

# WorldVision

AUTUMN 2006

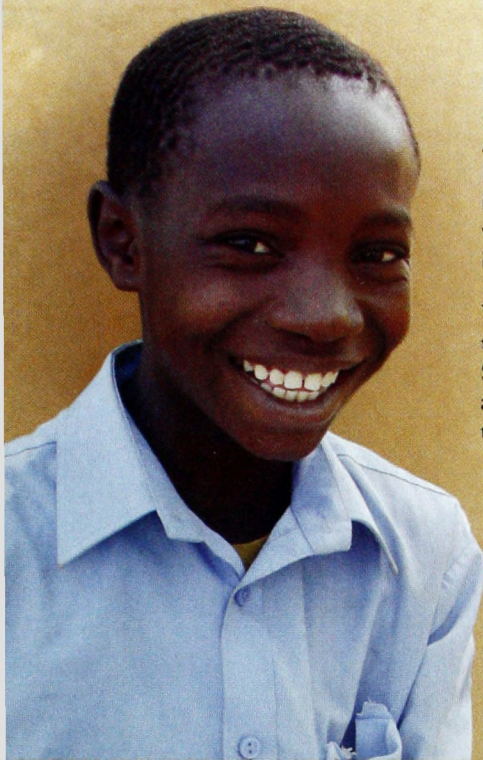
*Good News About*

# AIDS

A Brighter Future in Kasangombe

# “I want to be president of Zambia”

— Francis, age 12



Like 15 million other children worldwide, Francis has lost a parent as a result of the AIDS crisis. But thanks to a caring sponsor, he hasn't lost hope—or the ability to dream big. The monthly support his sponsor provides means Francis can focus on the future, instead of worrying about today.

You can help a child like Francis survive the AIDS crisis—and thrive in life. Your \$35 monthly HopeChild gift will protect and nurture one hurting child by providing things like:

- Access to improved nutrition, clean water, health care, and education
- Age-appropriate HIV prevention training based on biblical values
- Programs to mobilize local churches and organizations to provide additional HIV prevention and AIDS care

## Sponsor a HopeChild today!

Please send me information and the photo of a child affected by the AIDS crisis.

I want to sponsor a  boy  girl  either

I've enclosed a check or money order for my first \$35 gift (payable to World Vision).

I authorize World Vision to charge my \$35 monthly sponsorship gift to my credit/debit card:

VISA  MasterCard  American Express  Discover

Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Signature (required)

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First name \_\_\_\_\_ Last name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

World Vision will not rent, sell, or share your personal information with third parties.

**Mail this coupon today or call 1.866.962.4453 to start your sponsorship!**

*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 families and communities it serves. As a participant in World Vision's Automatic Giving Plan, you will receive 30 days' advance written notice of any future rate changes and will have the option to decline.*

**World Vision**

Building a better world for children

World Vision  
Child Sponsorship  
P.O. Box 70050  
Tacoma, WA 98481-0050

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**WorldVision**

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### » ON THE COVER

**HopeChild sponsorship funds have constructed 56 classrooms in Kasangombi, an AIDS-ravaged community in Uganda (see story on page 12). Photograph by Jon Warren**

**World Vision**, 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 child 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.

We welcome your comments and/or address changes. Send them to: The Editor, World Vision magazine, P.O. Box 9716, Federal Way, WA 98009-9716 or e-mail us: [wvmagazine@worldvision.org](mailto:wvmagazine@worldvision.org)

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**WORLDVISION.ORG**

On World Vision's website, you can:

- Sponsor another child •
  - Apply for a job at World Vision •
  - Learn about volunteer opportunities •
  - Listen to World Vision radio programs •
- Visit [www.worldvision.org](http://www.worldvision.org) today!

**World Vision**

Building a better world for children

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KARIE HAMLEN/WORLDBEYOND VISION

JON WARREN/WORLDBEYOND VISION

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# FROM THE PRESIDENT

## 25 Years » 40 Million Deaths » 15 Million Orphans »

When I review the statistics of the AIDS pandemic, a quote by Joseph Stalin comes to mind: "One death is a tragedy; one million deaths is a statistic." But he was wrong. I have looked into the eyes of women and children dying of AIDS and I have held orphans in my arms. Each of these broken lives is a tragedy that breaks the heart of God—they are not statistics.

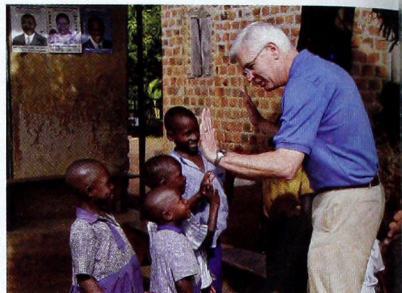
My first exposure to AIDS was during a trip to Uganda in 1998, just 60 days after becoming World Vision's new president. I witnessed firsthand the ravages of this disease on families, communities, and most disturbingly, on orphaned children left behind. I saw communities reeling from AIDS, unwilling to discuss it openly because of shame and stigma, and paralyzed with fear. A 13-year-old boy named Richard who was raising his two brothers alone became a symbol for me of the desperate plight of children in the wake of AIDS. That day, I became an AIDS activist.

Since then, World Vision has placed the AIDS pandemic squarely at the center of our work with the poor in Africa and in other countries where the pandemic is spreading. We have trained more than 7,000 African pastors to help their churches fight back, and we have implemented programs equipping beleaguered communities to organize their own response to turn the tide of this disease.

*"Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows."* —Matthew 10:29-31

We have also sounded the alarm and rallied Americans to the fight against AIDS through every avenue available to us. I and many of my colleagues have spoken hundreds of times in dozens of cities to pastors, students, child sponsors, the public, and the media with the message that AIDS is the greatest humanitarian crisis of our generation—and that we must mobilize individuals, churches, civic groups, and our government to respond.

I returned to a different Uganda this year and witnessed a total transformation from what I saw eight years ago. I visited Kasangombe, a World Vision project (see page 12). Here is a community determined to fight back. AIDS is openly discussed. Pastors are leading the charge. Aunts, uncles, and grandmothers are raising the orphaned children left behind by other loved ones. Community volunteers pay frequent visits to the sick and check in on the orphans.



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

### Rich Stearns visits Kasangombe.

I went to a school where hundreds of children were singing songs and performing dramas about the threat of AIDS and the steps they can take to defeat it. I sat in on a junior-high class where the teacher (another community volunteer) enthusiastically led students through World Vision's scripturally based AIDS prevention curriculum. Kasangombe is winning the fight against AIDS, with help from hundreds of World Vision sponsors.

At the end of our visit we met with the community volunteers in their rugged little church. They were so proud of what they had accomplished. Their leader said something I will never forget: "Today we stand on World Vision's legs, but tomorrow we hope to walk in World Vision's shoes." They, too, had become AIDS activists.

Kasangombe is not alone—this same story is repeating in communities across the continent. But the battle is far from won. More resources, more education, and more activists are needed. In this issue, you will read about the many different ways Americans have become activists on behalf of the millions of widows and orphans who still need our help.

Just before leaving Uganda, I visited Richard. He is now 21, working as a bricklayer, and still living with his two brothers—all three are doing well. The safety net worked. Sorry, Mr. Stalin, but Richard is not a statistic. ■

# FRONT LINES

Compiled by James Addis

gift planning

## Are you leaving your legacy to chance?

Creating or updating your estate plan is one of the most important things you'll ever do.

### A plan protects you

An estate plan ensures your loved ones—and the causes you care about—will be provided for as you wish after your lifetime. Without one, you forfeit the right to determine who will benefit from the assets you've worked so hard to build. That's why everyone needs an estate plan. No estate is too small!

### You can create a tradition of caring

Passing along your values can be just as satisfying as providing for your loved ones. The legacy of generosity you foster now can change children's lives for generations.

(over, please)

### FREE Legacy Planner!



Complete the card between pages 28 and 29 to request your copy of our Legacy Planner—a FREE resource for faithful friends like you.

The plans of the righteous are just . . .  
the house of the righteous stands firm.

PROVERBS 12:5, 7



l), students at Seattle  
d campus to encourage  
nted similar campaigns

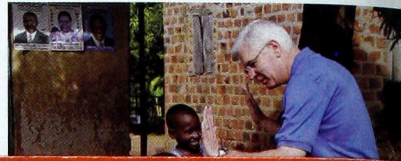
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- Sponsor a HopeChild (see story on page 12).
- Assemble a Caregiver Kit (see story on page 21).
- Connect your church with an African community (see story on page 22).
- Participate in a World AIDS Day event (visit [www.worldvision.org/hope](http://www.worldvision.org/hope)).
- Pray for an end to AIDS (visit [www.worldvision.org/hopeprayerchain](http://www.worldvision.org/hopeprayerchain)).



# FROM THE PRESIDENT

**25 Years** >> **40 Million Deaths** >>  
**15 Million Orphans** >>



**W**hen I looked into the eyes of a young boy who had been orphaned, I realized that I had held on to a hope that breaks the heart. My first experience was just 60 days after I took firsthand the most disturbing realities of a world of pain, shame and suffering. Richard who was for me of the day, I became... Since then, I have been at the center of the lives of 7,000 African children who have implemented their own...



*“Are not two sparrows sold  
for a penny?  
If not one of them  
falls to the ground  
apart from your  
father’s will,  
very hairs of your head  
are also numbered.  
And so, if you do not  
leave one of these  
smallest things,  
worth more than man  
can see, without  
your Father’s will,  
how much more  
will he care for  
you!”*

We have fought against... my colleague pastors, students, and our government—and the... I returned... transformation... a World Vision... mined to fight... charge. Aunt... children left... frequent visit...

## Easy ways to continue your impact

We are deeply grateful for all you've done to turn despair into hope for children in need. You've made a lasting, life-changing impact!

Did you know there are many ways you can help make a difference like this for even more children and families beyond your lifetime? For example, depending on your unique goals and needs, you could name World Vision:

- In your **will** or **trust**
- As a beneficiary of your **retirement asset**
- As a beneficiary of your **life insurance policy**

For details, request World Vision's *Legacy Planner* today using the card between pages 28 and 29. This FREE guide is filled with valuable insights you can use in creating or updating your estate plan.

## Let us know of your choice

When you include World Vision in your estate plans, please let us know. You'll allow us to thank you now *and* help us plan more effectively to meet the needs of children and families in years to come.

To speak with a Gift Planning representative today, please contact us at **1.866.962.4453** or [giftplanning@worldvision.org](mailto:giftplanning@worldvision.org).

