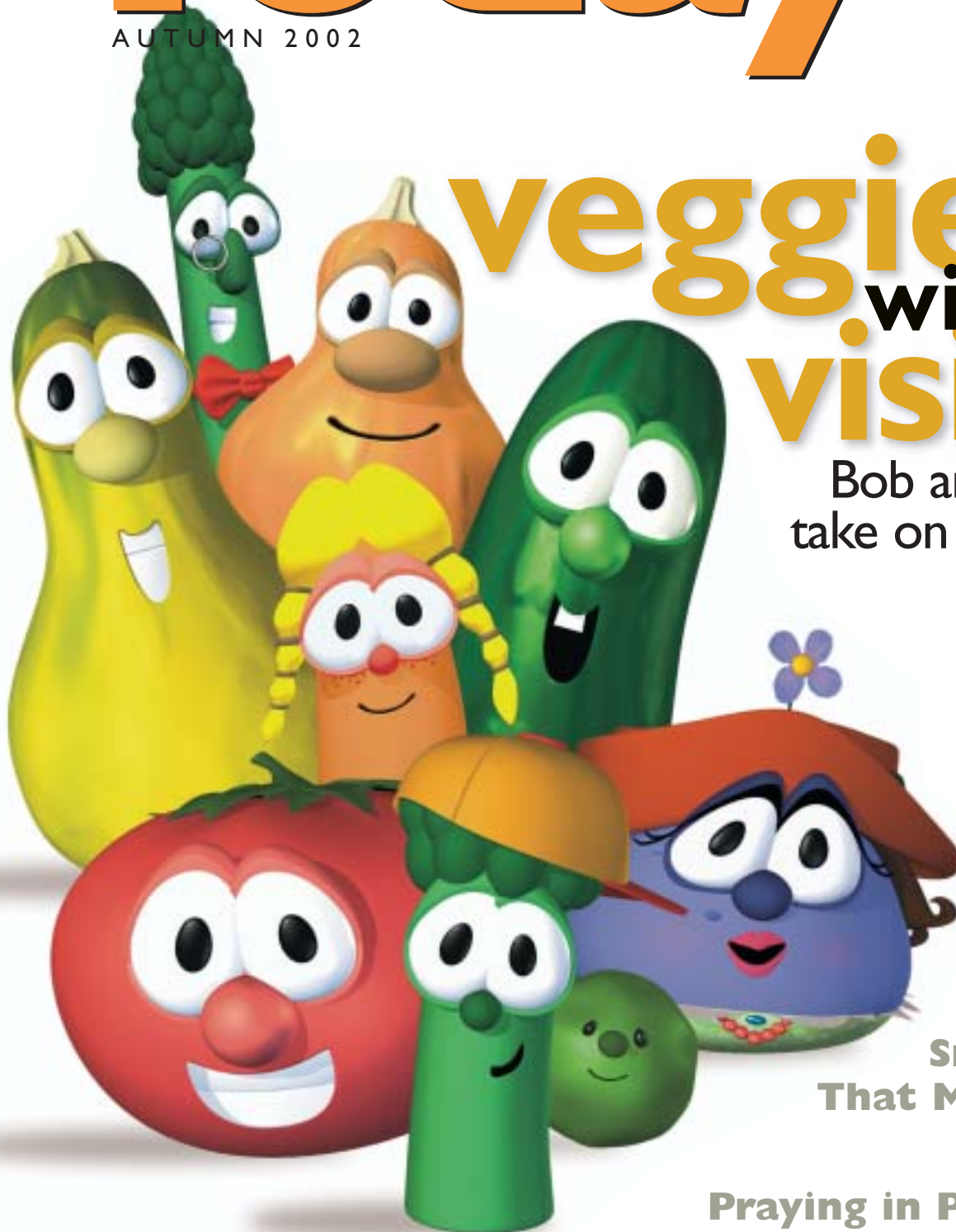


**World Vision**

# Today

AUTUMN 2002



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## World Vision Today

VOL. 6, NUMBER 1

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### On the cover

World Vision and VeggieTales team up to help needy children.

**World Vision Today**, a free quarterly publication, affirms people responding to God's call to care for the poor by providing information, inspiration, and opportunities for action, linking them with children and families in nearly 100 countries where World Vision ministers. In an effort to be careful stewards of our resources, this publication costs less than 35 cents a copy to print and mail.

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World Vision

From the President | Richard E. Stearns

## Monopoly Money

*If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.*

—1 John 3:17,18

**AS A KID, I USED TO PLAY MONOPOLY™ FOR** hours on end, dreaming the American Dream by pretending to be a successful tycoon. Ironically, my dream came true when I became president of Parker Brothers Games (the creators of Monopoly) in 1984. As I look back now, I believe that Monopoly's secret to success was that it allowed people to buy, sell, and invest freely because they knew that it was only Monopoly money they were investing. Win or lose, it wasn't really their money in the first place.

As Christians, we might learn a lesson from Monopoly. If we believe that all we have has been entrusted to us by God, then we should be much more willing to invest it on his behalf. After all, as in Monopoly, it isn't our money in the first place.

Unfortunately, we sometimes confuse the American Dream with our understanding of the Bible. The American Dream goes something like this: "I worked hard. I earned it, and it's mine to do with as I please." The Bible suggests that God has entrusted us with resources with an expectation that we will use them on his behalf. As in the parable of the talents in Matthew 25, when we are faithful with our master's things, we share in his happiness. Like a stockbroker or banker, we should always act in the best interests of the owner whose assets we have been asked to manage.

Perhaps you've heard the term "affluenza"—the unhealthy materialism affecting so many of us in America. Jesus gave more dire warnings about the dangers of money and wealth than he did about any other single threat to our faith. And yet it is the one peril we fail to take seriously in our culture. We warn ourselves and our children about the dangers of drugs and immorality, but we often say nothing about affluenza.

Fortunately, God has not left us without an antidote to affluenza. We can inoculate ourselves against the power of money and possessions through the joy of giving. When we're inoculated against a disease such as polio, a small amount of the actual virus is injected, forcing our body to develop immunity. Similarly, when we regularly give a portion of our income to do God's work in the world, it helps us develop a kind of immunity to the harmful aspects of money.

Many of you already know about this antidote.

Through your faithful support of World Vision's work, you have experienced the joy of giving and realized how important it is to spiritual health. Giving not only blesses us, but it also shares God's goodness with people who need hope even more than material gifts.



I'd like to tell you about a family tradition that my wife, Reneé, and I have established to help our children develop their own hearts for giving. Each year we sit down as a family and spread out index cards on the dining-room table. On each card is written the name of an individual, organization, or church that we support financially, including our sponsored children. We pass out Monopoly money equal to the amount that we have decided to give. We then divide the play money across the cards as we discuss why we are giving to each ministry. When we're finished, the kids feel like real stakeholders in our family giving.

Let me take this opportunity to thank you, your family, and all others who have made the decision to give. Because of you, more than 1.9 million World Vision-sponsored children around the world have felt God's love in a tangible way. ■

*Richard Stearns*

# What is World Vision doing to help people affected by the food shortage in southern Africa?

**WORLDVISION IS DISTRIBUTING** emergency food to help hungry families in seven southern African countries. At the same time, World Vision offers training for the future—helping people learn to farm with new tools, drought-resistant seeds, and innovative agriculture methods.

After observing back-to-back poor harvests in the region, World Vision implemented an emergency food relief plan—in addition to ongoing programs—for Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, and Angola. World Vision offices throughout southern Africa mobilized to assess needs, move staff to emergency assignments, and carry out strategies. For example, World Vision is distributing food and offering food-for-work activities to help 75,000 families in Zimbabwe, using an \$8 million U.S. government grant.

World Vision staff also testified before a U.S. congressional subcommittee, encouraging the government to provide more funds and emergency food for the southern Africa food crisis. As early as last fall, World Vision staff submitted grant applications for funds to meet emergency and long-term needs there.

In cooperation with World Food Programme (WFP) and other agencies, World Vision distributed more than 47,000 metric tons of foods such as maize, beans, and vegetable oil in this region. Yet this is just a fraction of what is needed: The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and WFP estimate that countries will need to import 4 million metric tons of food over the next year to meet the minimum food needs.

Long-term training and planning is as crucial as emergency relief. In fact, past training and planning enabled some families to avert the crisis now crippling other communities. For example, World Vision's Tunthu Irrigation Project in Malawi helped farmers harness an underground spring to flow into a new reservoir. A gravity-fed sprinkler irrigation system provides food security for 750 families. The irrigation system allows 83 farmers to harvest at least twice per year, instead of once.

"[The harvests] are being shared with the rest of the people in the neighborhood," notes World Vision Malawi's Florence Tembo. "The benefits of the [project] have significantly averted what would otherwise have been a fatal food situation."

Efforts like these will go a long way toward staving off future famine. Yet it's still important to understand why the region is facing such severe shortages now.



Malawian families celebrate crop success due to a World Vision irrigation project.

Floods, drought, and fluctuating economies all contributed to minimal harvests over the past few years—far less than enough food to sustain families. And now, those scant crops are already gone, often eaten before they were ripe. Farmers have no reserve seed for planting and no crops to sell for income. An estimated 13 million people are affected. Health challenges compound the devastating effects of hunger. Desperate to eat, families make meals of gourds, banana roots, corn husks, or tree bark, which provide little nutrition and no defense against illness. The toll of HIV/AIDS also endangers entire communities throughout the region.

Therefore, World Vision's ongoing work must continue, even in the midst of emergency food relief. World Vision staff must increase their efforts to ensure that households have access to health care, training on proper nutrition and hygiene, and access to clean water. Without these elements, families have little hope for the future.

The shortage is real; the potential for tragedy, enormous. Yet foresight and past training, combined with hard work and generous involvement now, can help to avert famine and save lives. ■

### YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Help distribute lifesaving food in southern Africa. Just \$20 will help provide supplemental food such as maize, beans, and oil to support one person for one month. Please detach the card at right and return it along with your gift, in the envelope between pages 16 and 17.

### EFFECTS OF HIV/AIDS

I was deeply moved by your articles on HIV/AIDS around the world [Summer 2002]. They showed how it affects families and their struggle to survive. The lepers during Jesus' day were untouchable, but he healed them and had compassion on them, just as he would have compassion on those with HIV/AIDS today.

—Kevin R. Millage, Lebanon, Pa.



