laughter. This isn't a new form of the Macarena line dance. It's "Simon Says" in French class at Dumbarton Middle School in Baltimore, Md. Leading the game, his coattails flapping like a symphony conductor's, is French and

Spanish teacher David Williams.

"I try to use multi-sensory activities to get students involved—hands, feet, body, mind, spirit, soul," he explains.

David's creative teaching has been well-

cultures. World Vision Club members sponsor a child in India, Indonesia, and Bolivia with money they raise through creative activities—jellybean-counting contests, singing birthday grams, faculty volleyball games, and musical concerts. Club members also get together to discuss global issues over pizza and popcorn.

Students form relationships with the children overseas; letters and birthday banners strengthen the link. The sponsored children's responses and photos are prominently posted for the entire school to see.

"We may think that we need more than we have. But to kids in need, we have the entire world," says club member Kendall Wyman, 14.

▲ **Have a heart:** Dumbarton student Alyssa Stokes, 12, participates in a Valentine's Day fund-raiser for the World Vision Club.

recognized throughout his career, most recently by the 1996 nationwide Teacher of the Year honor in the foreign language category, awarded by the American Teachers Association, Walt Disney Co., and McDonalds.

David strives to help his students develop compassion. In 1988 he started the World Vision Club to involve students in child sponsorship and teach them about other

David's guarantee: "When you help others, it comes back he tells students. "You may not know their names or faces but it comes back."





Leaving the World in Their Hands

Language



Dress code: “I wear a shirt and tie in the classroom to let the children know this is a business. I have a product to sell; it’s education. I’m going to do everything I can to get you to buy my product.”

David also initiated a mentor program that pairs foreign students with American peers to help them gain familiarity with Dumbarton. David himself knows what it’s like to feel “foreign” in a classroom. He started school during desegregation in the

late 1950s, and was the only African-American in his first grade class. Each morning a 20-minute bus ride took him from his small, rural, African-American community into a predominantly white area of Baltimore county. The first few months were traumatic. He frequently made tearful phone calls to his mother who worked as a maid nearby.

Then David’s first grade teacher took him under her wing. “She gave me the opportunity to take charge and lead,” he says. “All of a sudden I was approved of because I had proven who I was and what I could accomplish. My teacher let everyone know I was special. She made it clear I was a part of her classroom.”

That teacher inspired young David toward a career in education. On Saturdays, he set up a classroom with cardboard boxes and played school with his friends. “I was always the teacher,” he laughs.

In high school, David’s Spanish teacher so impressed him with her fluency that he was determined to master the language. Two Fulbright scholarships to Latin America and Maryland’s Advanced Professional Certification in secondary education equipped him with significant language and teaching skills. Now most of his students affectionately call him “Señor.”

“I try to model a Christian life,” David explains. “The World Vision Club creates an opportunity for kids to see a different side of me other than instruction. They see what my values are—that I care about people, children, the less fortunate.” ■



Leaving the World in Their Hands

Life Without Brakes

Oregon native Dorothy Scheffel has served as a World Vision nurse in several African countries wracked with turmoil and danger. She doesn't consider herself a heroine, but rather "one of the lucky ones who gets to see the people World Vision helps."

After four years of caring for famine victims, vaccinating children in war zones, and dodging armed attacks, crisis situations are Dorothy Scheffel's unintended specialty.

Dorothy served from 1993 to 1996 as a World Vision health coordinator in Sudan, a country suffering from a 15-year civil war between the Arabic government based in the northern city of Khartoum and the black African rebels of the south. More than 1.5 million people have been killed since the war began. Dorothy, who managed two health programs and eight staff in remote Tonj and Yambio counties, helped evacuate staff four times due to impending attacks, and survived the torching of a village where World Vision worked.

"Sudan has nothing, nothing, nothing," Dorothy reports. War has destroyed the country's economy, communications, and health services. Few schools and only three hospitals remain. "There's no way of people getting help except for what relief agencies bring in."

Dorothy accompanied immunization teams to a different site each day, traveling by utility vehicle over bumpy roads and rickety bridges, sometimes with the brakes disconnected as rough roads wore out the brake pads every 48 hours. "You crash into trees occasionally," Dorothy quips.

Mobile teams cover 35 clinics per month, providing inoculations against measles, polio, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, and tuberculosis. After World Vision came to the area in 1993, immunization rates for children in Yambio rose from zero to 63 percent in the first two years. In Tonj, the rate of full-course immunizations increased to five percent—a huge accom-



AMAZING STAFF

Story by **HOLLY BETH STORMS**

Photograph by **REVERIE ZURBA**

plishment given that these nomadic people lacked health care for 12 years before World Vision arrived.

The satisfaction of improved coverage, however, didn't compare with Dorothy's delight at seeing a mother arrive at a health clinic with a baby on her back and several other children in tow, having walked six miles in her determination to have her family immunized. World Vision provided farmers with seeds and agricultural training that resulted in a bountiful harvest. By 1996, Dorothy found that only a few children came to the clinics malnourished.

Prior to joining the Sudan team,

Dorothy devoted a year as a World Vision nurse in Somalia during the East African country's 1992 anarchy and famine. Before that, she volunteered for six years as a nurse with the evangelical organization Youth With A Mission in Kenya and Uganda.