*Complete the card between pages 28 and 29 today to receive your FREE copy of World Vision's Legacy Planner.*



Nothing contained herein is intended to provide legal advice or services. It is recommended that you consult with independent legal and tax professionals to address your individual needs.


Compiled by James Addis

## 5 Ways You Can Act on AIDS

In the early-morning hours of last year's World AIDS Day (Dec. 1), students at Seattle Pacific University placed photos of AIDS-affected children around campus to encourage prayer. Scores of college students across the country have mounted similar campaigns against the deadly pandemic.

**Anyone can act on AIDS.**  
Explore these ways to channel your compassion:

- Sponsor a HopeChild (see story on page 12).
- Assemble a Caregiver Kit (see story on page 21).
- Connect your church with an African community (see story on page 22).
- Participate in a World AIDS Day event (visit [www.worldvision.org/hope](http://www.worldvision.org/hope)).
- Pray for an end to AIDS (visit [www.worldvision.org/hopeprayerchain](http://www.worldvision.org/hopeprayerchain)).



Remy Oneida  
Dominican Republic  
166496-6320  
Girl - Jun. 24, 2002





INDONESIA

JAMES EAST/WORLD VISION

## WORLD WATCH

### INDONESIA | SHAKEN AGAIN »

Property damage following a 6.3 magnitude earthquake in central Java was comparable to that suffered by Indonesia during the Asia tsunami. More than 120,000 homes were wrecked by the May quake. Survivors struggled to pitch tents amidst the rubble. World Vision responded by supplying thousands of tarpaulins, torches, soap, stoves, and kitchen utensils. More than 5,000 people were killed in the quake.

**KENYA | CHILDREN'S CHARITY »** Children in Meibeki presented World Vision with 200 bags of grain as a contribution to the organization's food aid efforts. The initiative started when one of the children saw a starving child on television and asked her mother if she could help. The request sparked a community-wide appeal for maize. About 3.5 million Kenyans faced food shortages this year due to drought, though Meibeki was unaffected. World Vision's initial aid efforts targeted 500,000 people. »



INDONESIA

JAMES EAST/WORLD VISION



AFGHANISTAN



**TOP and LEFT:** Indonesia, shaken again. **CENTER:** Countering Afghanistan's health woes. **ABOVE:** Zambian widows dealing with drought.





**RECESS** » Last year, World Vision established 180 Child-Friendly Spaces, providing safe places for thousands of children to play and heal after surviving the Asia tsunamis.

**AFGHANISTAN | SHOT IN THE ARM** » A World Vision immunization campaign in Ghor has dramatically reduced outbreaks of measles and whooping cough. Afghanistan has the fourth-highest infant mortality rate in the world, but health manager Farooq Mansour said many of these deaths could be prevented by vaccination. World Vision is working closely with the Ministry of Health to counter the high rates of child and maternal deaths in the country.

**ZAMBIA | WIDOWS DEFENDED** » The high incidence of property grabbing following the death of husbands due to AIDS has prompted World Vision and the International Justice Mission to partner in countering the practice. Often the husband's relatives will claim the family home and possessions, leaving the widow destitute. The partnership has hired three attorneys to handle disputes, and 76 cases have been resolved in the last three years.

**SUDAN | PEACE DIVIDEND** » The end of the decades-long war in southern Sudan has given humanitarian agencies the confidence to embark on a \$6 million rehabilitation program in Gogrial County. World Vision will work alongside Italian and German organizations to improve the food supply, roads, health services, and access to water for 200,000 people.

**ASIA | ENDURING EFFORT** » About 4,500 permanent homes are being completed as part of World Vision's continuing tsunami response program. Communications manager Kristy Allen-Shirley said the organization was also pressing ahead with rebuilding schools, farms, shopping areas, harbors, canals, roads, and businesses. So far, World Vision has expended \$130 million on tsunami operations.

**CHECHNYA | FAMILY TIES** » World Vision is helping 100 households establish sheep-breeding businesses so families can establish a secure income. Program manager David Womble said desperate individuals were often exploited after being lured from the war-torn republic with false promises of good wages. He said the establishment of small enterprises within Chechnya could help keep families together and avoid the psychological wrench of leaving their homes.

**MALI | WATER MATTERS** » World Vision will boost water initiatives with the acquisition of a new drilling rig and two solar-powered water-supply systems. Access to clean water is critical in improving health, education, and economic development. During the dry season, children abandon school in favor of fetching water from remote sources. Much of the funding for the program comes from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation. ■



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

CHILD-FRIENDLY SPACE



**FASTFACT** » In the last five years, 500 million children have been immunized against measles. The effort has slashed global measles deaths from 871,000 to 454,000. *Source: UNICEF*



**ABOVE:** Child-Friendly Spaces bring healing in Sri Lanka. **BELOW:** Water initiatives launched in Mali.



DAVID WARD/WORLD VISION

MALI



## Sight of Slums Broadens Vision »

*A business trip yields an unexpected bonus.*

When high-tech laser engineer Mark Keirstead, 47, made a business trip to Mumbai, he faced a problem familiar to many visitors to India: dozens of children pressing their noses against his taxi window, begging for food.

### **A trip to India gave Mark Keirstead a new mission.**

"I remember feeling humbled and heartbroken but not knowing what to do," he said.

During a fanciful moment, he thought of opening his taxi door, allowing them inside, and taking them all back to the United States. He quickly canned the idea, but he became convinced that God had allowed him to see life in Mumbai slums for a reason.

The California man felt the answer came when World Vision invited him to become a Child Ambassador. Although Mark and his wife already sponsored four children, the ambassador program would give him the opportunity to encourage other people to follow suit and transform the lives of many more children in need.

Later, Bill Buchholz, pastor of the Family Community Church in San Jose, allowed Mark three minutes at services over two weekends to talk about his new mission.

Three minutes was all Mark needed. After each service, scores of congregants pressed three deep against tables displaying profiles of children available for sponsorship.

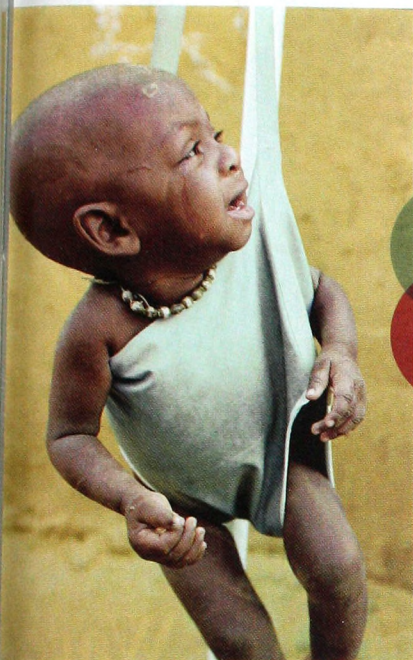
"One woman looked across the table filled with children's faces and just started weeping. She took my arm and asked me to choose a child for her. So I introduced her to a child called Peaceful. ... Then she really lost it," Mark says.

More than 200 children were sponsored over the two weekends.

Mark says he felt the response was God's work. "I love to talk about something I'm passionate about, but I felt God put the words in my mind and heart." ■

» For more information on the Child Ambassador program, visit [www.worldvision.org/change](http://www.worldvision.org/change).

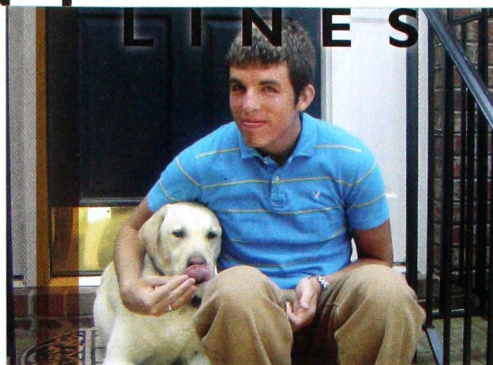
GARY FONG/GENESIS PHOTOS



**UNEVEN NUMBERS »**

**Sub-Saharan Africa has:  
24% of the global burden of  
disease and 3% of the world's  
health workers.**

Source: *The World Health Report 2006, WHO*



COURTESY ANDREW MILES

**changeAGENT**

**Name:** Andrew Miles, 22  
**Home:** Atlanta, Ga.  
**Occupation:** Student  
**College:** Taylor University, Ind.  
**Program:** Acting on AIDS  
**Buzz:** As a director of Acting on AIDS on Taylor's campus—a student-led advocacy movement—Andrew helped to create a Christmas gift catalog to support the needs of AIDS-affected people in Africa and Asia. Purchases from the catalog raised more than \$50,000.

*“We are becoming global citizens whether we like it or not, and we need to be responsible for helping those who are struggling. We want to love those we don't know or those whom the rest of the world rejects.”*

— Andrew Miles

» **More ways to change your world: go to [www.worldvision.org/change](http://www.worldvision.org/change) or call (866) 962-4453.**



**FAST FACT » There are 19 million refugees, asylum seekers, and displaced persons in the world today.** Source: UNHCR

**Why I love**  
BEING A CHILD SPONSOR

**M**y husband and I couldn't have children of our own, so we became sponsors as a way of touching at least one child's life. We looked forward to the letters from our sponsored daughter” and watching her grow through the years in the pictures World Vision sent.

Then in 2003, we were fortunate to adopt two children from Ukraine. With that expense and the fact that I curtailed my work hours, it was more difficult to fulfill our monthly sponsorship, but we decided to keep it up, not wanting to disappoint our sponsored child. Recently, we received notification that our sponsored child had moved and was no longer in World Vision's program. It was our chance to drop out of sponsorship, but instead we decided to “adopt” a child near our twins' age and in a country near where they were born.