### REACH OUT IN LOVE

After the World Trade Center bombing, I found myself filled with rage at the people who did this and consumed with thoughts of revenge. But, [after] asking the question, *What would Jesus do?* the solution became apparent. He would reach out in love, to one person, one child at a time, which is all that I can do. So, in addition to my sponsored child in Malawi, I requested another child to sponsor, in Lebanon. If you are shocked and saddened by the tragic events that are taking place all over the world, you can pull one child back from the brink of disaster through World Vision and save a life, one child at a time.

—Tim Sweeney, Austin, Texas

### CORRECTION

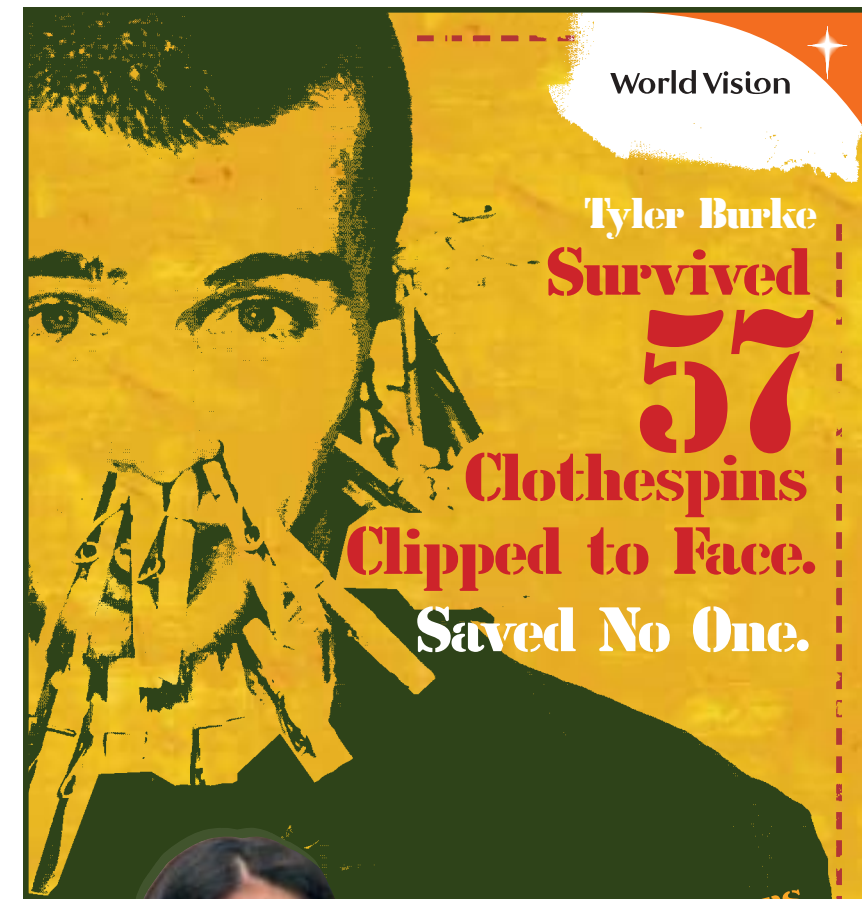
The toll-free number for calling World Vision to sponsor a child is (800) 777-5777.

World Vision Today received seven awards for its 2001 issues from the Evangelical Press Association, which annually recognizes the best in Christian publishing.

Your opinion is valuable—please tell us what you think about our magazine! Fill out our online reader survey, at [www.worldvision.org/readersurvey](http://www.worldvision.org/readersurvey). And thank you for participating!

Tyler Burke  
Survived

57  
Clothespins  
Clipped to Face.  
Saved No One.



Ali Manzano  
Survived 30 Hours  
With No Food.  
Helped Save  
an Entire Village.



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Mark

February 21-22, 2003  
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# dollars and sense



## *How small loans add up to big change*

*By Kari Costanza, with reporting by  
Evelyn Lopez, Yadira Pacheco, and Brenda Solares*

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JON WARREN

*She is a mother of five. She owns little property. Her husband is in prison. She wants to start a business—a carpentry shop. Would you give this woman a loan?  
World Vision did.*

It is a story that might never happen in the United States. There would be too many reasons for a bank to turn down the woman's request—her lack of credit being just the first.

But around the world, loans for the very poor are being approved. Called microenterprise development, these programs mix innovative business practices with education, compassion, and faith. In 40 countries, World Vision's microenterprise development programs are flourishing, serving more than 108,000

small business owners with investments surpassing \$30 million.

Many are women like Maria Lourdes de Ortiz, the carpenter who got her first loan five years ago. In the following pages, read her story and those of others. The loan, combined with Maria's gritty determination to start a small business, changed her life.

Find out how Maria's entrepreneurial spirit nurtured another generation of women carpenters. And see how microenterprise development loans are bringing dreams to life around the world.

"Just" a loan? It is far more than that. For Maria and thousands of others, these loans can make the difference between a life of sorrow and a life of joy—a joy experienced around the world when small loans yield big change.



In **Cuzco, Peru**, Maria Lourdes de Ortiz had a hammer, a saw, a square, and a ruler. With a loan from World Vision and training in business administration, she built a dream.

"If I hadn't taken these loans," Maria says, "I wouldn't have been able to send my children to school. Education will protect them."

Maria taught her children to be carpenters as well. Oldest son Edwin works side-by-side with his mother and his three sisters, ages 15 to 21. Another son, Wilbur, is 7.

Maria is proud of her hard-working children, who fly around the workshop, skillfully handling table saws, planers, and routers. The loan has given them a chance to dream their own dreams.

"My oldest daughter is tiny," Maria says, "and no one believes that she is a carpenter. She wants to study master carpentry and is very good already. She also studies computers. My next-oldest daughter wants to study tourism. She is in university now. The youngest wants to have her own travel agency."

Maria got her first loan five years ago.

## the carpenters

"The neighbors call us *carpinteras*—women carpenters. They are always amazed when they peek in the doorway. 'You are like a carpentry institute,' they say."

—Maria Lourdes de Ortiz



## flower power

"Our parents talk to us about the loans. They say we are going to get a loan from World Vision to improve our flower business and sell more plants. I think it is a good thing. I've seen an improvement in our lives. For example, we have noodles to eat now and more beautiful clothes. We've gotten a radio and a television. We bought more seed with the loan. Before the loans, our business was smaller. Now we have more plants and more flowers to sell."

—Elizabeth Gutierrez, 11



In **Huaraypata, Peru**, the Gutierrez family is growing fields of dreams. The family business—a garden plot bursting with roses, gladiolas, carnations, and more—sits right behind their house.

Every week, Sabina Vargas, the mother, ties flower bundles onto her back and boards the 2 a.m. bus to Cuzco. She arrives just in time for the wholesale market. If there are any flowers left, she'll head to the public market to sell them. The family saves its seeds to raise seedlings to grow more flowers, or to sell.

Sabina and her husband, Washington, have three children, ages 5 to 11. They received their first loan in 1998.

## HOW MICROENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT WORKS

**A loan is granted. With hard work and business counseling, a business grows. Jobs are created. The loan is repaid. The interest earned covers the cost of the loan program. Another business gets a loan. Families flourish. Lives are changed. The circle is complete—and growing.**

Think of microenterprise development as a never-ending circle. At the first point on the circle, World Vision small-business experts are there, meeting with people who want loans to start or grow a small business. World Vision may be their last option, as traditional banks make it difficult for the poor to get a loan.

With guidance from World Vision, loan-seekers form solidarity groups, or loan circles. Most circles are made up of women. Research shows that women are reliable—they pay back their loans—and that the impact of the loans on the women and their children is extraordinary. As a group, they borrow money from a local, professional, microfinance institution, often run by World Vision. It acts as a bank would: loaning money, calculating interest, and holding borrowers accountable.

Working in groups increases each borrower's responsibility. If one group member doesn't pay, the loan circle is responsible for the debt. When they do repay their loans with interest—which happens the vast majority of the time—new money becomes available for new clients with small businesses and big dreams of their own.

Although these clients are often very poor, their track records are remarkable. Money, mentoring, and moxie make for an outstanding mix.

Microenterprise development strengthens families, concluded a recent evaluation conducted in Peru, Tanzania, and Uganda by George Washington University. The study found that most families who got small loans reported better family health, an increase in their business earnings, and the ability to spend more on food, medicine, and education. More than 90 percent of the clients reported improved business skills. Nearly 75 percent reported an increased sense of empowerment—they were able to participate in making decisions that affected their families.

Elmer Alfaro, in Guatemala, once scraped by—growing tomatoes and snow peas. Today he serves as president of a carpentry group that just won a microenterprise development award from a European association. He assembled his furniture-making workshop around his old house—a 20-by-20 dilapidated adobe shack—to remember where he came from. Now Elmer lives with his family in a new cement block house across the street that he describes as "beautiful."

"What gets me excited to work each day?" asks Marleni Berrios, a loan officer in Peru. "We work with poor people who really need help and we can provide them with complete support. There is a chance to do Christian witness with this work. We give money, but we also follow up."



In **Patzun town, Guatemala**, Ilaria Muxtay Sincal, 63, and her daughter, Albertina Patunayché Muxtay, 42, are spinning cloth into dreams. The two women employ several dozen family members and neighbors, weaving and embroidering exquisite Guatemalan blouses.

Business profits allow Albertina, widowed when her youngest was an infant, to care for her four children, ages 12 to 21.

Albertina says the family has enjoyed a better life since that first loan in 1997.



## dream weavers

“With bigger profits I can buy my kids clothes, sweaters, and shoes. The profits have also helped pay for my mother’s arthritis medications and antibiotics when she had pneumonia. I’ve discovered that I’m diabetic, so I have to be careful with my diet. I feel better now.”

—Albertina Patunayché Muxtay



## funding dreams

“We have many chances to share the gospel. I had a very good client who runs a bicycle repair business in Urcos. He began drinking alcohol. Many times I went to him and said, ‘This isn’t good.’ He was embarrassed, but continued. Finally, I had to go talk to him and be firm. I was surprised when he wasn’t mad at me. Instead, he started to cry and told me he had personal problems. We spent a lot of time talking. He had been a Christian but was away from God. After that, he came back to Jesus. I have another client who is a pastor. I told him about this man and suggested he look in on him. A few weeks ago, I visited again, and the man’s wife told me he has completely stopped drinking. We continue to pray for him each day at Credivision.”