Working in war zones deepened Dorothy's spiritual

insight. "I probably understand the heart of God a lot better now," she explains. "I think he hurts when he sees situations like Sudan."

While recognizing God's compassion, Dorothy struggles with God's justice. "Why was I born in America with all the abundance we have when these people were born in southern Sudan with nothing? People who have a lot—I think God expects more from us somehow," she reflects. "It's not as if I owe God something, but it's a Christian responsibility to be involved in situations like this when we can help suffering people."

Dorothy's assignment in Sudan ended in late 1996, when she moved to World Vision's office in Washington, D.C. Drawing upon the management skills she gained in Africa and her knowledge of World Vision's work in the field, she recruits new staff to work in far-flung places. ■



◀ **Personal touch:** Dorothy examines a Somali patient. Several months earlier, she treated shrapnel wounds he suffered while defending World Vision's supplies from looters.



PLEASE pray for the crisis in Bahr el Ghazal province, southern Sudan:

- For the estimated 500,000 people—especially malnourished children—facing starvation due to displacement, fighting, and drought.
- For World Vision staff working in difficult conditions to provide emergency food, medical care, seeds, and survival kits.
- For a peaceful end to the conflict between the Sudanese Army and the Sudan People's Liberation Army.

PRAY with thankfulness that the government of Sudan lifted a ban on relief flights, allowing aid to reach the suffering victims.



Leaving the World in Their Hands

I Leave You A Story

All of us at World Vision should be charged with the task of keeping stories. They represent our tribal memories. They remind us of difficulties overcome, hope emerging out of despair, challenges met, and opportunities grasped. Stories track what we believe to be important. As I leave World Vision, then, it is only fitting that my parting thoughts center on a story.

In the early 1990s I visited an orphanage outside the city of Cluj-Napoca, Romania. Something was wrong, terribly wrong. Every child in the orphanage was less than God intended. Each was in some state of despair. The orphanage was home to the deaf, the blind, the mentally retarded, the physically disabled. I was greeted by Agafite, a 9-year-old boy without an arm. Laurentiu, 10 years old, had only stumps for legs. There was a lad on a skateboard with no legs at all, pushing himself close to us. He began to massage my friend's calves, as if to say "Why did you get to be born whole and not me?"

The common denominator, the human tie that bound each of these kids, was that each was a product of a failed abortion. Someone had tried to destroy life in the womb. The weaponry was arranged against them, and they became veterans of foreign wars before they were born. But they won that war! They were born anyway. They are alive—but permanently scarred; mentally, physically, or both.

Another young man came up to me and asked in perfect English, "Do you love

Jesus?" My first thought was cynical: "This is a scam, part of a setup. An emotional 'come on' to milk the fat cats from the West."

It was certainly no scam. The director of the orphanage was a Christian. He taught his charges a little English, and a lot about Jesus. We experienced love, hope, and amazing grace as we toured the orphanage, seeing various Bible stories unfold in pictures and words in each decorated room. The orphanage was a beam of hope in the despair that was Romania's child-care program at the start of the decade.

And the hope was highly personal. I have been a Christian all my life, but I can't remember anyone ever asking me this question before, "Do you love Jesus?" I've debated theology to the point of anger and broken relations, watched my church split over denominational issues, and witnessed other denominational fights that sapped energy, eroded Christian credibility, and destroyed any hope of the power and the promise of a unified body of Christ. Never before, however, has any Christian asked me this most profound question of our time, or any time—"Do you love Jesus?" The Lord used a little orphan kid who almost wasn't born to challenge me with the most important thing in life: returning love to one who first loved us.

World Vision exists to tell a story. It's the Jesus story, a story of unconditional love, of grace more abundant, of hope made tangible through his resurrection and sustainable by the promise of a second coming. There is no better story. This is the story we react to when we consider our love for Jesus.

PRESIDENT'S WATCH

ROBERT A. SEIPLE

At the end of the day, we have only one standard of accountability. As we complete our business, as we employ best practices in relief and development, and as we consummate our fund-raising relationships, we need to ask: "Did we move people in the direction of the kingdom, a kingdom synonymous with its king, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ? Did the Good News of the Gospel emerge out of our work? Has that Gospel become more attractive because of the purity of motive in presenting it through our very lives?" Ultimately, it's a very simple question, "Do we love Jesus?"

A few years ago a friend gave me her personal mission statement: "To know Jesus better today than yesterday; to be closer to Jesus today than yesterday." Nothing fancy or complex, but pragmatically workable in the very depths of our souls.

It also works for organizations. Along with the stories, I pass it on to all of you. There's no better advice. And there is no better story. ■



▲ **Helping Hand:** Bob Seiple steadies a toddler during his 1991 visit to an orphanage in Cluj-Napoca, Romania.

World Vision TODAY

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School children in Nouakchott, Mauritania, explore a globe donated by World Vision.

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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 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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Twila Paris with her sponsored child.

Showing Love ..

... is the greatest expression of our belief in Jesus Christ. Paul explains in Galatians 5:6 that "all we need is faith working through love." That's why I sponsor a child through World Vision.

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

Sponsor a child today by
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- ☐ I prefer to sponsor a ☐ boy ☐ girl
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Card no. _____ Exp. Date _____
- Signature _____
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of \$ _____ to help children in need. (1700)



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