**REGINA TROUT,  
LANCASTER, PA**

Now my kids love dictating letters to our new sponsored child, coloring pictures for her, and picking out stickers to send her. I hope we will always be in a position to sponsor a child. Not only is it helping the child, but it is a good way to teach my children about those less fortunate than ourselves. ■

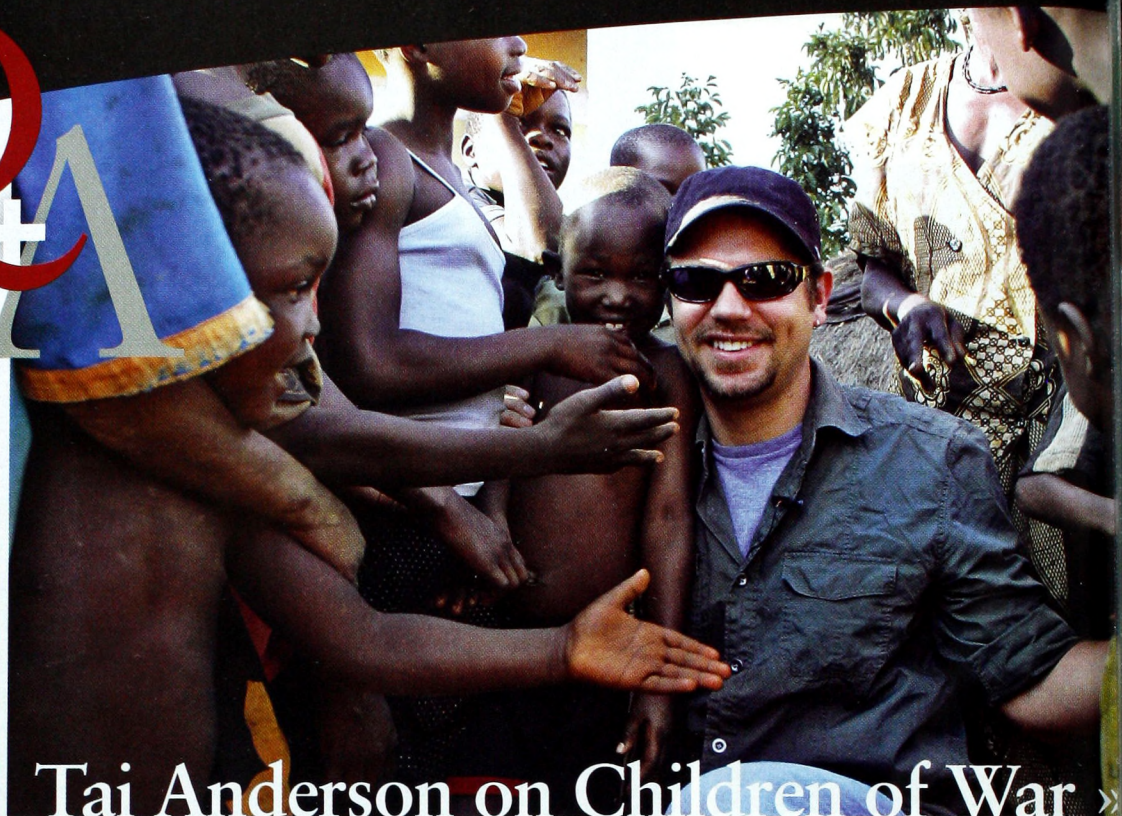
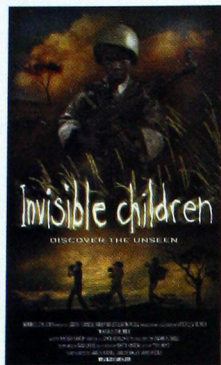
» **Tell us your story**

Why do you love being a child sponsor? Write the editors at [wvmagazine@worldvision.org](mailto:wvmagazine@worldvision.org).

**Regina Trout with her children, Alexander and Natalie.**



JEFF RAYMOND/WORLD VISION



## Tai Anderson on Children of War »

Third Day bass guitarist Tai Anderson was so moved by the film “Invisible Children,” which documents the plight of children in war-torn northern Uganda, that he decided to go and meet them himself. The children risk abduction by the Lord’s Resistance Army and become unwilling soldiers or sex slaves to rebel commanders. Every night children seek safety by walking to towns such as Gulu.

### How did the film “Invisible Children” make you feel?

I felt this kind of rage about it. I wanted to go and kill the people who are responsible [for the abductions]. Maybe it’s ingrained in us how to respond to these things—we start playing with G.I. Joes when we are 4 years old. I had a comic-book response to it.

### How did your reaction change when you actually got to Uganda?

Everywhere you go, you see guns. You’re greeted at the airport with AK-47s. The LRA have their stock of AK-47s and the army have their AK-47s. At some point the bullets in those guns are going to be fired, and it’s going to hurt someone who is innocent. This is not the solution. We worship a Prince of Peace. As Christians, we need to be instruments of peace.

### Did you see examples of instruments of peace?

The work World Vision’s rehabilitation center is doing is reflecting the character of Christ. I saw a lady who has been absolutely maimed—had her ears, nose, and lips cut off. She somehow made it through the bush to the center. The person who did it to her also showed up at the center, and after months of counseling and praying, they had a ceremony where the man who did it to her repented and she forgave him. That grace is so much bigger than that militaristic G.I. Joe response.

### What went through your mind when you saw children streaming into Gulu at night?

I was thinking of my own kids. At home they do not even go into the cul-de-sac by themselves. In Uganda, kids walk every night in the pitch dark. They know that at any time people could come in and take them at gunpoint, force them to do horrible things, and spend the rest of their lives in this crazy war. That contrast is pretty overwhelming.

### How do you think your audiences will react when you talk about Gulu?

Once you know about what’s happening in Africa, it sort of forces the issue. You have to say, ‘I am going to do what I can to change this.’ Right now the church in America has more political leverage than we have ever had, and I think a lot of that leverage has been spent to represent what evangelicals are against. I think Gulu represents an issue of justice. It presents an amazing opportunity for Christians to let the world know what we are for. ■

» Sign World Vision’s “Children Should Never Be Soldiers” declaration to Congress: [www.worldvision.org/nochildsoldiers](http://www.worldvision.org/nochildsoldiers).

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT: 28 million children from low-income families in the United States qualify for free or subsidized school lunches.** Source: United States Department of Agriculture

## Backs OF PLENTY

*Backpack program expands to meet increasing U.S. needs.*

A sharp rise in the number of children living in poverty in the United States has prompted World Vision to boost the number of new backpacks it will distribute this fall to give children a positive start to the new school year.

Last year the organization distributed about 20,000 packs filled with supplies such as pens, pencils, notebooks, crayons, and paper. This year World Vision expects to distribute more than 32,000 packs, mostly through schools in poor neighborhoods where 90 percent of children qualify for free or subsidized school lunches.

Single mother of six, Lisa Logan—whose daughter Tialynja, 6, was among those who benefited from a distribution in Tacoma, Wash., last year—said the backpack was a wonderful boost to her daughter's education and a great help to parents who would otherwise struggle to afford classroom basics. "We only cope because of much prayer and a community that really helps out," she said.

World Vision's Tamara Burns said the distributions will occur in major centers throughout the country, and about 6,500 packs would be reserved for children affected by the Gulf Coast hurricanes.

It's the first time the Gulf Coast region has benefited from regular World Vision backpack distributions. The Gulf packs are being assembled at the organization's new



PAUL PECK/WORLD VISION

40,000-foot warehouse at Picayune, Miss., established specifically to cater to the needs of hurricane-shattered communities.

Burns said the distributions are made possible by businesses and community organizations who organized drives for World Vision's SchoolTools program in which employees, customers, and community members assembled school-supply kits.

Since 2000, the number of American children living in poverty has risen 12 percent—to 13 million. According to Jared Bernstein, senior economist at the Economic Policy Institute, the initial rise in numbers was due to an economic downturn. Since then, economic recovery has mostly assisted families with high incomes. ■

» To participate in the SchoolTools program, visit [www.worldvision.org/change](http://www.worldvision.org/change).

## what's on

### A CHILD IS WAITING

Encourage others at your church to become child sponsors during October. [www.worldvision.org/achildiswaiting](http://www.worldvision.org/achildiswaiting)

### 30 HOUR FAMINE

Youth fight hunger, Oct. 27-28. [www.30hourfamine.org](http://www.30hourfamine.org)

### PASTOR'S VISION TRIP

Join other pastors to see the impact of AIDS in Southern Africa, Feb. 20-March 1, 2007. [www.worldvision.org/c2c](http://www.worldvision.org/c2c)

## world GIVING



*Government aid from rich nations to poor nations as a percentage of gross national income.*



### TOP 3

Norway (0.93)  
Sweden (0.92)  
Luxembourg (0.87)

### BOTTOM 3

Portugal (0.21)  
United States (0.22)  
Greece (0.24)

Source: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, 2005



### FAST FACT »

**More than 1.3 billion people worldwide lack access to the most basic health care.**

Source: The World Health Report 2006, WHO

By Kari Costanz

Photography by Jon Warre

# Children of hope

FIVE YEARS AGO, Kasangombe, in Uganda's Luwero district, was a place of despair. Memories of Uganda's murderous mid-1980s civil war were brutally fresh. A new enemy, AIDS, had begun robbing children of parents, farms of farmers, schools of teachers, health centers of doctors—the primary workforce of society, snatched away in its prime. In the midst of this turmoil, World Vision began working in Kasangombe with a heavy emphasis on combating AIDS.

## TODAY, KASANGOMBE SHIMMERS WITH LIFE

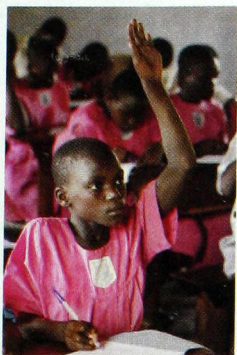
A place once turned inward by fear is now reaching out—considering every child its own. Nearly every citizen has become a foot soldier in the battle against AIDS. With World Vision training, pastors preach hope from the pulpit. World Vision has helped organize church and community members into powerful coalitions that respond to children's needs and visit and comfort the sick. HopeChild sponsorship gives parents the support they need to raise happy, healthy families—learning to grow nutritious food, gaining access to clean water and health care, and even recording their family history in memory books. § Kasangombe's 3,000 sponsored children have become children of hope. Here is their story.





FACING PAGE: A grisly scene from Uganda's war-torn Luwero district 20 years ago. THIS PAGE: Today, Luwero communities like Kasangombe are whole again.

# it takes *a village*



The African saying, “It takes village to raise a child,” implies that in Africa, every child belongs to everyone and that blood and water are equally thick.

But five years ago in Kasangombe, love had boundaries that ran along bloodlines. The war had been over for more than a decade, but now a mysterious disease was killing adults and even children. Because it involved sex, it carried a stigma that closed mouths and hearts, sending tentacles of fear into the

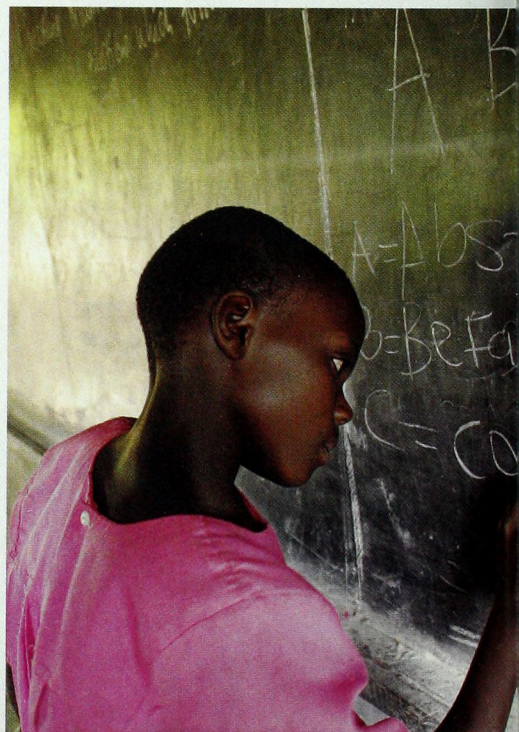
community nearly as insidious as the virus itself.