— Marleni Berrios



In **Peru**, Marleni Berrios helps make dreams come true.

Marleni, 28, is a loan officer with Credivision—World Vision’s microfinance program in Peru, active since 1994.

Today, loans to almost 2,600 businesses in Peru total more than \$1,113,000. Sixty percent of the clients are women.

Marleni began working with Credivision after college, which she attended on a World Vision scholarship. She delights in serving the poorest clients. “We invest in them,” she says. “We take risks that others won’t take.”

### WORLD VISION'S MICROENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS



**AFRICA:** Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Rwanda, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe

**ASIA:** Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Vietnam

**LATIN AMERICA:** Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru

**MIDDLE EAST/EASTERN EUROPE:** Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia, Georgia, Montenegro, Romania



## a fresh start

“Marlene Chavez, the credit officer, has helped me so much. When I first applied for the loan, she was like a sister to me. I’m confident that I can talk to her and ask her advice. She encourages me. I’ve never had a loan before.”

—Macario Laura Quispe

In **Urinsaya town, Peru**, Macario Laura Quispe, 30, runs two small businesses—buying and selling livestock, and making wooden handles for shovels and picks. He credits World Vision’s loan program with his success. “With the loans I have been able to build up our assets,” he says. “Now my family won’t suffer, because we will always have food.”

Life wasn’t always so good. Eight years ago, Macario worked in a copper mine in Arequipa, Peru. “We were robbed of everything,” Macario says, “so we returned home to start all over again.”

Macario took out his first loan a year ago, and today he dreams of expanding his businesses, buying more farmland and tools.

Macario and wife, Elena Mejia, 28, have four boys, ages 6 months to 10 years old.



## giving back

◀ In **Zet, Guatemala**, Efrin Pirir’s loans fund two businesses—furniture making and flower growing. He employs 14 people, building furniture and picking flowers that will be exported to El Salvador. “When I employ others, I feel like I’m giving back,” Efrin says. “I’ve received and now I’m helping others.”

▶ In **Zet, Guatemala**, six years ago, life was hard for Elmer Alfaro and his family, who lived in a small, cramped shack.

Then Elmer took out a loan to make living-room furniture. Both his business and family now thrive. Elmer also hopes to finish high school and attend college. “My wife never had a chance to study. Before I graduate from school, I must teach five people to read, and my wife is one of them.

“When I was a farmer, I didn’t have time to dream. But [now I have] a chance to dream and to hope for better things.”



## at the heart

“We have gotten training, which helps us in our business. We didn’t understand much about business administration, how to handle money, how to sell in new places, how to negotiate. We’ve seen a big difference in our lives.”

—Edna Xajpot de Mucia

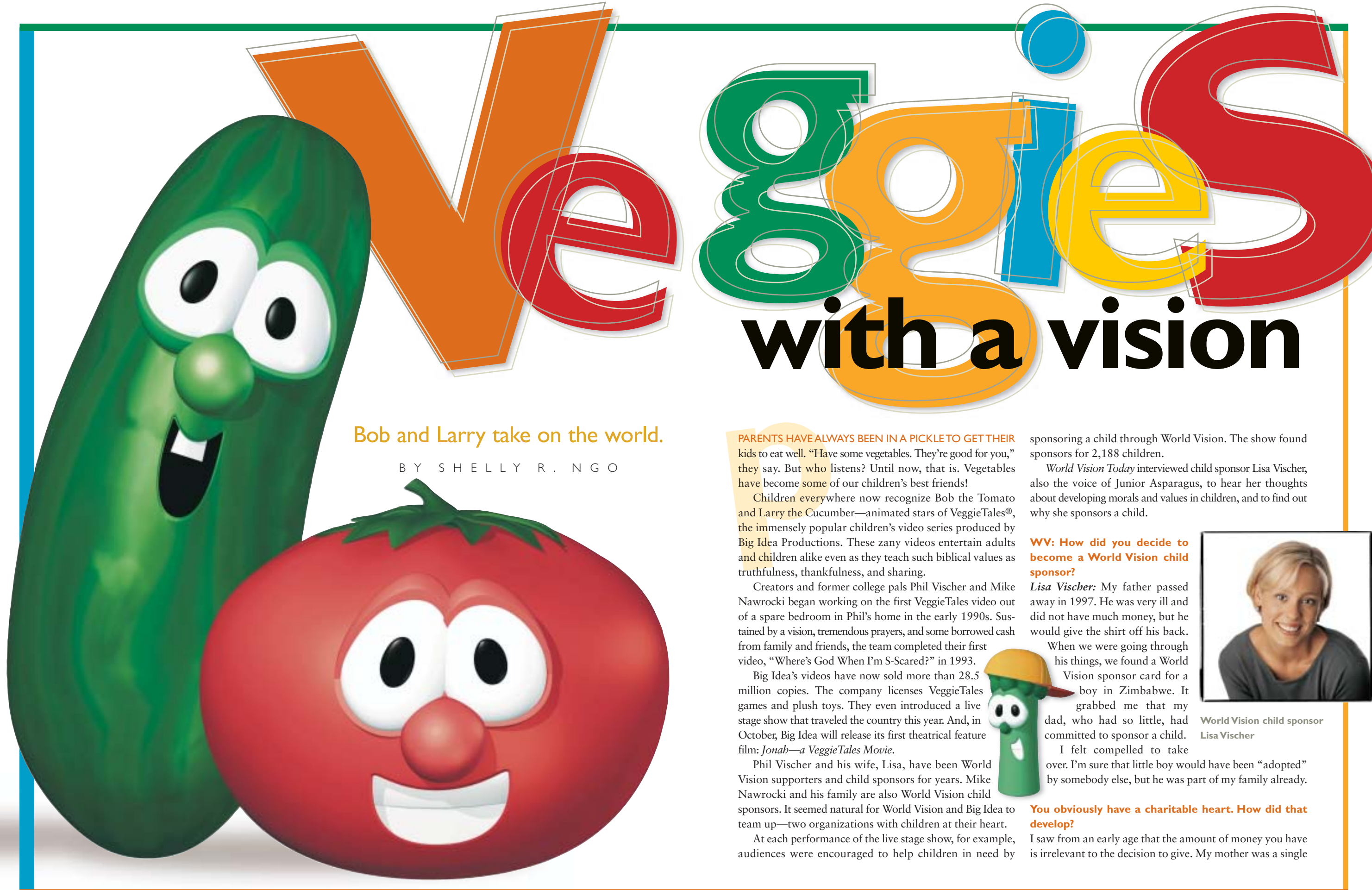
In **Patzun town, Guatemala**, participants in a women’s solidarity group learn that microenterprise development is about more than money. It’s about mentoring.

This is the fifth training session of a Guatemalan loan circle called *Corazon de la Familia* (“The Heart of the Family”). In workshops such as this, loan recipients are trained in sales and marketing. They discuss every aspect of business ownership from time management to quality control.

The women in this training session are among almost 2,400 World Vision-funded business owners in Guatemala, with more than \$830,000 in loans.



You can turn small loans into big change by funding World Vision microenterprise development projects. Go to [www.worldvision.org/magazine](http://www.worldvision.org/magazine) and find out how.



## Bob and Larry take on the world.

BY SHELLY R. NGO

**PARENTS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN IN A PICKLE TO GET THEIR** kids to eat well. “Have some vegetables. They’re good for you,” they say. But who listens? Until now, that is. Vegetables have become some of our children’s best friends!

Children everywhere now recognize Bob the Tomato and Larry the Cucumber—animated stars of VeggieTales®, the immensely popular children’s video series produced by Big Idea Productions. These zany videos entertain adults and children alike even as they teach such biblical values as truthfulness, thankfulness, and sharing.

Creators and former college pals Phil Vischer and Mike Nawrocki began working on the first VeggieTales video out of a spare bedroom in Phil’s home in the early 1990s. Sustained by a vision, tremendous prayers, and some borrowed cash from family and friends, the team completed their first video, “Where’s God When I’m S-Scared?” in 1993.

Big Idea’s videos have now sold more than 28.5 million copies. The company licenses VeggieTales games and plush toys. They even introduced a live stage show that traveled the country this year. And, in October, Big Idea will release its first theatrical feature film: *Jonah—a VeggieTales Movie*.

Phil Vischer and his wife, Lisa, have been World Vision supporters and child sponsors for years. Mike Nawrocki and his family are also World Vision child sponsors. It seemed natural for World Vision and Big Idea to team up—two organizations with children at their heart.

At each performance of the live stage show, for example, audiences were encouraged to help children in need by

sponsoring a child through World Vision. The show found sponsors for 2,188 children.

*World Vision Today* interviewed child sponsor Lisa Vischer, also the voice of Junior Asparagus, to hear her thoughts about developing morals and values in children, and to find out why she sponsors a child.

### **WV: How did you decide to become a World Vision child sponsor?**

**Lisa Vischer:** My father passed away in 1997. He was very ill and did not have much money, but he would give the shirt off his back.

When we were going through his things, we found a World Vision sponsor card for a boy in Zimbabwe. It grabbed me that my dad, who had so little, had committed to sponsor a child.

I felt compelled to take over. I’m sure that little boy would have been “adopted” by somebody else, but he was part of my family already.

### **You obviously have a charitable heart. How did that develop?**

I saw from an early age that the amount of money you have is irrelevant to the decision to give. My mother was a single



World Vision child sponsor  
Lisa Vischer





parent. We didn't have that much extra money, but the whole time I was growing up, she supported many missionaries and organizations.

I remember her saying things like, "I can't afford *not* to give some money away. The minute I start removing people from my lists because we're having a bad year, it makes a statement about my faith and God's provision for us."

Charitable giving is God's way of executing social justice, of using one person's surplus to help another's deficit. Also, money can have a tremendous grip. Giving is a protection against greed and materialism.

When Big Idea first started to break even, or at least when we weren't drowning anymore financially, I said to Phil, "We have got to start corporately giving some money away."

We decided to help organizations that shared our concerns for families and especially for children, and that mirrored a similar biblical or artistic vision. World Vision is certainly such an organization.

**How do you teach your own children about the importance of charity?**

I was at a Women of Faith conference two years ago and ended up at the sponsorship table. I thought, *My children need to have a child they can identify with.* My kids are 12, 8, and 5. My 12-year-old now sponsors a 12-year-old girl in Ethiopia; Jeremy, an 8-year-old boy in Thailand; and Sydney, a 5-year-old girl in India.

Anytime we get correspondence, we show them the letters and they keep the pictures in their rooms. My intention is to eventually transfer the sponsorships to my kids.

**What advice do you have for parents about instilling biblical values and beliefs in their children?**

One of the greatest challenges is that parents are so distracted and overwhelmed. We miss opportunities because big questions and issues always seem to come at inconvenient times!

Sometimes they come up at bedtime, when my daughter has my full attention. I'm exhausted; I just want to pray and go to bed, but it's a moment where she's inviting me in. Or another will say something that needs addressing, like, "I'm afraid to die," while I'm rummaging through the mail.

God gives parents unique discernment

for each child. We just need to recognize and take advantage of those moments.

I don't have to teach my children everything. I want to teach them how to seek God more than tell them how to live. I'm trying to demonstrate and model a spiritual reality in my own life. If they can follow me to the Father, he knows exactly what they need.

**VeggieTales videos teach wonderful values such as forgiveness or the importance of helping your neighbor. But why are they so goofy, with silly songs and off-the-wall humor?**

Phil came up with this analogy right at the beginning: Children today are used to consuming media Twinkies®—things that taste great but are absolutely unhealthy. The problem, as he pointed out, is that many of us who are concerned about that are trying to throw apples at them: "Here, this is good for you." The kid takes a bite and goes, "Ugggh, that's terrible. Give me some sugar!"

Phil said, "I don't think that approach is working. My goal is to make apples that taste like Twinkies in order to help give parents healthy media alternatives they don't have to force on their kids."

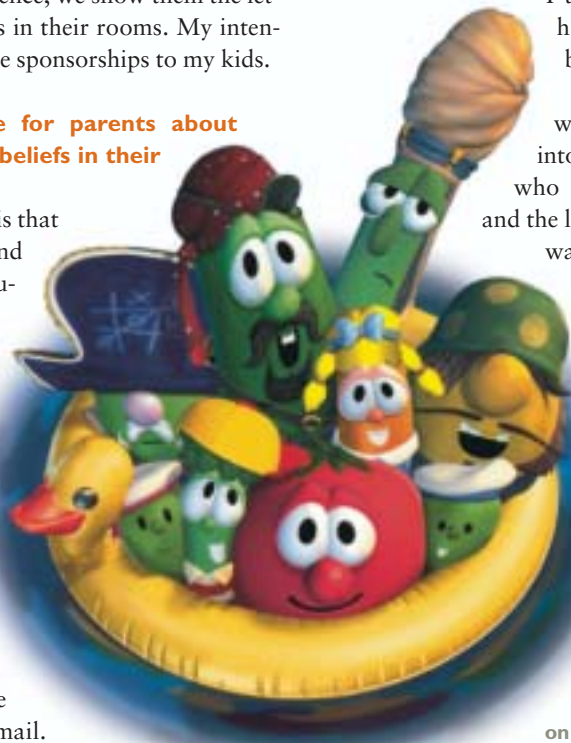
**As VeggieTales grows ever more popular, do you worry that the content will begin to stray from its biblical foundation?**

Our world view, mission, and foundation are deeply ingrained. And if the first seven years of unbelievable financial stress and challenges weren't able to shake that foundation, I think we can stand firm. There have been so many times we've been put to the test.

A great example is when we were trying to move our videos into the general market. The people who were distributing to Wal-Mart and the like said, "We can see that people want these videos. But the general market isn't ready for all of it. So you need to take out the references to God and the Bible verses, and then we'll sell your videos."

When you've got people on payroll whom you haven't paid, you have to consider that

*In Jonah—A VeggieTales Movie, The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything and the whole Veggie gang will take you on a wild ride that ends in a lesson of compassion and mercy.*



**How can we help our children be more compassionate?**

Seeing needs is a skill. It's hard to feel compassion or extend mercy if needs aren't even noticed. Even then, you can't force a child to want to meet a need—we cultivate that desire by letting them be the recipient of compassion. As parents, it's easy to become irritated instead of compassionate over little things. But how can we teach them compassion if we don't model it? So, look around your neighborhood. Sponsor a child. Give a hug. There are countless ways, if we just open our eyes. ■

*Jonah—a VeggieTales Movie opens at select theaters across the country on Oct. 4. For more information, visit the VeggieTales Web site at: [www.bigidea.com](http://www.bigidea.com)*

**the man behind larry boy**

**Laughter's the best medicine for silly song writer Mike Nawrocki, who once dreamed of being a missionary pediatrician.**

As he started college, Mike Nawrocki had little notion of the mission field where he would eventually serve. His plan called for four years of undergraduate work, then medical school to become a missionary pediatrician. But like the prophet Jonah, Mike knows what it's like to be redirected. Media became his mission field; and biblically based stories and silly songs became his antidote for children.

"Theater was something I loved growing up, but I didn't see that as a [career] option," says Mike, co-creator of VeggieTales® and the voice of Larry the Cucumber. At St. Paul (Minn.) Bible College, Mike's interest in theater led him to the puppet ministry team, where he met fellow puppeteer Phil Vischer. The two shared an appreciation for Monty

Python-style humor and soon began collaborating on scripts and eventually a children's video project, "Where's God When I'm S-Scared?"

Drawn to the possibilities of positively influencing children through great storytelling, Mike abandoned his dreams of medical school and joined Phil to start their own production company called Big Idea Productions. What was their "big idea"? The company's mission statement sums it up: "To markedly enhance the moral and spiritual fabric of our culture through creative media."

"We looked at what was available to kids at the time," Mike says. "A lot of stories were violent, sarcastic, and with the types of values that shouldn't be learned. We thought that if we could incorporate biblical values into really fun stories, we could make a big difference."

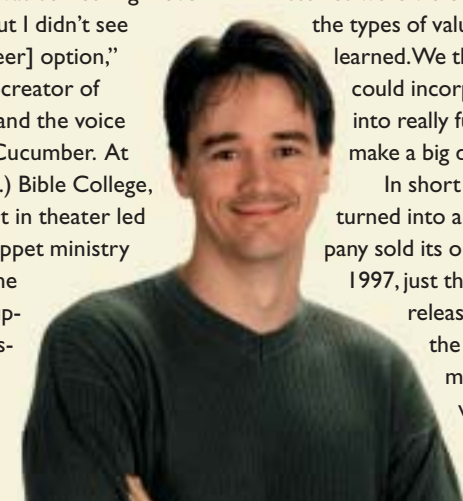
In short order, the big idea turned into a big success. The company sold its one-millionth video in 1997, just three years after the release of its first. Today, the series boasts sales of more than 28.5 million videos.

VeggieTales' popularity is certainly

encouraging, but Mike, the would-be pediatrician, finds the greatest satisfaction in letters he receives from parents of sick or special-needs children. "We hear from families whose kids are autistic or have some other ailment that inhibits them," he explains. "For some reason, VeggieTales is reaching them in a way that no other show is. When I hear that, it makes me feel great that we're able to make life a little bit better for a child."

Life is also better for World Vision-sponsored child David Alberto, thanks to Mike and his family. Mike's wife, Lisa, grew up in Bogotá, Colombia, so the family decided to sponsor a little boy from the same country. David's picture is posted on the family's refrigerator. Lisa helps their 4-year-old daughter, Alejandra, write letters to David in Spanish. Mike is touched by Ally's prayers every night: "Please help David Alberto have food. Help his mommy and daddy."

Through World Vision, Mike now has the chance to help children in other countries—those he once thought he'd work with directly. And through Mike's day-to-day mission field—the media—parents can help their children catch a vision of God. As the Veggies say, "Remember, kids, God made you very special, and he loves you very much." ■

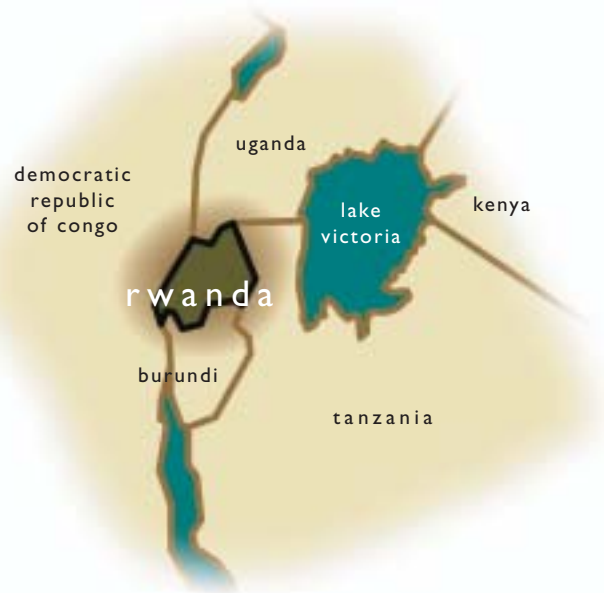


# MUSIC MAN

Story and photographs by Nigel Marsh



**A former sponsored child hopes to create harmony in Rwanda.**



**IF A PERSON'S LIFE COULD BE DESCRIBED AS A PIANO concerto,** Emmanuel K. Mutangana's score has had its slow and difficult passages, the occasional shift to a minor key, and its bright and lively sections.

The first notes of Emmanuel's life sounded in Kampala, Uganda, where he was born in 1974. His parents had fled to Uganda from neighboring Rwanda to escape repeated, violent ethnic conflict. His father, Claude, established a successful business in Kampala. The family, including Emmanuel, his four brothers, and their sister, lived comfortably in a large house filled with laughter.

Their lives drastically changed one night when Emmanuel was 13, when their father didn't come home from work. Claude had been robbed and murdered. "It broke my heart," Emmanuel remembers, "because I loved him so much."

Emmanuel's mother, Regina, suddenly found herself struggling to survive with no income and six children. The family moved into a much smaller house, but Regina still couldn't pay her children's school expenses. Emmanuel considered quitting school to find a job. *Lord, he prayed, if I can finish my studies and get a good job, I will do everything I can to look after [my mother], to take away her suffering, and show her how much I love her.*

Emmanuel's prayer was answered. A World Vision sponsor began supporting him and his siblings about four months after Claude died. Child sponsorship paid for their school fees, uniforms, and supplies. "It was like a miracle,"

Emmanuel says. To show their appreciation, the children wrote regular thank-you letters to their sponsors.