“In those days we would say those people committed a sin,” says Pentecostal pastor Joseph Senyonga, 45, of Kasangombe’s mushrooming AIDS population. “I didn’t have the heart to bring the person very close to me and care. I had already judged them.”

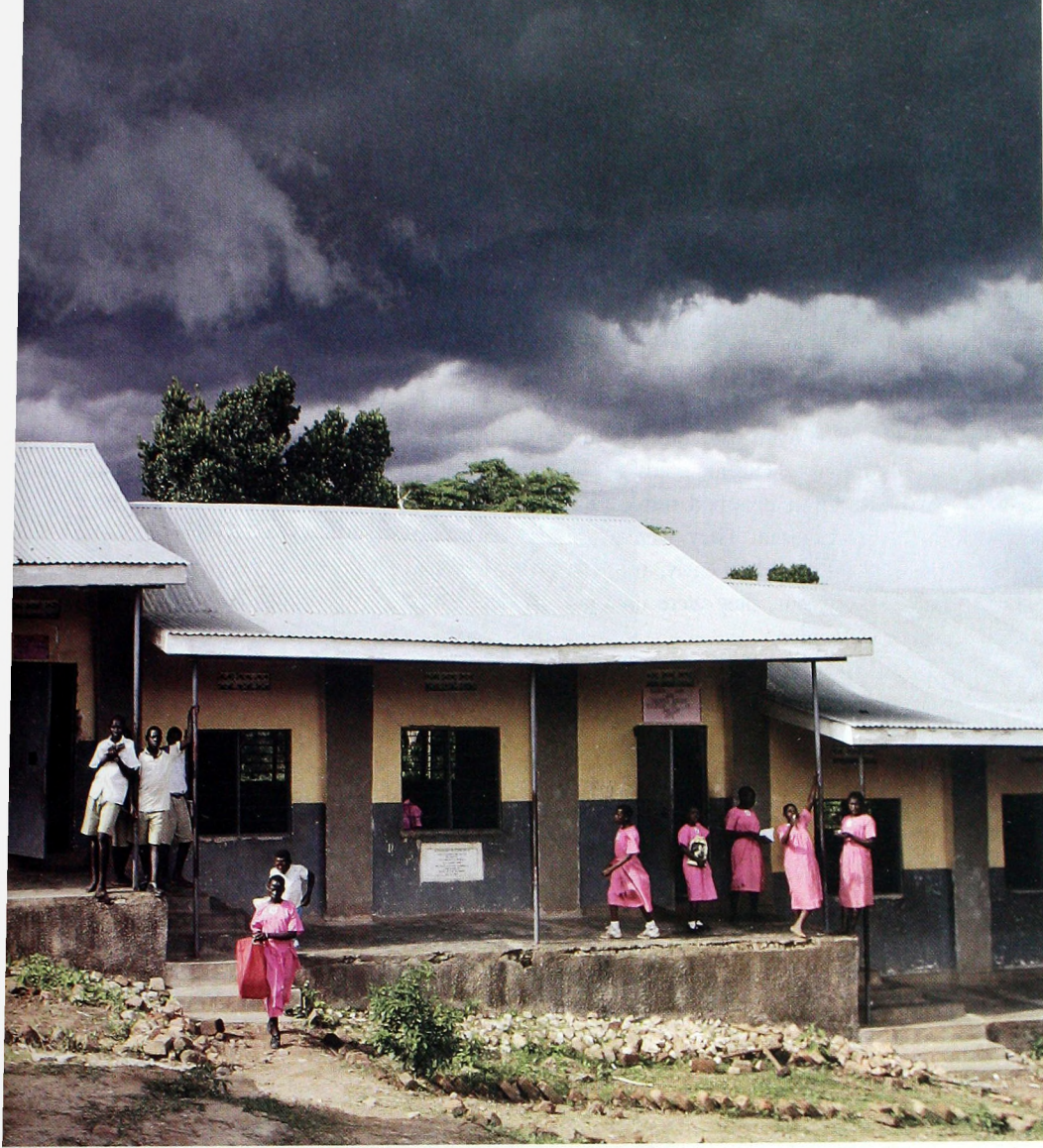


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*Eunice Omaset, who runs World Vision’s AIDS programs in Kasangombe.*



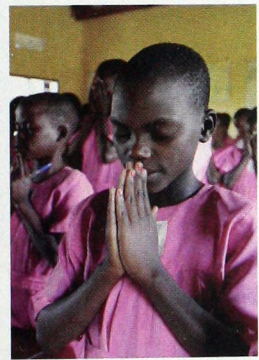
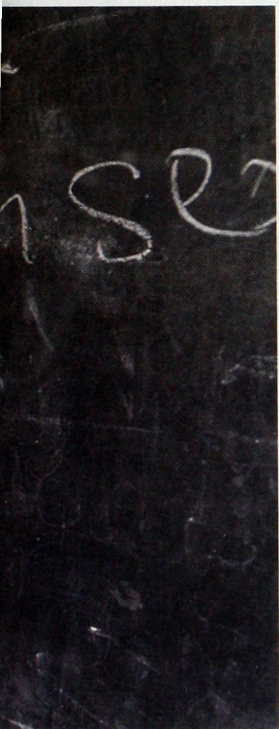




## Timeline of a Global Tragedy

- 1981: Mysterious immune deficiency disorders crop up among the U.S. homosexual population.
- 1982: AIDS—Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome—is named, with three transmission modes identified: sexual intercourse, blood transfusion, and mother-to-child.
- 1983: A heterosexual AIDS epidemic breaks out in Africa.
- 1984: Scientists discover the AIDS virus, later named Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).
- 1985: HIV/AIDS cases are reported in every region of the world.
- 1986: The World Health Organization (WHO) launches its global AIDS strategy.
- 1987: President Ronald Reagan publicly uses the term AIDS for the first time.

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Kasangombe's children work, pray, and play hard at Namasuba Primary School. "There will come a time when World Vision has to leave the community," says a local leader, "but by that time, we will be able to sustain ourselves—if we work hard."

—continued from page 15

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Judgment paralyzed pastors. “We were afraid to touch them. We could not look after them,” says Anglican pastor Eric Namanya, 43. “We were afraid that we would get the disease from them.”

AIDS sent ripples through the community like a stone tossed into water. Orphaned children raised themselves or moved into families already stretched thin by poverty. Parents could no longer farm or work. Children dropped out of school. Their clothes were tattered. They went shoeless. Girls married and had children early, and without education or employment, they were ill-equipped to care for their little ones.

“Early on, individual families struggled with children,” says Eunice Omaset, 31, who runs World

Vision’s AIDS programs in Kasangombe. “People used to only look after their relatives.”

If ever a place needed HopeChild sponsorship it was Kasangombe.

In 1998, building on two decades of work Uganda, World Vision sponsorship proceeded to mend what war and AIDS had broken—building health centers and staffing them with trained medical workers, digging wells and latrines, constructing classrooms, and providing farmers with seed tools, and innovative farming techniques.

At the same time, World Vision staff tackled AIDS head-on, training pastors, congregations and community members about the causes of the disease and working to erase its stigma.

“After knowledge, training, and sensitization we know that AIDS is a disease like other diseases. We come to the patients, nearer to them,” says Eric. “We touch them, and they have become our friends. The fear goes away.”

Pastors like Eric spread the word.

“In our churches, there is great change since the training took place,” says Samuel Sserunkuma, who heads one of Kasangombe’s Community Coalitions (CCC). Nine of these coalitions, each with members strong, meet monthly in Kasangombe.





JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

## 's story

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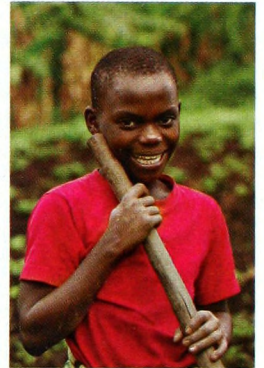
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World Vision



Combating a global pandemic... mission possible?

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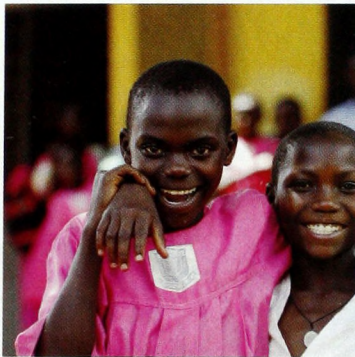
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Vision’s AIDS programs in Kasangombe. “People used to only look after their relatives.”

If ever a place needed HopeChild sponsorship it was Kasangombe.

# YES!

## I want to help fight AIDS!

- Please use my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to support those affected by HIV and AIDS.
- I want to sponsor a HopeChild for \$35/month.  
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NAME ON CARD

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JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

# AIDS HAS BEEN

called the greatest humanitarian crisis of our time. Worldwide, some 60 million people have contracted the disease; more than 15 million children have lost one or both parents. In 25 years, AIDS has scarred every aspect of

human society.

But World Vision believes it's beatable. Focusing on children orphaned or made vulnerable by AIDS, World Vision works to prevent the spread of HIV, equips communities to care for affected families, and speaks out on behalf of voiceless victims.

You can help—by donating to our HIV/AIDS program or sponsoring a HopeChild.

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JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

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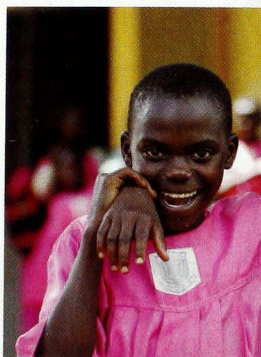
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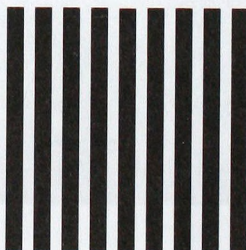


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schools to discuss how best to serve the community's needs. They run a network of home visitors who bring care and comfort to more than 16,000 families with orphans and vulnerable children.