Emmanuel's life hit a new note that year when his English teacher, Rachel, coerced him into joining a church choir. "In those days, I only ever went to church at Christmas and Easter," Emmanuel recalls. Then he adds with a laugh, "But this lady used to cane us, and I feared what might happen if I didn't agree to sing in the choir."

During rehearsals, 14-year-old Emmanuel listened with a convicted conscience as the choir director explained the meaning of the hymns. "I had so much resentment and anger inside of me. I wanted to kill the people who killed my father. But as [the choir director] talked to me about Christ, I began to realize the bitterness inside of me and the need for forgiveness. Eventually, I gave my heart to God."

Music became a major part of Emmanuel's life. "I loved the piano, the way it looked, the way the sound came out," he says. "I began playing in the church every morning before school, and many evenings I would play until 10 p.m. One day, the choir director said I should play in church. I was so scared, but he insisted. From then on, he gave me extensive lessons. In church, he would play one of the hymns and leave all the others to me so that I would learn quickly." So began Emmanuel's musical career.

Emmanuel studied hard, and his good grades earned him a scholarship to high school. "My mother was so happy because she would not have been able to pay for me to continue school after World Vision's sponsorship ended," he says. (The age at which sponsorship ends for a child varies around the world, usually in the teen years.)

Emmanuel stayed in Kampala to finish secondary school when his mother and siblings returned to their homeland after the 1994 genocide, joining thousands of Tutsi Rwandans who relocated from Uganda. Regina hoped to establish a new life for her family. Emmanuel's choice to remain behind was a difficult one. "I felt so alone. But it developed my maturity."

Completing his studies in 1997, Emmanuel joined his family in Kigali, Rwanda's capital. "Since I was a child," he says, "I had heard stories about Rwanda from my parents. They taught us Kinyarwanda [his native language]. But I had never seen my country."

In Kigali, he began attending St. Stephen's Cathedral, and the Anglican church asked him to form a choir. Established with 15 members, it has since more than tripled in size. "It's a powerful choir," Emmanuel says proudly. "They have been invited to sing throughout Rwanda."



Church hymns helped calm Emmanuel's vengeful feelings. Now he hopes his music can do the same for others.

During this bright section of his life, another somber chord struck. Regina became terminally ill soon after Emmanuel moved to Kigali. He cared for her until she died several months later. "I was so demoralized," Emmanuel admits. "For more than a year, I could not see any meaning in life. After losing my father, my mother had become the most important person in the world to me."

Eventually, Emmanuel again found peace in his music and ministry. He became St. Stephen's musical director and taught piano in Rwanda's premiere private school, Green Hills Academy, to help support his siblings. His students included the children of Rwanda's president, Paul Kagame. Emmanuel was even chosen to sit on a panel to select Rwanda's new national anthem.

An American couple who attended St. Stephen's recognized Emmanuel's skill and leadership and decided to fund his university education. Today, Emmanuel is studying international relations, political science, and communications at Daystar University, a Christian institution in Nairobi, Kenya.

"I had wanted to become a musician to help my country," Emmanuel says. "But university broadens your mind, and I am realizing that music is just one tool to bring unity to Rwanda."

The 28-year-old hopes to become a peacemaker—a fitting task for one whose last name (Mutangana) means "one who doesn't hate." "What happened in our country should never happen again," he says, explaining that he intends to help Rwanda's warring tribes work together to prevent ethnic conflict. Perhaps he will achieve this as a politician or journalist; likely the healing power of music will play a part.

Emmanuel isn't sure how his concerto will unfold, but he believes God's fingers are on the keys. The best music, he says, is yet to come. ■

*With reports from Alison Preston*

Sept. 11, 2001, sparked an outpouring of prayer and support from World Vision donors, enabling many families to receive much-needed help.

By Kari Costanza Photographs by Jon Warren

# TWICE IN A LIFETIME



Jenny and Erasmo Fernandez, with some of their family: daughters Jessie (left) and Sheena, and Jessie's husband, Nelson (seated), with Jenny and Erasmo's grandchildren

descent from the 44th floor. "I wasn't running down the stairs. I was jumping."

Erasmo made it out of the building. Four of his five managers did not. "He lost half his friends," says his daughter, Jessie Peña. Her father lost 80 percent of his hearing as well, necessitating hearing aids. "My dad has totally changed," Jessie says. "He's nervous. He's shaking."

## MORE THAN MONEY

Jessie is by her father's side as he receives a check from World Vision's American Families Assistance Fund<sup>SM</sup>. "We represent the many people in the United States who are behind you, Erasmo," says World Vision's Tom Nolan.

As often as possible, World Vision presents checks to recipients in churches, rather than sending them by mail. "This is on behalf of World Vision, Gateway

Cathedral, and the Lord Jesus Christ."

World Vision chose Gateway Cathedral because it is close to Erasmo's home and offers counseling services designed for survivors. It is a beautiful moment, representing all that World Vision is about in New York City.

"We lift up this family," prays Bill Brooks, Gateway's director of counseling. "We pray that the coming year will be a year of blessing for Erasmo."

The group forms a tight circle. Erasmo clasps hands with Tom and Bill. Jessie holds her daughter, 9-month-old Lisette, in her arms.

After the prayer, Bill tells Erasmo, "I want you to know that you've got a place to come. You've got us." It is what Erasmo needs. He makes an appointment to start counseling.

Later, sitting at his dining-room table in his Staten Island

home, Erasmo pulls out the card from Bill, a certified grief-and-recovery specialist who attended a World Vision-sponsored victim relief seminar. The seminar gave counselors valuable tools to deal with the traumatizing event.

"This man is going to help me out," Erasmo says. "I tell you the truth. My life has changed completely. I'm not the same person I used to be. I'm nervous. I can't get to sleep. I keep forgetting. There's too much stress. I need somebody to talk to me like my father would."

After nearly 30 years with the World Trade Center, Erasmo is still too emotionally fragile to work. The family is getting by on his wife's salary and with help from World Vision.

"World Vision helped me pay the mortgage, my water bill, my gas bill, the lights, and the phone," says Erasmo's wife, Jenny, 50. "I even bought food. Don't ask me how, but I stretched that money."

## A SECOND ENCOUNTER

It is not Jenny's first encounter with World Vision.

"World Vision fed me. World Vision bought me clothes," she says, remembering her childhood in Ecuador. Her eyes fill with tears when she describes how she and her mother lived 40 years ago. "My mommy was a single mother. She was so poor. I was born in a little house. I didn't have a bed, just a mat."

The girl drank goat's milk diluted with water when her mother could no longer breastfeed her. Then a friend told her mother about World Vision. In the late 1950s, World Vision supported the work of missionaries in Ecuador.

"Mommy said, 'I'm going,'" Jenny says. "I remember a tall white man. There was a little card for me. He filled out my name on the card. He gave me food. I went through a long line getting lots of food, carrying my little *haro*, my jar."

Jenny never forgot the blue-and-white school uniform the missionary sewed for her, or the book and pencil for school. World Vision also gave her two pair of shoes—one pair for school, one for church—and a doll. "I brought the doll to New York when I came," she remembers.

It was 1967 when 15-year-old Jenny arrived in New York City. She worked as a nanny, earning \$40 a month, and did



Jenny poses with her parakeet, Polly, also from Ecuador.

piecework at a mink coat factory. After earning her GED and then her associate's degree from Staten Island College, she went on to Drake Business School in New York for further training in accounting. "When I was 18, I came back to Ecuador and brought my mother [to New York]. When I was 21, I brought all my brothers."

Erasmo emigrated from the Dominican Republic in 1969 and met Jenny at a party. "I saw my husband, and our eyes met," Jenny says.

"I gave her my phone number. She called me," Erasmo says.

"I kissed him first," Jenny giggles. "He was so quiet." The couple has four children: John, 32; Jessie, 28; Erasmo, 26; and Sheena, 17.

## A NEW LIFE—THE SAME DREAM

Thirty years later, Erasmo and Jenny live in a spotless, modest home on Staten Island. Every morning, Jenny takes the bus to her job as a secretary with the New York City Housing Authority. Each night she comes home to find Erasmo waiting for her with dinner ready.

Since Sept. 11, Erasmo doesn't like to be alone. "When someone is with me all the time, I'm OK," he says. "But when I'm alone—it's bad."

Jenny says she often finds Erasmo reading his Bible. "Before [Sept. 11] he used to read it, but now he's reading even more, and more carefully."

Life has changed for this family, but Jenny takes it in stride. "For an immigrant," she says, "my dream has come true. I have a good job. I have good kids. I have a good husband. This is my American Dream."

She is thankful to World Vision donors for helping to keep that dream alive. "God bless the people who give to World Vision. I don't know who they are, but God bless them." ■

## Twice tested by tragedy, twice blessed by World Vision.

### ERASMO FERNANDEZ FACED DEATH AT THE WORLD TRADE Center—twice.

On Feb. 26, 1993, he was just leaving the building when he heard a *boom*. Terrorists had exploded a homemade bomb in the underground parking garage. Six people were killed and more than 1,000 injured. Erasmo survived.

The second terrorist attack, on Sept. 11, 2001, was far more deadly—and terrifying.

"I was running as fast as I could," Erasmo, 49, says of his

Story and Photographs By Kari Costanza

# SERVING TO WIN



**A compassionate teen shuttles successfully between two worlds.**

**FOR MICHELE TVEDT, LIFE IS LIKE A GAME OF PINGPONG.** Only she's the ball. This sophomore at Lakes High School (Lakewood, Wash.) pingpongs between parents and bounces off peer groups with very different values.

She nearly met her match on the National Day of Prayer last May. Forty students met for prayer and worship around the flagpole before school. Michele, who organized the rally, was finishing as the final bus pulled up.

"The last person off the bus yelled, 'Praise God and praise Satan,'" she says. "He rattled off a bunch of curse words and said that religion in school sucks. Everybody in the group was looking to me."

Michele changed her tone, praying louder. "It was the hardest prayer I ever said in my life. I prayed not specifically for him, but for all of the people who felt like him, and for the people who were Christians and didn't have the courage to stand at the flagpole that morning."

Call Michele courageous, though, and she will laugh. "I'm flexible," she says. "God uses me as his vessel." Her e-mail address, girlofgod, is a virtual expression of her devotion. "I wanted an e-mail address that described me," she says. "I am a girl of God. I will do anything to make him happy."

That desire to please God added something new to Michele's life: World Vision's 30 Hour Famine. Through the Famine, young people raise money to fight hunger and, by pledging to go without food for 30 hours, gain an understanding of what hunger feels like.

Last year, across the country, 600,000 teens participated in the Famine, helping raise more than \$8.3 million to feed the hungry.

"The theme was 'Make Your Mark,'" Michele says, thinking back to 1998 when her dad handed her a Famine flier. "He said, 'You should get your group involved with this.'" Michele quickly ordered the materials from World Vision and threw together 30 hours of what she describes as "wild and crazy fun" for her Bible-study team.

"It was in the second year that things started to get serious," she says. "I realized that the Famine was able to reach out to the people in the group as well as raise money for people in other places. I saw how it was saving lives."

As a team leader, Michele watched, amazed, as her youth-group members transformed during the 30 hours—their



Michele leads classmates in a Bible study every Wednesday after school. "As Christians," she tells them, "we're living a life that everyone watches, whether we know it or not."

me," Michele says. "My life is totally different than it would have been."

Michele's parents, Cathy and Mike, divorced when she was 3. A few years later, Mike remarried, and Cathy married again two years ago. Now Michele has four parents. "Each one of my parents adds something else to me and has changed me in little ways," she says.

Michele spends Monday through Thursday with her mom and stepdad, and Friday, Saturday, and Sunday at her dad's house, a mile away. Her dad and stepmom have two daughters, Michele's half-sisters Allora, 8, and Megan, 4. "It makes me feel like a pingpong ball, going back

and forth so much," Michele admits. "I look forward to the day that I can have just one house, with one closet, and I will be able to spend all of the holidays at just one house!"

relationships with God deepening, as well as their compassion for the world's poor.

Last February, Michele led her fourth straight Famine, helping to organize a rally at the Tacoma Dome with the Sabercats hockey team, which donated proceeds from the fundraising "puck throw" to World Vision. Raising money and heightening awareness seem second nature for a girl taking her first sales and marketing class.

Diet sodas, lipstick-smudged latte cups, backpacks, and tubes of lip balm litter the classroom tables, leaving little room for papers. This morning, Michele and her fellow sales and marketing students fill out a worksheet, defining terms such as cost per thousand and direct-mail advertising.

Michele works quietly and quickly, tapping out equations on her calculator, totaling the cost of a newspaper ad. She works hard, gleaned potential fund-raising tools for her other life—raising money for the desperately poor.

After her second-period accounting class, Michele waits in the burrito/bagel line with her friend Leah. Leah has a great idea for a Christian T-shirt. "It could say, 'Got Jesus?'" she tells Michele. "On the back it could say, 'You'll never be thirsty again.'"

"This lunch line is where we come up with the best ideas," Michele says, the dimple in her right cheek deepening. The two girls head with their burritos to their special table to talk and eat with Christian friends and others who just like the casual, friendly atmosphere at the table.

In a sea of teenagers clad in midriff-baring hip-huggers, tottering about in clunky sandals, Michele dresses comfortably in blue jeans and a soft, gray, zippered sweatshirt. Her personality matches her tennis shoes—relaxed and easygoing.

The going hasn't always been easy. "The divorce shaped

and forth so much," Michele admits. "I look forward to the day that I can have just one house, with one closet, and I will be able to spend all of the holidays at just one house!"

The unconventional arrangement, though, is her choice: "I get to spend more time with the girls and it makes my family seem more involved with each other."

It's a young woman's grown-up solution to a potentially divisive situation. And other people can't help but notice. "She intimidates us," says Cathy of her hard-charging daughter's maturity.

"She says that a lot," Michele says. "Mom knows I like to dream big."

Many of Michele's friends—also noting her maturity and her drive—say she's perfect, implying that she's almost too good to be true. Michele hates to hear that. "I don't think people realize how many mistakes I make," she says. She especially balks when her big dreams collide with the answer "no" from someone.

"I'm not perfect," she adds, "but I follow a perfect leader."

Michele's leadership skills have earned her a spot on the 30 Hour Famine study tour this year. She will travel with three other teens to Peru to see hunger firsthand. In turn, she hopes to bring back to her school friends a bigger vision for making a difference through the 30 Hour Famine.

Just one more opportunity for this girl of God to ricochet between diverse groups, bringing together people with great needs and the teens who want to serve them. ■

Want to know more about World Vision events in the Seattle and Tacoma area? Log on to [worldvision.org/seattletacoma](http://worldvision.org/seattletacoma). Or, for 30 Hour Famine information, log on to [www.30hourfamine.org](http://www.30hourfamine.org).

# doctor *without* borders

used to take clean water for granted,” says Steve Hilton, head of the charitable Conrad N. Hilton Foundation. Then Steve traveled to Ghana. “I saw women with large buckets on their heads, walking miles and miles to get water that is often polluted,” he says.

Bringing clean water  
to Ghana was a challenge.  
Communicating  
the AIDS crisis to an  
apathetic public is tougher.

BY KARI COSTANZA

PHOTOGRAPH BY JON WARREN

Ghana is where Steve began to see how polluted water turns life into death. How it breeds repugnant diseases that can kill swiftly or slowly, but always painfully.

The person who helped bring that message home was someone he calls an “extraordinary man of God”—Dr. Joe Riverson.

That was a decade ago. Today there is another killer in Africa. At a Lutheran church outside Seattle, Wash., a congregation sits, mesmerized, as a speaker describes how AIDS turns life into death in Africa.

Head in his hands as he listens, Pastor Paul Freese is overwhelmed: “So, 100 times more children died in Africa last year than in the United States? And almost all the children living with AIDS live in Africa?”

The speaker at the podium nods, adding that in countries such as Botswana, more than 39 percent of the adult population has AIDS. “That’s one in three people,” says Pastor Paul, a shudder in his voice. The speaker nods.

The messenger, once again, is Dr. Joe Riverson. His medically trained mind and his compassion-fueled heart express more staggering statistics: 60 million infected worldwide since the epidemic began; most in Africa; many of them children.

Two extraordinarily grave issues. One extraordinary man, taking on both. After tremendous success in helping bring clean water to Ghana, the 18-year veteran of World Vision is part of the fight against AIDS.

## A BORN CHAMPION

Joe Riverson was born in 1937 in Kumasi, Ghana, the seventh of 11 children. His father, Isaac, was a Methodist schoolteacher, church organist, and choirmaster; and Elizabeth, his mother, was a strict disciplinarian and a believer committed to prayer. Joe’s parents valued education and music. Their influence lives on in Joe’s speaking and singing voice, which friends describe as “Lou Rawls with a British accent.”

Upon winning a college scholarship in 1957, Joe left Ghana to study medicine in Northern Ireland. A champion sprinter at

Queens University in Belfast, Joe won first place for Ireland at the Edinburgh Highland Games in 1959. “Hey, Joe Riverson! We want your autograph,” the children would call as he walked the streets of Belfast.

At Queens University he also met the Reverend George Good. “And Reverend Good was really good,” Joe remembers. “He was like Jesus. So loving, so humble.” Joe would model his life after this man in many ways.

Joe returned home to Ghana in 1964 after seven years abroad and served as a medical officer there. He won another scholarship for postgraduate training in child health and tropical diseases, studying in Belfast, Glasgow, and London. On his second return home to Ghana, he went back to hospital work. One patient’s daughter was a young woman with whom Joe had sung as a teen in his father’s Methodist choir. Henrietta was a dental nurse, educated in England. The two married and had Joseph Jr., now 22, and Kweku, 20.

In 1983, Dr. Joe met Ted Engstrom, then World Vision’s president. Ted was impressed with the doctor, and the next year Joe was asked to set up a health ministry for World Vision. Joe became a national director, running World Vision Ghana for seven years. In 1998, Dr. Joe led World Vision Liberia. In the meantime, he never stopped being a doctor.

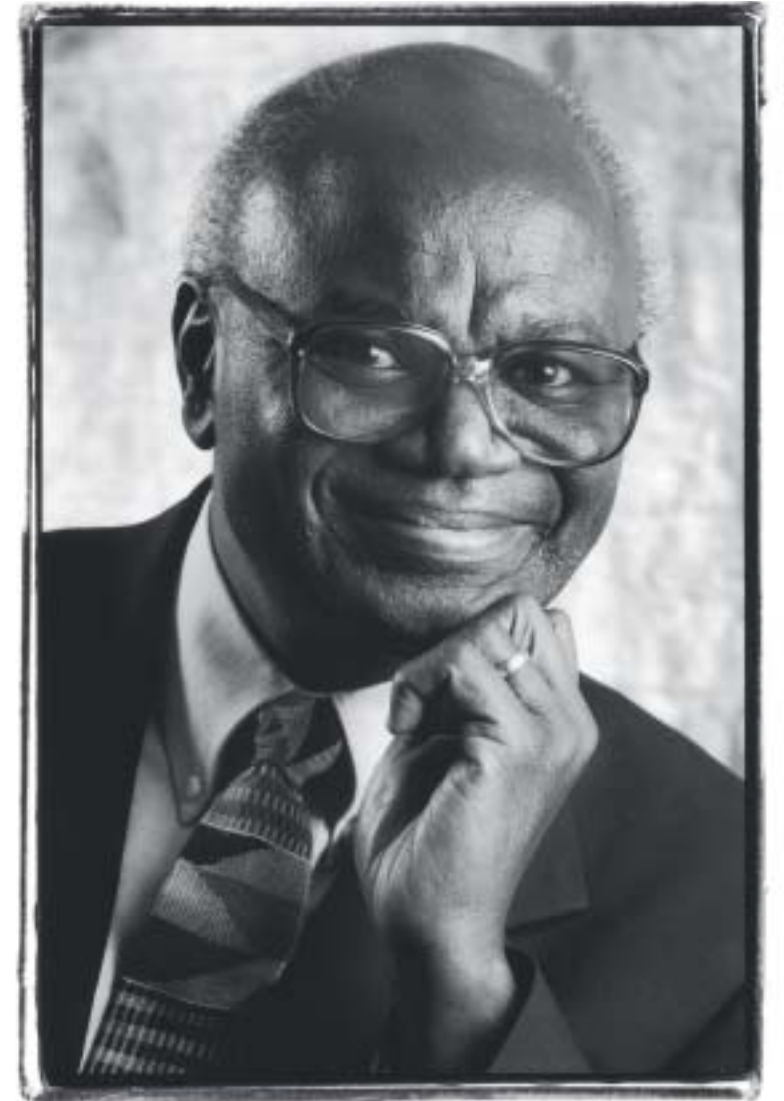
“Once a doctor, always a doctor, I guess,” remembers Agnes Phillips, who worked with Dr. Joe in Ghana. “He always carried his medical bag with him, even as national director.” She remembers when an 11-year-old boy was brought to Joe in excruciating pain. “His hipbone was dislocated. He was trembling and sweating with the pain. Tears welled up in my eyes. I had never seen a boy in so much pain.