The CCCs ensure World Vision's work will endure in Kasangombe. In time, when World Vision leaves the community, these passionate volunteers will carry on. They complete three parts of a powerful team: World Vision, more than 1,000 community volunteers, and sponsors in the United States whose love and support is felt across an ocean.

"Why I work for the children are the sponsors," says Samuel. "They don't even know these children. They are not related biologically. Yet they reach out in love."

And in reaching out, sponsors have inspired a community to do the same. "The community is now like family," says coalition member Teopista Nakazzi, 45.

"Now all the children are considered the community's children," says Eunice. "People are loving children who aren't their own—just as if they are their own."

Love without boundaries or bloodlines benefits Kasangombe's children the most. No matter who their parents are or where they came from—in Kasangombe, they are home.

## brendah's story

"There was a time when life was a bit hard," says Samuel Kalyesububula, 40. "We were just trying to survive. Five years ago, we were eating just once a day. We were not as happy as we are now."

When HopeChild sponsorship came to Kasangombe, things turned around. In a place where the sole focus was once survival, this family of eight is on a forward path.

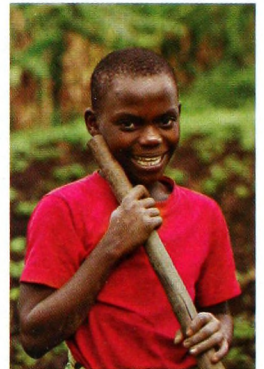
"Without World Vision, we would have gone backward," says Samuel's wife, Christine Nakitanda, 34. "World Vision has helped a lot," she says. "Most especially, they have helped us with our children—the basic needs [such as] blankets, mattresses, improved seeds to boost our food."

Samuel runs a small market and grows luscious crops on a large plot of dark, finely hoed soil. Christine teaches at a nearby nursery school.

The family hasn't escaped the ripple effect of AIDS.

"My sister lived a distance from here," says Christine. "She lived in Kampala when she got sick and died. We knew she had AIDS, but it was the malaria that killed her. I knew it would be a problem if [her] children had no one to live with."

When Derick, 11, and Margaret, 7, came to Kasangombe last November to bury their mother, Christine asked them to stay. Now the children are part of the family. "People are taking in children who are not blood relatives," says Christine. "I would also wish to do so, but space could be an



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Christine’s heart is strengthened when Teopista visits. Teopista is one of 1,640 trained home visitors who act as an extra set of eyes for vulnerable families—inquiring about the children’s health and education and taking any concerns back to the clinic.

“She asks about our spiritual life,” says Christine. “Having someone who asks me questions about my faith deepens my understanding. My faith has grown. My thinking has changed. When I pray, my worry goes away.”

Christine has no worries about her daughter, Brendah, 12, a HopeChild.

“Brendah,” says Christine, her eyes dancing. She is my daughter whom I love so much. She listens to me and loves her sisters and brothers.”

“I have so much hope in Brendah. She’s the best in every class,” says her father. “I never imagined my daughter would be the best. She loves to study and is so active.”

“I am always happy,” says Brendah, who wants

to be a doctor someday. “I love my friends, and I love to play with them.”

And she loves spending time with her new brother and sister, Derek and Margaret. Even in a place with little traffic, Brendah holds tight to Margaret’s hand as they walk to the well, “to protect her from cars, because she is so young,” she says. Talking and laughing, the two travel down the footpath—skipping together into the day.

## sylvia’s story

“It rained so hard the day he died,” says Jane Nanyungwe, 38, of the awful day in 1998 when she lost her husband to an unknown disease. “I didn’t even have a matchbook to light a fire. The roof almost collapsed, and a wall nearly fell in.”

Jane rushed with her four children to a neighbor’s house, later creating a lean-to with the iron sheets from her collapsed home.

“Sylvia used to cry sometimes,” she says of her littlest daughter. “She used to ask for food. ‘Mama, I want to eat,’ she would say. Sometimes she was very tired, and she looked weak. I was always worried and scared, and I didn’t think I could manage raising the children.”

Sylvia, her brothers, and her mother, Jane, went through difficult times after a death in the family. HopeChild sponsorship made the difference for this family.



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- 1996: Brazil is the first developing country to begin national antiretroviral drug distribution.
- 1997: HIV-positive cases worldwide are estimated at 22,000,000—more than Australia’s population.
- 1998: HIV infection rates are stabilizing or falling in rich nations due to drug treatments, but AIDS is spreading at an alarming rate in the developing world.
- 1999: Researchers report that the AIDS virus was originally transferred to humans from chimpanzees in Africa.
- 2000: World Vision launches its Hope Initiative to turn the tide of AIDS.
- 2001: The worldwide AIDS death toll reaches 21 million people—17 million in sub-Saharan Africa.
- 2002: HIV is the leading cause of death worldwide among those aged 15-59.
- 2003: WHO announces its “3 by 5” initiative to provide AIDS drugs to 3 million people in poor countries by 2005.

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**“When I first received a picture of Sylvia, she didn’t smile,” says Sylvia’s sponsor.**

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2004: UNAIDS launches the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS to raise awareness of the epidemic’s impact on women and girls around the world.

2005: An estimated 40.3 million people are living with HIV worldwide, nearly half of them women.

2006: For the first time, HIV/AIDS infection rates drop in East Africa, attributable to foreign donations, improved grassroots projects, and a new openness about AIDS among leaders.

Sources: UNAIDS, CNN.com, MSNBC.com, Kaiser Family Foundation

But as it turned out, Jane wouldn’t have to do it on her own.

“The village leader came to register the children for sponsorship,” Jane remembers. “I dressed the children and took them to a nearby nursery school. Sylvia’s number was a big number. I was afraid they would run out of film before they took her picture. We left the place very late. As I was walking away I cried, ‘Oh my God, you will have saved me that my children would have help.’”

Jane kept praying, asking God for a sturdy shelter. The family was then living in a mud home. But Jane wanted better for her children. One day a World Vision worker paid a visit to the family.

“Richard came,” says Jane. “He said the sponsor had sent some money. I said, ‘We need a house,’ but he said it was a small amount—enough for a cow. But I kept thinking about a house. He said we’d buy brick and sand with the remaining money.”

For a time, the bricks and sand stood in her yard. Then Richard visited again. “He said, ‘They have given you more.’ I said, ‘Oh my God, my God! God has answered my prayers.’”

“One morning after that, I woke up and saw workmen from World Vision. They asked me, ‘Where do you want us to put the house?’” Today, Jane lives with her children in a perfectly kept cinder-block home.

Inside, Jane keeps memory books—one for each child, provided by World Vision. Each page captures significant events in her family history.

One entry asks Jane to recount her happiest day. “When my daughter got a sponsor,” she writes. Jane has decorated her living room with every card and letter Sylvia’s sponsor has ever sent, brightly colored messages that hang over a clothesline.

At any time, Sylvia, now 11, can pick a card from the line and read its special message.

“My sponsor loves me so much because I am so beautiful,” laughs Sylvia.

“Sylvia is beautiful,” says Jean Flewellin, Sylvia’s sponsor from the Seattle area. “We kept her picture in our bay window. It’s too big for the mantle. She is my girl.”

“I know they live in a far country. They have white skin,” says Sylvia of Jean and her husband. “They are beautiful. They are good-hearted people. They help make other people’s lives better.”

And not just for Sylvia. “When she receives things, we receive them, too,” says Sylvia’s brother, Ronald, 13. “When our sister is happy, we are happy.”

Jane is relieved. She knows that a couple living thousands of miles away is praying for her daughter. It is a comfort in Kasangombe, where single mothers like Jane cannot help but think about death and the ripple effect of AIDS. “You can know when God is calling you,” she says. “It’s always on my mind.”

But, she says, relief comes in one word: “*Musaba*. Prayer. I feel relieved and at peace in my mind, and the worry goes away.”

Outside, worry feels as faint as the wind rustling the leaves. Sylvia and her brothers run and play in the warm morning sun—climbing trees to pick sweet, sticky jackfruit, kicking around a homemade soccer ball, chasing the chickens. On this day in Kasangombe, yesterday’s despair is barely discernable over the giggle of a happy child. ■

Caregivers serving the sick in AIDS-ravaged African communities need all the support they can get. How can churches help?

By Kari Costanza and James Addis  
Photography by Jon Warren



# Sharing the burden

Many times, through the pitch black of a moonless night, Janet Ssebuyira or Teopista akazzi in Kasangombe, Uganda, will approach a hut. Inside waits a man or woman dying of AIDS—bedridden, disconsolate, and in need of a warm bath and prayer.

But the darkness makes it nearly impossible to see. Sometimes Teopista (pictured above) will put paraffin in a jar, light it, and use it as a candle. It's dangerous and easily extinguished by the wind. When that happens, Teopista is left fumbling in the dark.

Janet and Teopista are two of the thousands of volunteer caregivers in Africa trained by World Vision in simple first aid. They wash and tend to bed sores, bathe the sick patients, and comfort the dying.

Sarah, 35, paralyzed by AIDS, says that the best thing Janet does is pray. "She tells me that it is always good, even in sad situations, to lean on God," she says.

But the caregivers are desperately short of basic supplies to continue their work and protect themselves from infection.

That's why both women were delighted when they received a World Vision Caregiver Kit put together by church groups in the United States. The kit includes necessities such as soap, washcloths, rubber gloves, cotton balls, and—to Teopista's great delight—a flashlight.

Teopista says it's common for families to have no light. Sometimes caregivers will resort to setting ablaze the grass in front of a dying person's home to provide illumination. Now she has the tools she needs to care for those in their darkest hours. ■



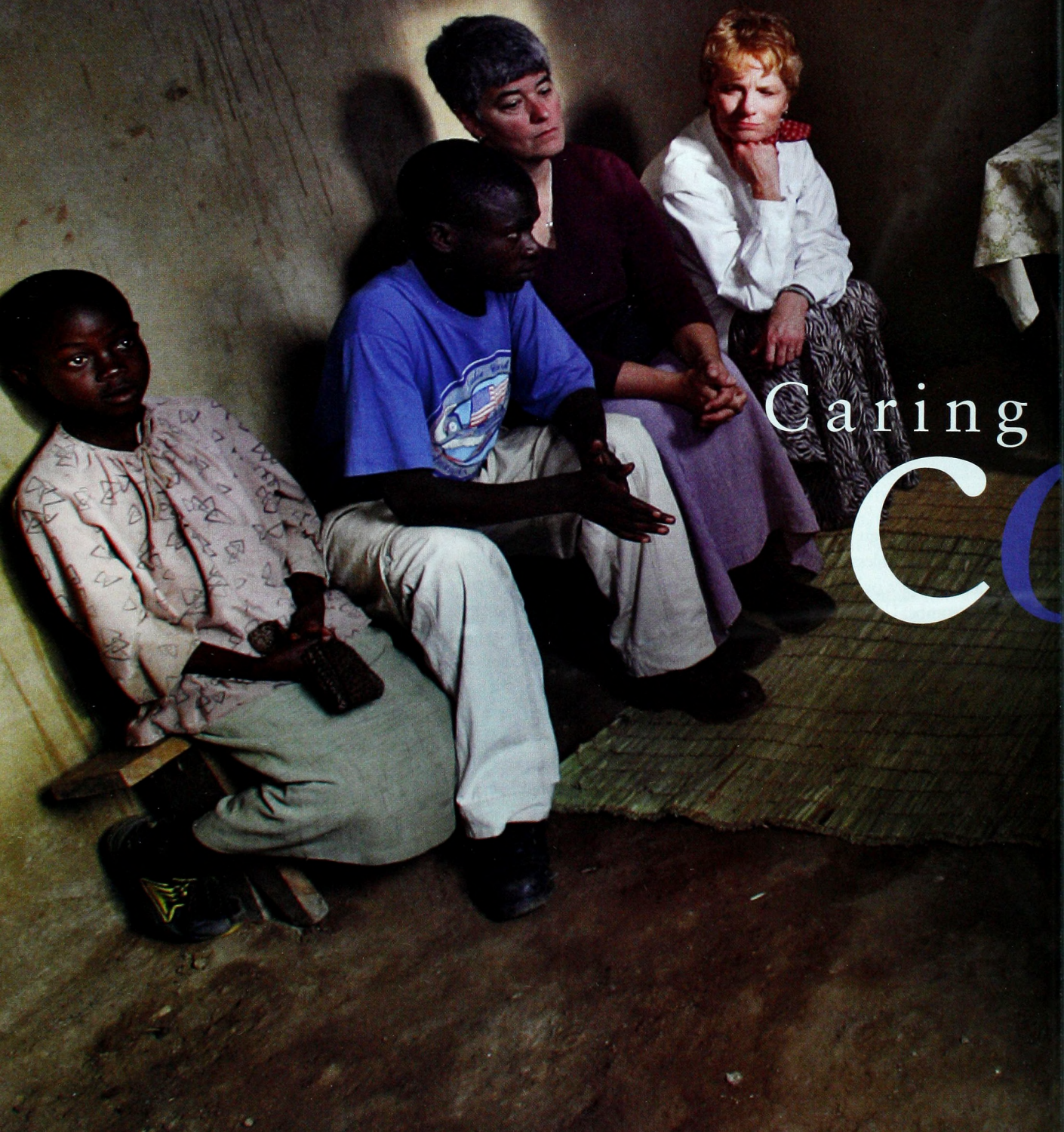
GARY FONG/GENESIS PHOTOS

Thora Richardson (left) joined more than a thousand volunteers at Menlo Park Presbyterian Church in California to assemble 7,500 Caregiver Kits.

*"The most important thing I learned was how pervasive the problem is and how discouraging it is for people in Africa not having the kind of things they need to be good caregivers. I now know how much trouble they go to for supplies and how, without too much effort on our part, we can really do something that will help."*

» How can your church or youth group assemble Caregiver Kits? Learn more by calling (866) 962-4453 or by visiting [www.worldvision.org/carekits](http://www.worldvision.org/carekits).

Through World Vision, U.S. churches are  
*putting their faith in action as they connect directly*  
with AIDS-ravaged African communities.



Caring

C



**By Nathalie Moberg**  
*Photography by Karie Hamilton*

# ntag10US

**LEFT:** The harsh reality of an orphan's life hits home for Miriam Dixon and Deborah Rillos. **RIGHT:** Pastors from distant continents greet each other like brothers.

At 17, Theoneste's dreams are collecting dust on a forgotten shelf. What was once a brilliant smile has been smothered beneath the burden of parenting his siblings. His vision and his future are growing dim.

Balancing herself on the teetering homemade bench in Theoneste's Rwandan home, Miriam Dixon searched the teenager's face for signs of hope as she listened to the tragic story of how Theoneste and his three siblings were left without parents. But hope is in short supply on a continent where millions of parents have died and impoverished children often are left to fend for themselves. Miriam, pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Golden, Colo., had traveled thousands of miles "for such a time as this." »

# “He only smiled *once*,”



“He only smiled once,” Miriam later recalled. “That day, the vulnerable children of Rwanda took on a face—the worry-lined face of Theoneste. I resolved to share his story with our congregation so that we can make a difference in the lives of youngsters like Theoneste who have no one to care for them.”

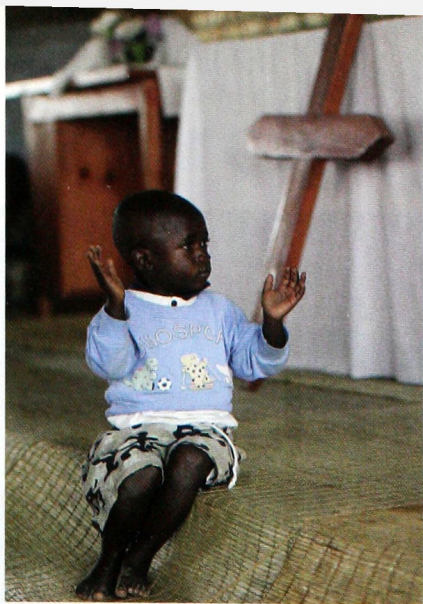
Miriam is not alone in her resolve. Christian congregations across the United States are joining together to bring healing and hope to impoverished, AIDS-ravaged communities in sub-Saharan Africa. The bridge that connects them is World Vision’s Church-to-Community (C2C) program. Since 2003, more than 100 U.S. church leaders have fanned out across Eastern and Southern Africa, witnessing World Vision’s community development projects and linking hearts with thousands

of children orphaned by AIDS.

Among the children they meet, Theoneste is sadly typical. He and his siblings became homeless after their parents died. They wandered their rural Mudasomwa community for months, begging for food and a place to sleep—rescued from the dirt streets only after World Vision built them a house. World Vision also provides basic food, medical care, seeds, education, and counseling to Theoneste and thousands of other Rwandan child-headed families.



**Church leaders Miriam Dixon (top right), Mike Copeland (below right), and Deborah Rillos (facing page) find the hands-on approach fun in Rwanda.**



Theoneste's family has no income, and the tattered, stained clothing the children wear attests to that bleak reality. They have few possessions, but what they have Theoneste proudly shows his U.S. visitors: a single bed for all four siblings, a worn blanket, a water can, a few cooking utensils, a bench, and a small table.

After school each day, Theoneste and his siblings rush the two-mile route home to begin the chores parents usually attend to during the day—transporting water, tending the garden, cooking meals. When survival is the goal, schoolwork becomes secondary. Theoneste fears the pressures at home may force him to quit school. "But my hope is that, if God wishes, I will be able to finish my studies, get a job, and support my younger brother and sisters," he said. "That is all I want."

Theoneste's desperate story is echoed thousands of times among the undulating hills of Rwanda, where orphan households are living reminders of the tragedies plaguing this tiny nation. Poverty alone would have been enough of a burden among Rwanda's 8 million people. Yet in 1994, genocide further slashed the fragile fabric of this East African nation, leaving 1 million men, women, and children dead and countless children without parents. As the country reeled from the subsequent collapse of its social and economic structure, Rwandans soon faced a new, more insidious enemy: AIDS.

Throughout sub-Saharan Africa, more than 12 million African children under the age of 18 have lost one or both parents to the relentless pandemic. When parents die, children are left to parent themselves—with little education, few resources, and fewer options. Whole communities stagger under the burden of caring for orphans.

Through C2C, help is on the way. In November 2005, more than two dozen U.S. church leaders carved time out of demanding schedules to travel to Mudasomwa, Rwanda. The pastors spent time with orphaned children. They met with Rwandan pastors desperate for biblical resources and better skills to serve their communities. They visited with people who are living with HIV. They were invited to preach in Mudasomwa's churches.

Together these U.S. church leaders rejoiced, cried, and resolved to help equip this rural, largely invisible community reeling from poverty and AIDS. They returned to their congregations with

stories of their own transformation—and with plans to engage their churches in helping to transform Mudasomwa as well.

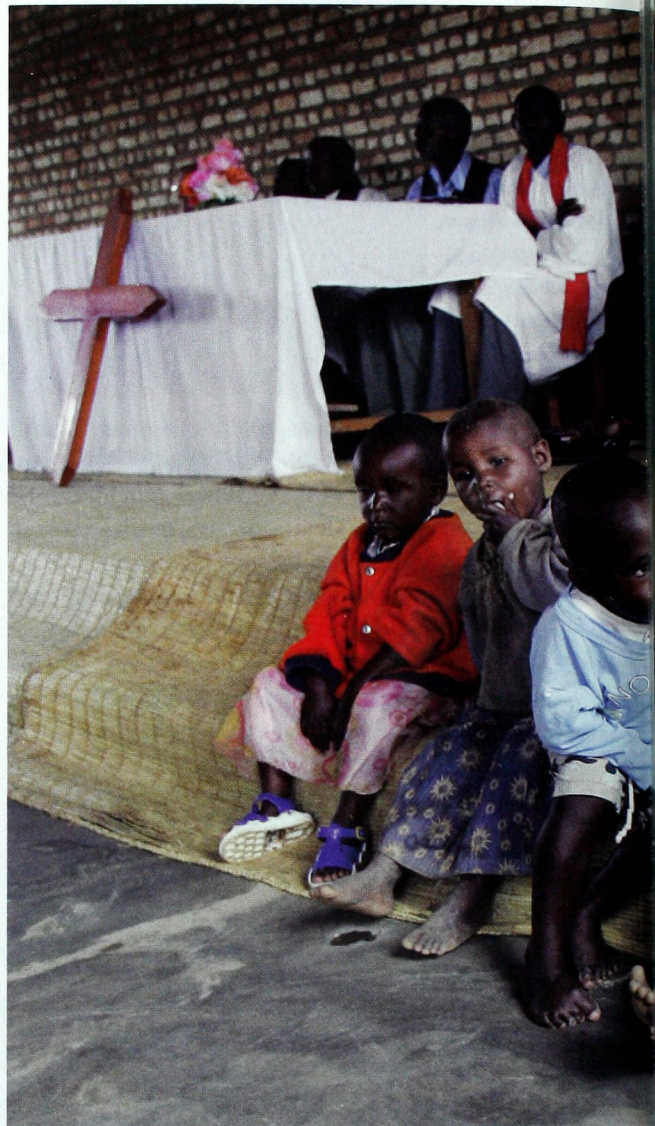
"I came on the trip to be impacted," said the Rev. John Rivera, of Christ Tabernacle in New York's Queens. "If I'm not impacted, I can't impact my church. I've been impacted."