“Though his eyes were dry,” she remembers about Joe, “the emotional struggle taking place within the doctor was evident. As he questioned the boy’s father, his voice shook a little. He paused, bit his lips briefly to steel himself, and continued in a straightforward, professional manner.”

## THE WATER REVOLUTION

In Ghana, Joe worked with funding from World Vision donors and the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation to bring clean water to villages rife with guinea worm. Guinea worm is a parasite that lives in dirty water. It just takes one swallow for the worm to enter the body and cause terrible sores, eventually making a hideously painful exit from a leg, a foot, or whatever path the worm decides to take.

“I hate the guinea worm. I detest it,” says Dyanne Hayes of the Hilton Foundation. Dyanne met Dr. Joe on a trip to Ghana



Truly without borders, Dr. Joe brings health to many corners of the world.

a decade ago, when the Hilton Foundation and World Vision first joined forces to find clean water.

Now, children can go to school because they don’t spend their days searching for clean water. Teachers come from remote places to teach because they don’t fear guinea worm and other water-related diseases. “We have accomplished so much through our incredible partnership,” Dyanne says. Being part of the clean water revolution in Ghana has forever changed her life. So has knowing Joe, whom she calls “one of God’s special messengers.”

## THE PRICE OF SERVICE

“Because of his concern for almost everyone, it is difficult to define who is his family,” says Emanuel Opong, who worked

Amazing Staff continued ►



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in Ghana with Joe for many years. "He listens and cares for everyone like his family member. He carried every child in his arms. He shed tears anytime he came across anemic and weak children. He consoled desperate mothers. Many times he used his personal money to pay for medicine for sick children."

That kind of personal investment has not come without cost. "There has been some alienation," Joe says sadly of his relationship with his boys. "I was always away, working with teams of nutrition officers and nurses in rural communities, then traveling frequently as a national director. They have found solace in their friends, some of whom are not the kind we would have picked for them."

Family devotions are helping to rebuild unity, as are the special dinners that bring them together when Joe returns from a speaking engagement. He takes interest in the boys' college studies and champions their good grades. And, of course, he and Henrietta pray.

"I am grateful to God for giving me a supportive, patient, and prayerful wife. Henrietta and I pray for the boys every night, asking the Lord to change their hearts and minds."

There is evidence that the boys are beginning to appreciate those fervent prayers. Recently Joseph Jr. was in a car accident. "He told us he knows that God hears the prayers that Henrietta and I say for them."

And it is with much prayer that Joe now articulates his health passions before a U.S. audience. He has spoken to church congregations, service groups, book clubs, schools—any group that will listen—detailing the causes of AIDS and how World Vision is working to prevent it and care for those who suffer. It's a two-year assignment that's taken him from World Vision's headquarters in Washington state to San Diego, to Atlanta, and to New York City, with America's heartland in between.

"Joe is uniquely gifted to talk to the American public about HIV," says Ken Casey, World Vision's special representative in charge of the Hope Initiative, World Vision's AIDS battle plan. "He's credible, he's passionate, and he's persuasive."

American Christians need persuading. A survey by Barna Research shows that Americans have little interest in the AIDS crisis and little desire to help. Only 7 percent of evangelical Christians say they would donate money to help AIDS orphans. Only 3 percent say they would give money for AIDS education and prevention.

Dr. Joe knows that education is key to prevention. "There is hope for children," he pleads, "if we can create an AIDS-free generation."

With the Lord involved, the prognosis for success is good, he says, just as it was with finding clean water. Yet it's a much tougher problem, and a much broader audience. And he prays they are listening. ■

# News

▶ In the year 2000, an estimated 50 million babies—41 percent of births worldwide—were not registered and given birth certificates. In later life, unregistered children may not be able to apply for passports or formal jobs, open bank accounts, or get marriage licenses. (UNICEF, "Birth Registration—Right From the Start")

## Good News



LISA JOLLY/WORLD VISION

### NEW HOUSES BRING HOPE

One couple's compassion has touched the lives of three families devastated by HIV/AIDS in Malawi. Atul Tandon, senior vice president of marketing and communications for World Vision U.S., visited this country where an estimated 300,000 young people have lost parents to the disease.

After Atul saw the poor conditions in which these orphans and their caregivers were forced to live, he and his wife, Birage, provided funds for new houses. Community members contributed labor.

Each of the families struggles courageously to survive despite the tragedy of AIDS. Housing was a big problem for Ethel and Christopher Ngwira, who care for 11 orphans in addition to their own six children. Ethel, who had spent many hours praying for her family, praises God for the new home.

Frail Esnart Chitsiru, who is more than 90 years old, used to live with 16 orphans in a fenced, grass-thatched enclosure that provided no protection against the elements. Now her brick, iron-roofed house keeps everyone safe and dry. The Mandenga family—six orphans and their grandmother (pictured in part, above)—once spent their days and nights in a crude shed, but now they rejoice in their beautiful, three-bedroom home.

"We never thought another person would be touched by our predicament," says Esnart John Mandenga, 62. "God is good, and he really cares."

## NEWS BRIEFS

### ASSISTANCE FOR SPONSORED CHILD, WEST BANK COMMUNITIES

Middle East—A World Vision-sponsored child was injured by tank artillery during clashes between Israeli and Palestinian forces in May. Tha'er El Hout, 13, was collecting money to help those who had lost their homes in Jenin when he was struck in the right eye. World Vision paid his travel expenses to Egypt for specialized medical treatment, which he couldn't get locally. World Vision and five other organizations together sent convoys bearing food, water, and medical supplies into West Bank communities, helping thousands of families running low on food and resources.



MARIANNE ALBINA/WORLD VISION

### SEVERE FLOODS AFFECT SPONSORED CHILDREN

Chile—Torrential rains caused the worst flooding Chile has seen in a century. The hardest hit were the countries' poorest children—including more than 3,000 sponsored children. Families in five World Vision programs fled their homes in the overcrowded shanty communities surrounding Santiago, the capital. "We are alive just because God is great," said Jocelyn Uribe, 10, a sponsored child who escaped from her house just before rocks crushed it. World Vision Chile participated in search-and-rescue operations, then set up temporary shelters and distributed clothes, food, blankets, medicine, and other goods to displaced families. Staff also conducted a health-education campaign to prevent infections and respiratory diseases, especially among children.

### GIRLS START SCHOOL IN FORMER TALIBAN CAMP



JAYANTH VINCENT/WORLD VISION

Afghanistan—Emblazoned on the walls of the Quala-I-Now Girls' High School are the words, "Education is the basis for the growth of our country." It captures the enthusiasm in communities where, for the first time in years, girls can attend school. Fifteen hundred female students attend the school, once a training camp for the Taliban. World Vision helped repair the building, fixing broken windows and cracked floors, and cleaning dirty walls. The organization also contributed to the rehabilitation of three other schools in Quala-I-Now and six in Herat, where 30 new classrooms were constructed.

News Briefs continued ▶

# News *cont.*

► Less than 10 percent of the worldwide expenditure on health research and development is devoted to the major health problems of 90 percent of the population—preventable or treatable diseases. Instead, wealthy nations pursue drugs for problems such as baldness, obesity, and depression in dogs. *(Medicins Sans Frontieres)*

► Last year, as many as 4 million people worldwide were bought, sold, transported, or held against their will in slave-like conditions. *(U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report")*

► In 2001, four out of five U.S. adults donated money to one or more nonprofit organizations. The average amount was \$1,097, a 19-percent increase from 2000. *(Barna Research Group)*

► Women account for eight out of 10 farmers in Africa and six out of 10 farmers in Asia. In one out of three households around the world, women are the sole breadwinners. *(World Food Programme)*

## NEWS BRIEFS *continued*

### PIERCE AWARD GOES TO LIFELONG PASTOR



*Myanmar*—A pastor inspired by World Vision's founder has won the 2001 Robert W. Pierce Award for Christian Service. The Rev. Saw Moo Pe (pictured at left with his wife) was a young man in Bible college when he met Bob Pierce at a crusade. Afterward, the Rev. Saw Moo dedicated his life to ministry. In addition to serving his church in Pathein for 40 years, he has

worked with ethnic minorities and lepers and has mentored many young people to become missionaries. "I mightily thank my Lord Jesus for using me all these years," he says.

### CLOSE ENCOUNTERS WITH V.I.P.S

*Cambodia, Ethiopia, Mauritania*—Britain's Princess Anne visited World Vision's Child Safe Tourism Project in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, in May. She commended the cooperation between World Vision and the Ministry of Tourism to reduce sexual exploitation of children by tourists. Also in May, World Vision Ethiopia National Director Getachew Wolde Michael visited Ethiopia's president, H.E. Girma Wolde Giorgis. President Wolde Giorgis, a Christian, was pleased to hear that World Vision collaborates with many denominations and faith-based groups, commenting, "Unity for a good cause is what the Ethiopian government is after." Another high-level

visit occurred in Mauritania, where President Maaouya Ould Sidi Ahmed Ould Taya met for the first time with an international organization—World Vision. Ray Norman, World Vision Mauritania national director, thanked the president for allowing the ministry to serve the poor in his country for almost two decades. President Ould Taya expressed pleasure that children are at the heart of everything World Vision does.

### NEW AUDIENCES RECEIVE WORLD VISION'S MESSAGE

*Korea, France*—World Vision's challenge to help the world's children reached huge audiences at recent international events. During the FIFA World Cup in Seoul, Korea, in June, World Vision messages appeared on giant screens around the city and throughout the broadcasts of matches, which enjoyed an estimated audience of 600,000 people a day. Also, visitors to the French Riviera viewed World Vision's outdoor TV broadcasts during the Cannes Film Festival in May.