Christ Tabernacle's congregation of 3,000 was already sponsoring more than 200 children through World Vision when John embarked on the trip last fall to see what more his middle-income congregation could do. Toward the end of his time among the Mudasomwa people, he predicted that the opportunity to work directly with this struggling community would retool the way his largely Hispanic congregation engages in ministry.

"Nothing else compares with this," John said. "When you open your hearts, people get in. If our church could be a part of this, it would be amazing."

Six months after his return, Christ Tabernacle and five other

*"Nothing else compares with this,"*  
*says the Rev. John Rivera. "When you*  
*open your hearts, people get in."*



New York congregations that also sent pastors to Rwanda had combined their faith, resources, and enthusiasm to help hundreds of Mudasmwa orphans. The New York churches are part of World Vision's Hope Church Alliance, a collaborative effort that encourages churches to work together to multiply their impact in African communities.

Through New York's Hope Church Alliance, the six churches that participated in last fall's C2C experience are funding Mudasmwa's efforts to provide basics like food, education, and health care for the community's 759 child-headed families. They are gearing up to find more sponsors for children. Christ Tabernacle is also raising funds to construct houses for orphans and to train Mudasmwa pastors, who asked the U.S. pastors to help them improve their ministry skills.

"Churches working together is a more genuine picture of the Church. There's a greater sense of vision and momentum," said Mac Pier, World Vision's Hope Church Alliance director in New York. "And smaller churches can join in and not have to carry the whole load alone." At a recent event, 40 more New York pastors joined the alliance. "It's gotten contagious," Mac said.

Among the smaller churches doing big things in Rwanda is Miriam Dixon's First Presbyterian Church, a congregation of 275 nestled at the base of the Rocky Mountains. While Miriam was still in East Africa, she knew she was taking a leap of faith by committing to raise thousands of dollars to help the orphans. Yet she pressed forward, believing that the "five loaves and two fish" her church brought could somehow be multiplied.

**After memorable days of sharing worship and swapping stories, the U.S. pastors left Rwanda pledging to do as much as they can for AIDS-affected children.**

Within three months, the congregation raised the full commitment through a community-wide rummage sale, a Rwandan-themed dinner, and a Christmas offering. The church's dynamic efforts attracted local media coverage, garnering even more support for the orphans. The generous outpouring from church and community members means the congregation is raising more than Miriam ever thought possible—and sponsoring 10 Mudasmwa children as well.

"Churches often don't know what or how to do more," Miriam said. "But World Vision has figured out how to care for people respectfully and help them to develop instead of becoming dependent. Together, we can do this."

For Miriam Dixon, John Rivera, and dozens of other U.S. church leaders, the time has come to commit to walking alongside others in need "for such a time as this." ■

*Nathalie Moberg is a writer for World Vision. Karie Hamilton is a freelance photographer based in Lakewood, Wash.*



# churches *carry the flame*

Across the United States, urban and rural, large and small, seasoned and fledgling churches are fusing their resources and energy to reflect the light of Christ's love in African communities fighting to emerge from the dark shadow of AIDS.

Among these is Bethel Church, a thriving congregation of 2,500 in Richland, Wash. Bethel leaders participated in World Vision's first C2C trip in 2003. Today, the Rev. Dave Bechtel said his church is seeing the remarkable fruits of their partnership with the community of Makungwa, Zambia.

"When I was first in Makungwa, I saw great needs—both physical and material," Dave said. "But the one thing that grabbed me most was when I saw that local pastors have very few Bibles and little education. I knew that if the church is strong, the people could grow strong in the rest of these things, like health and economy."

So Bethel Church built a multifaceted response to help meet the physical and spiritual needs in Makungwa. The congregation supports the community's project that provides agricultural training, food, counseling, and other essentials to 600 AIDS-affected orphans and children. Bethel has also supplied more than 4,000 Bibles, hymnals, and Sunday school materials to Makungwa churches, and members sponsor some 300 children.

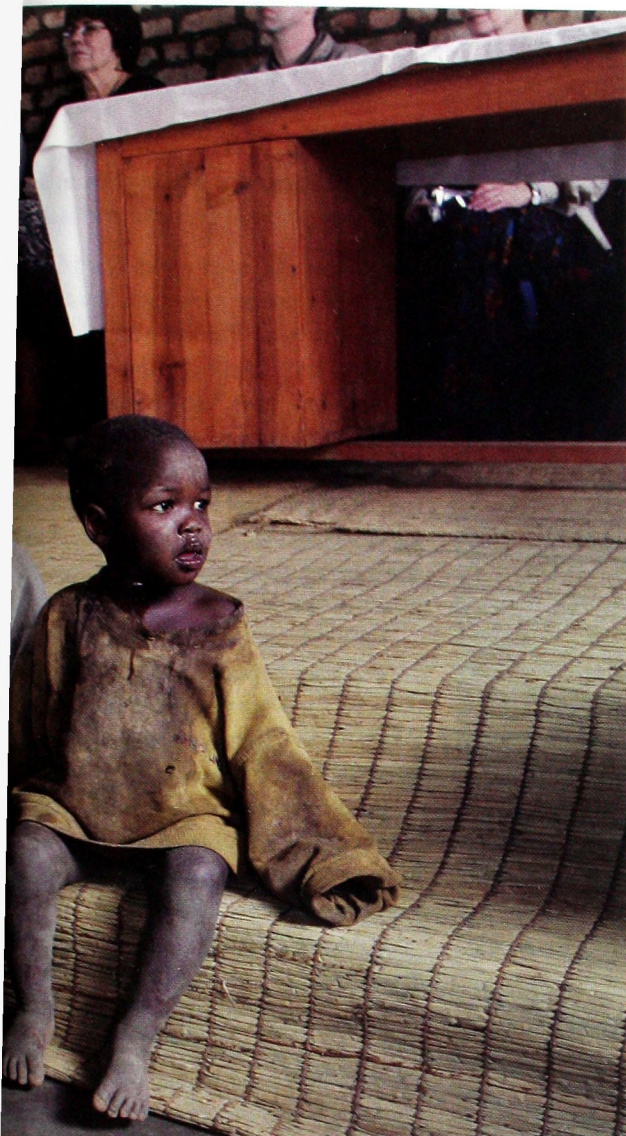
Yet Dave views Bethel's most critical work as training 40 pastors to teach Scripture and minister effectively in their community. When he returned to Makungwa a year after the pastor training began, he was excited to see transformation already taking place.

Bethel's Bob Billow said that the enthusiasm for this work was sparked by Dave, but now the entire congregation carries the flame. Bethel teams have visited Makungwa, and Zambia staff have in turn visited Bethel Church.

"Ultimately, I believe our Lord, in his compassion, moved on the hearts of a lot of people who were prepared to respond," Bob said. "I have a much broader view now of a God who has compassion on an entire planet. I also have a greater understanding of how much we as a culture have to learn." ■

—by Nathalie Moberg

**Would you like to see your church link with an AIDS-affected community in Africa? Take this article to your church leaders or find more information about C2C online at [www.worldvision.org/c2c](http://www.worldvision.org/c2c).**



## get *involved*»



**ABOVE:** Bethel Church teams visit Zambia.

# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



WORLD VISION PHILIPPINES

## A Strong Connection »

*A computer analyst traces his blessings back to sponsorship. Interviews by Grace Alviar and Jane Sutton-Redner*

ARNIE MALAZARTE

Manila, Philippines

I am the eldest child and the only son in a family of eight children. We lived in the slums of General Santos City, 600 miles south of Manila, the capital of the Philippines. My parents had a small business making candies. It barely supported our basic needs, so my mother turned to World Vision's sponsorship program for help. I became sponsored at age 9.

We were a broken family; my father abandoned us. When I was 17, my mother left the area to find a job to support us. From that point on, I played the role of parent to my siblings. It seemed next to impossible that I would go to college, but my sponsors helped, and I was able to get my bachelor's degree in computer science from Notre Dame of Dadiangas College.

The sponsors who made this possible were Earl and Carol Kloter from the United States. They're the best sponsors I could ever ask for. They've become my second parents. They never forget to tell me they

**Arnie Malazarte's dedication to his family impressed his sponsor family, the Kloters.**

love me and pray for me.

After college, I worked with Dole Philippines as a programmer for three years. In 2003, I joined Misys Retail Banking System in Manila, where I provided product support for banks in Central and Eastern Europe and the Middle East. Recently I accepted a job as a computer analyst in Taiwan. As the family breadwinner, I am sending three of my sisters to school.

I also sponsor a child: Reymark, a 9-year-old boy from Zambales, Philippines. I signed up to be a sponsor in 2003 when I saw a World Vision booth in the mall. I felt it was time to share my blessings.

I also talked with my officemates about becoming sponsors. Nothing could have been more convincing than my own story. I got 12 new sponsors.

In August 2002, after years of correspondence, I was able to finally meet and hug my sponsors. I went with them to their church. Almost all the people there knew about me and shook my hand, hugged me, or kissed me. I was deeply moved by their concern for me.

Looking back, I see God's goodness in my life. I have a good job and am able to help others. I hope and pray that my story encourages many others to sponsor a child.

EARL AND CAROL KLOTER

Ellington, Connecticut

In 1984 we saw a TV program about World Vision sponsorship. We were so taken by it that we decided to sponsor a child.

We didn't have any expectations; we just thought we'd send money every month. But when we started getting Arnie's annual reports and photos, he became a

t of our family. We have three children, and when he came back he had a dozen roses for her. He was so excited: "Sponsor

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**WHO WE SERVE** | Motivated by our faith in Jesus, we serve the poor—regardless of a person's religion, race, ethnicity, or gender—as a demonstration of God's unconditional love for all people.

**WHY WE SERVE** | Our passion is for the world's poorest children whose suffering breaks the heart of God. To help secure a better future for each child, we focus on lasting, community-based transformation. We partner with individuals and communities, empowering them to develop sustainable access to clean water, food supplies, health care, education, and economic opportunities.

**HOW WE SERVE** | Since 1950, World Vision has helped millions of children and families by providing emergency assistance to those affected by natural disasters and civil conflict, developing long-term solutions within communities to alleviate poverty, and advocating for justice on behalf of the poor.