### RELIGIOUS UNREST PLAGUES GUJARAT

*India*—World Vision served nearly 1,000 traumatized families uprooted last spring by religious violence in Gujarat. World Vision worked with the state government and other organizations to care for those taking refuge in camps after mob riots that killed more than 600 people. Working in a tense atmosphere, staff distributed food and later provided towels, bedding, utensils, and other goods for families setting up new homes. The unrest is the latest crisis to plague Gujarat, the state affected by a severe earthquake in January 2001.

### FAMINE FIGHTERS IN THE PUBLIC EYE

Teens participating in World Vision's 30 Hour Famine took this year's theme, "Make Some Noise," seriously when they appeared outside NBC's "Today" show studio in Rockefeller Center, New York City, in February. Last year, 600,000 young people went 30 hours without food as they raised awareness and funds—\$8.3 million—for World Vision's programs serving the world's hungry.



## S P O N S O R S H I P



Choose a special child to sponsor through World Vision by signing up online. Log on to [www.worldvision.org](http://www.worldvision.org), where you can browse a database of pictures and profiles of needy children. Select a child and sign up to be his or her sponsor. It's convenient and secure. By paying with your credit card, you help World Vision save money, thereby providing more resources for families overseas.

### SHARE THE LIGHT THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Imagine being one of the millions of Christians worldwide who don't have a Bible of their own. It's difficult for us to envision. Yet it's a reality in many countries.

World Vision has entered into an exciting partnership with the International Bible Society and Zondervan (Bible publishers) to provide the Scriptures to children and families in our projects around the globe. You can help share the light this holiday season with a believer in another country. For every Zondervan Bible you purchase from October through December 2002, a Bible\* will be sent for you, free of charge, to a child or family in a World Vision project.

Look for the "Share the Light" brochures at your favorite Christian retail store. When you purchase a Zondervan Bible, complete the form in the brochure and drop it in the mail. That's all it takes to be part of the Share the Light campaign to send a million Bibles overseas.

\*A complete Bible or a Bible portion will be sent for each Zondervan Bible purchased. Bibles will be distributed in countries that request them.



## Hope Update



### CREATING INROADS FOR FIGHTING AIDS

Through its HIV/AIDS Hope Initiative, World Vision continues to raise awareness and increase public response to the global HIV/AIDS crisis.

In southern Africa, World Vision gears up for its second annual AIDS Cycle Relay. From Aug. 22 to Sept. 21, cyclists from around the world will pedal 4,800 miles through Tanzania, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Swaziland, Lesotho, and South Africa—countries with high HIV/AIDS infection rates.

Local celebrities and national notables will draw crowds at events and border crossings along the route. World Vision expects to reach 55 million people with educational messages about HIV/AIDS.

In April, World Vision President Rich Stearns traveled with U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy Thompson and other high-level experts on a four-country African tour, focusing on AIDS-related projects.

That same month, a World Vision representative was among a small group testifying before the U.S. House International Relations Committee in a hearing on orphans and vulnerable children affected by AIDS. Key World Vision staff have also met with board members of the Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria to keep abreast of grants combating these diseases of poverty.

## Find out how you can get involved with World Vision

We'd love to share more information with you about our programs and about partnering with World Vision to care for the poor. Check the boxes on the card between pages 28 & 29, affix postage, and mail it to us.

### Share World Vision with your family

#### 1 FAMILY SPONSORSHIP

World Vision's newest sponsorship program allows you to break the cycle of poverty by sponsoring an entire family in Ghana, Romania, Sri Lanka, or El Salvador.

#### 2 WORLD VISION GIFT CATALOG

On behalf of your loved ones, give unique gifts such as goats, bicycles, or medical supplies to those in need.

### Bring World Vision to your church

#### 3 30 HOUR FAMINE

Get your youth group or school involved in the fight against world hunger by participating in World Vision's nationwide annual famine event. [www.30hourfamine.org](http://www.30hourfamine.org)

#### 4 EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE GUIDE

Order "Planting Seeds of Hope," a catalog of books, videos, and publications about urgent global issues.

#### 5 LOVE INC

Get involved with a program that's mobilizing the Church to transform lives and communities in the United States.

#### 6 LOVE LOAF

Help your congregation learn more about world poverty as you collect offerings for your church and World Vision.

#### 7 REACHING OUT TO THE POOR

A World Vision staff person will call you with ways World Vision can help your church reach out to the poor.

### Expand your world vision

#### 8 EMERGENCY RELIEF RESPONSE

Receive e-mail updates on how World Vision is responding to emergency relief situations. *Must provide e-mail address to receive these updates.*

#### 9 WOMEN OF VISION

Join a volunteer ministry that serves the poor; learning from and advocating for women in developing countries. [www.womenofvision.org](http://www.womenofvision.org)

#### 10 WORLD VISION'S PROGRAMS IN THE UNITED STATES

Find out what World Vision is doing for children here at home through tutoring programs, inner-city youth initiatives, and other domestic ministries.

#### 11 WORLD VISION ADVOCACY

Learn how to be an advocate for the poor and those in need around the world. Go to [www.worldvision.org/globalissues](http://www.worldvision.org/globalissues).

### Show World Vision to your company

#### 12 MATCHING GIFTS

Your employer may match your contribution to World Vision.

#### 13 DONATE GIFTS-IN-KIND

Discover how your company can donate new, surplus inventory that can save lives in the United States and overseas.

#### 14 DONATE SHIPPING DOLLARS

Funds for shipping gifts-in-kind can leverage the value of sending products overseas.

#### 15 CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

Your company can benefit by supporting World Vision.

### Share your resources with World Vision

#### 16 GIFT PLANNING

Establish a legacy of hope by including World Vision in your will or learn about other estate-planning options.

#### 17 KEY CONTRIBUTORS

Donate your car, boat, real estate, or recreational vehicle to World Vision and receive a tax deduction for your contribution.

#### 18 LPGA PLAYING PARTNERS

Support World Vision by supporting your favorite top female golf pro, tackling poverty through her game.

### Volunteer through World Vision

#### 19 ARTIST ASSOCIATES

Help Christian artists such as Twila Paris, Margaret Becker, and others promote child sponsorship by volunteering at a local concert.

For more information, call (888) 511-6518 or visit the World Vision Web site: [www.worldvision.org](http://www.worldvision.org)



PHILIP MAHER/WORLD VISION

# Praying in Prime Time

*Every evening, God gives us another opportunity to touch the world.*

A NEWS CAMERA PANS THE STREET, WHERE bloodied human remains lie scattered like so much debris. "Comfort the families, Lord," I pray. "Somehow use this terrible act to your glory, and bring peace to the Middle East."

A young man walks with police into a building and disappears from view. He has driven across five states, planting bombs in rural mailboxes, which resulted in injury to six people. "Bring repentance to his heart, Lord, and save his soul. . . ."

The images flash by.

Congolese families trudge across an unforgiving landscape in the wake of a volcanic eruption. It isn't the first time they've fled for their lives. "Father, give them the comfort only you can provide. . . ."

Every weekday evening, the networks give us news in prime time.

And God gives us a prime opportunity.

As the images of terror, murder, and mayhem of every kind roll on, seemingly into infinity, it is definitely not a time to put our feet up and relax; it's a time to put our heads into the wind, as it were, and pray.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY JAN KARON

Jan Karon, a World Vision supporter, is the author of the best-selling *Mitford Years* novels. Jan writes to "give my readers an extended family, and to applaud the extraordinary beauty of ordinary lives."

Television is about "sound-bites." Thus, we're forced to utter "prayer bites" ("sentence prayers," they're sometimes called). These short, urgent prayers can't possibly cover all the needs of every situation. Yet we believe, with St. James, that the "effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

But perhaps we've already prayed today—at the top of the morning, while driving to work, on the way home, sitting in traffic.

Should we really gear up

and expend our energies during a much-deserved down time at the end of the day?

St. Paul exhorts us to "pray without ceasing"—in short, while playing, running, working, cooking, resting, and even, surely, while watching television.

In truth, I think prime time can be one of the

*Prime-time prayer may be God's way of helping us connect with his own suffering for the pain of the world.*

most crucial prayer times of our day. It may even be God's way of helping us connect with his own suffering for the pain of the world.

Since Sept. 11, we've been given a new way of valuing suffering in other parts of the globe. Now, we know a little better how loss and mourning feel in the lives of others, for we've experienced them in our own.

Clearly, we can't save the world by praying for the world. Saving the world is God's job. But we can do a great deal to help—we can bring the concerns of our hearts to the throne of our Sovereign, doing as St. Paul advised: "I exhort, therefore, that . . . supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men."

Indeed, there will occasionally be good news in prime time—offering a chance to give thanks for someone who's performed an act of generosity or courage. "Thank you for blessing that person, Lord! May he fulfill your plan for his life."

We've heard of armchair travel—that lovely time when we sit with a book that takes us to the world's distant corners and explores their beauty and wonder. Let us devote time, as well, to armchair prayer—going, via the media, into the far reaches of America and the world to pray for those who desperately need our intercession. ■



# a child's life is different because of you

## Thousands of World Vision sponsors

have expanded their hearts—  
sponsoring two, three, four, and  
in some cases up to 50 children.

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the difference they could make in  
one child's life.

Please consider opening the  
door of your heart by sponsoring  
another child today.

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## Yes, I want to sponsor another child for \$26 a month.

### 1. Sponsorship Options

I want to sponsor a:  boy  girl | living in:  Africa  Latin America  
 Asia  Middle East  where the needs are greatest

### 2. Giving Options

**Automatic Bank Withdrawal.\***  
I authorize my bank to debit my account  
\$26 each month and send it to World  
Vision. Please make the deductions on  
the \_\_\_ 5th or the \_\_\_ 20th day of  
each month. (Mark your choice with an "X"  
and please include a check marked "VOID" or a  
deposit slip from your bank account.)

**Gift Enclosed.** I've included my first  
monthly gift of \$26 to help another  
needy child and his or her community.  
(Please make your check payable to World Vision.)

**Debit/Credit Card.** Charge my  
monthly sponsorship gifts to my debit  
or credit card:



Card No. \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

A82WSW

### 3. Sponsor Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature (required) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

\*Our promise to you: World Vision reviews the monthly sponsorship  
commitment on an ongoing basis to maintain the quality of its programs and  
respond to the needs of the children and communities it serves. As a partici-  
pant in World Vision's Automatic Giving Plan, you will receive 30 days advanced  
written notice of any future rate changes and will have the option to decline.

World Vision

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