**YOU CAN HELP** | Partnering with World Vision provides tangible ways to honor God and put faith into action. By working together, we can make a lasting difference in the lives of children and families who are struggling to overcome poverty. To find out how you can help return the envelope found between pages 16 and 17, or visit [www.worldvision.org](http://www.worldvision.org).



CHRISTOPHER CAPOZZIELLO/GENESIS PHOTOS

WHERE ARE THEY

NOW?



Arnie Malazarte's dedication to his family impressed his sponsor family, the Kloters.

love me and pray for me.



But the man of honor makes good plans, and he stands for what is good.

ISAIAH 32:8 (NLV)

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Dear Friend,  
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*Rich*  
Rich Stearns  
President

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## A Strong Con

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t of our family. We have three children, and we talked with them about how Arnie is doing. A few years later, he started writing to us.

Through Arnie's letters, we learned that family meant everything to him. Education was his next priority. He studied hard that he could support his sisters. We decided that as long as Arnie was in school, we would continue sponsoring him.

After Arnie finished college, we stayed in touch through phone calls and e-mail. In 2002, he came to visit, and we traveled around New England. In New York City, Arnie wanted to go to the World Trade Center site to pray. It was around the first anniversary of the terrorist attacks, and it was really touching.

Another highlight was celebrating Carol's birthday with him. Our kids had planned a party. Arnie went to the grocery store,

and when he came back he had a dozen roses for her. He was so excited: "Sponsor Carol, I have something for your birthday!"

We're so proud of Arnie. He's such a caring person. He put his own goals on hold to help his sisters get established. One is a schoolteacher, one is in nursing school, and the other two are just starting college.

Families in our church, Union Congregational, sponsor 37 children in the Dominican Republic. We encourage other sponsors to keep in touch with their children. Arnie told us that what meant the most to him were our letters telling him that we were praying for him. When you touch a life like that, you never know what will happen. ■

» Share your story of how sponsoring a child has affected your life by e-mailing [wvmagazine@worldvision.org](mailto:wvmagazine@worldvision.org).



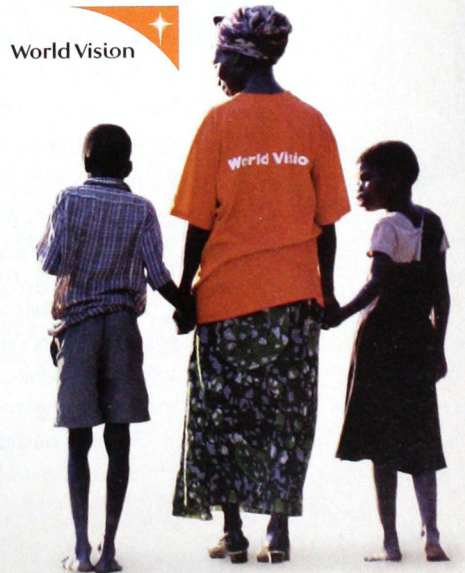
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CHRISTOPHER CAPOZZIELLO/GENESIS PHOTOS

## Giving Churches Eyes To See >>

Since the days when my father, WorldVision founder Bob Pierce, stunned churches with his heartbreaking images of children orphaned by the Korean War, WorldVision has enabled people to see global needs through photographs, video, and television. Today, through WorldVision's Church to Community (C2C) program (see story, page 20), U.S. pastors can go overseas and see the needs with their own eyes. The result is transformed churches, communities, and lives on both sides of the globe.

In February, I had the joy of taking my pastor, Dan Daugherty of The Father's House in San Marcos, Calif., and a church elder, Kirk Henson, on a C2C trip to Kenya. Dan and I had talked for more than a year about AIDS' impact on children in southern Africa. He had wept through the videos and read all the materials.

Kirk, on the other hand, was a tad less passionate. "I am a businessman," he warned me. "I am not easily moved, so don't expect me to show a lot of emotion. I just don't cry."

His stoicism would be tested. During orientation in Nairobi, Perry, a member of World Vision's staff, shared how her husband unknowingly infected her before dying and leaving her with two

*Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. —Matthew 9:35-36*

HIV-positive children. One child had already died, and the other was in the hospital. Despite all she had suffered, Perry gave testimony to the hope she had in Christ and shared how God was using her to help others with AIDS. As she spoke, I watched the muscle working in Kirk's cheekbone as the man who didn't cry fought unsuccessfully to hold back his tears.

Next we drove to the Kirindon project. We spent three days seeing how World Vision is addressing the needs of more than 10,000 families struggling to survive in a harsh, drought-stricken land.

On our way to meet an AIDS-impacted family, I could feel the group's tension. We would visit a 4-year-old girl named Faith who was suffering with full-blown AIDS. Her mother had recently died, and Faith and four siblings had come to live with their oldest sister, Maritha.

Standing outside Maritha's crumbling mud hut, I watched as one of the pastors—who initially expressed fear of touching someone



**Marilee Dunker (left), her pastor, Dan Daugherty (right), and elder Kirk Henson (center) meet Kirk's sponsored child in Kenya.**

with AIDS—held Faith tenderly in his arms, smiling and cooing to her as if she were his own. For him, AIDS was no longer a disease to be feared—it was a little girl with chocolate-brown eyes wearing a pink dress.

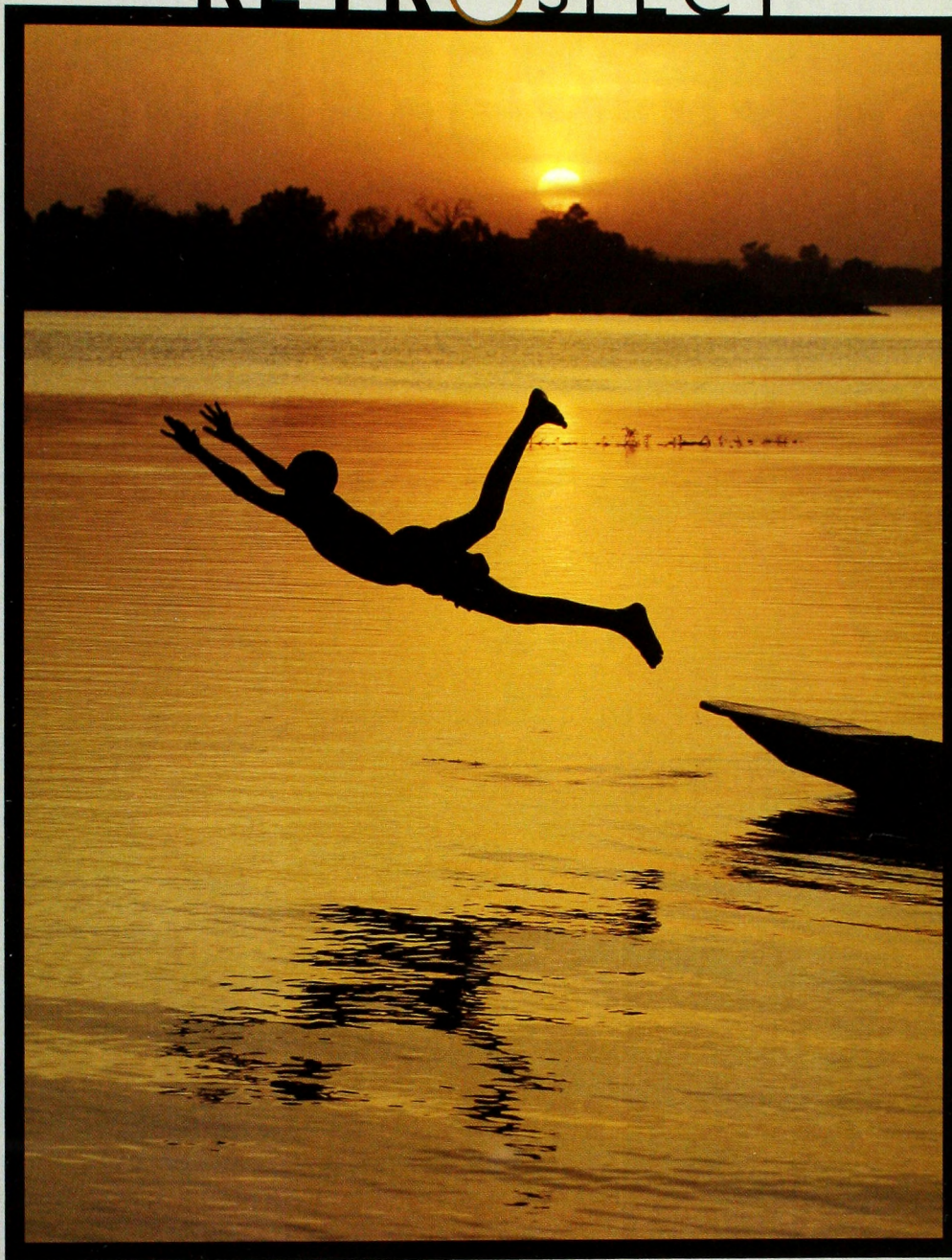
The next day, Dan and Kirk met their sponsored children and saw the tremendous need in the community as well as the hope that sponsorship brings. "You just don't understand how little these people have and how little it takes to make a difference until you see it with your own eyes," Dan said.

"Meeting my [sponsored child] and knowing the difference my family is going to make in her life was the most humbling and rewarding experience of my life," Kirk agreed, not bothering to wipe away his tears. "I seem to have caught African 'leaky eye' disease," he added with a chuckle, "and I hope I never get cured!" ■

*Marilee Pierce Dunker is a child advocate for World Vision, a speaker for women's events, and the author of Man of Vision (available at [www.worldvisionresources.com](http://www.worldvisionresources.com)).*

**>> To find out more about World Vision's C2C program, call (866) 962-4453 or visit [www.worldvision.org/c2c](http://www.worldvision.org/c2c).**

# RETROSPECT



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

## - N I G E R -

Believe it or not, this postcard-perfect scene is from the world's poorest country. Contrary to the carefree spirit of this boy taking a sunset dip in the Niger River, most of the 11 million Nigeriens struggle with drought, hunger, and disease. Yet World Vision is making a splash in this land-locked nation through water projects targeting health problems such as trachoma, which can lead to blindness. Also, U.S. donors sponsor 7,500 children, providing education that might eventually raise Niger's dimly low literacy rate. And World Vision is helping families start small businesses to increase their income. In time, such development work can pay off in this peaceful, yet desperately poor, place. ■

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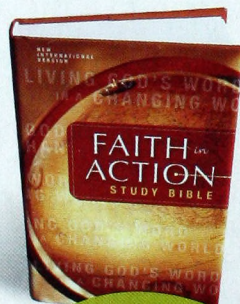
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