

WorldVision



AUTUMN 2007

focus on forgotten children EDUCATION IN MONGOLIA

He actually likes homework.

Education breaks the cycle of poverty by allowing boys to grow into young men with a voice in their community and real hope in their hearts. Yet worldwide, more than 49 million boys are robbed of this future because they are too poor to attend school.

Dieudonne, 11
a sponsored boy in Rwanda

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Please sponsor a boy in need today!



Samuel, Mexico
Birthdate 9/6/98
ID 172139-5410



Shashitha, Sri Lanka
Birthdate 4/5/02
ID 171255-6220

NEW
sponsorship
welcome kit with
FREE DVD!

SOURCE: 1097071

Yes, I want to sponsor a boy in need.

Please send me information and the photo of a boy who needs my help in:

- ☐ Latin America ☐ Africa ☐ Asia
☐ Eastern Europe/Middle East ☐ where needed most
☐ I've enclosed a check or money order for my first \$30 gift (payable to World Vision).
☐ I authorize World Vision to charge my \$30 monthly sponsorship gift to my credit/debit card each month: ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

Card number

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Signature (required)

World Vision account number

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First name

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City

State

ZIP

Phone

E-mail

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

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 rate changes and will have the option to decline.

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World Vision®

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WorldVision

VOLUME 11, NUMBER 1

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» ON THE COVER

Brothers Munkerdene and Munkhsukh enjoy fun and games at a World Vision center in Mongolia. They previously lived in a cardboard shelter in one of the coldest climates in the world. Photograph by Justin Douglass.

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 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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Building a better world for children

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JUSTIN DOUGLASS/WORLD VISION

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Celebrating education
as a precious gift.

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testimony, and more.

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A former sponsored child's
faith guides her to serve.

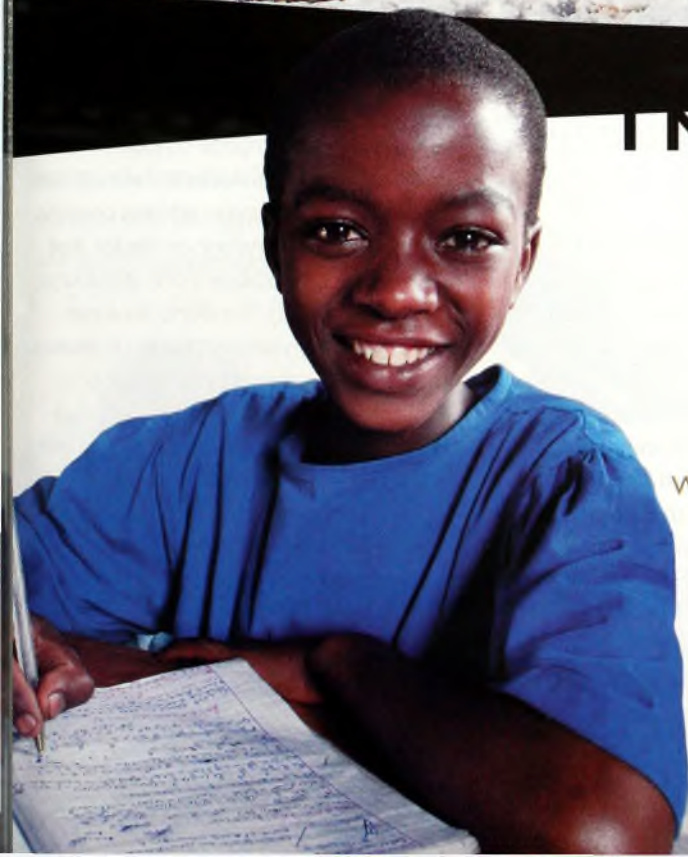
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Helping children receive
God's inheritance.

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Children do the math in India.



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

Alma Mater »

*"Far above Cayuga's waters,
With its waves of blue,
Stands our noble alma mater,
Glorious to view."*

—Cornell University's alma mater

In May, my family trekked from Seattle to Ithaca, N.Y., to attend my daughter Hannah's graduation from Cornell University. It was a big deal and a crowning achievement after her four years of hard work. Three weeks later, we celebrated my son Pete's high school graduation and his plans to attend Wheaton College next fall.

We celebrate because education is a precious gift that has enabled our family to achieve things not dreamed of by our parents or grandparents—the American Dream come true.

As an alumnus myself, singing the Cornell alma mater at the end of Hannah's graduation ceremony took me back 43 years to 1964, when at the age of 13, I wrote to all eight Ivy League colleges requesting their catalogs. Back then, I would lie awake at night, paging through their course listings, trying to imagine what it would be like to actually attend one of the schools. You see, my father never finished the eighth grade, and my mother never completed high school. My parents were divorced, and there was no money, so the possibility of this dream coming true seemed remote.

*"Apply your heart to instruction and
your ears to words of knowledge."*

—Proverbs 23:12

But 11 years later—through God's grace, hard work, scholarships, and loans—I had graduated from both Cornell University and the University of Pennsylvania. That tremendous opportunity allowed me to pursue my dreams and give the same opportunity to my five children.

But for millions of the world's children, dreams like mine don't come true. During my recent trip to India, I met a young girl named Nagaveni who had been sold into bonded labor to pay back a family debt of just \$30. She told me that the most difficult part of her ordeal was watching the other children walk to and from school, knowing that she could never go. Fortunately, World Vision was able to work with the community to free Nagaveni, and she is now back in school.

There are many reasons children struggle to go to school. Mathabo, a 13-year-old girl in Lesotho, has to take care of her



Hannah and her proud parents at graduation.

mother—who is bedridden with AIDS—before and after school. But she perseveres, trying to learn English so that she can talk to her sponsors in the United States.

Another poignant example: Joumaa and Fatima are hearing- and speech-impaired siblings in southern Lebanon who go to a World Vision-supported education center. Sometimes the school bus passes them by because they can't hear it, so they have to walk or try to find a taxi driver who will give them a free ride. They're determined never to miss school.

Some children don't go to school because they have to fetch water, walking many miles each day with heavy loads. Some children have to work in the fields. Still others live in refugee camps, displaced from their homes with no schools available. In total, 115 million children worldwide are not able to go to school.

When World Vision looks at the most strategic and effective ways to address poverty, education comes very high on the list. Just like in America, education is one of the keys to escaping poverty. The World Bank estimates that every year of schooling increases an individual's earnings by 10 percent.

In this issue, read the stories of struggle and triumph for children eager to get an education. As we pray for them, we should also thank God that our country has been blessed with schools and universities that enable so many to see their dreams come true. ■

FRONT LINES

Compiled by James Addis

Shedding Light on AIDS

The boy in the red shirt surrounded by some of his friends is 11-year-old Kombo Amina Washe. Kombo lost both his parents to AIDS and is HIV-positive himself. He lives with his grandmother, Sophia, who operates a late-night restaurant at a dirty truck stop in Kenya. It's located along the "AIDS Highway" which runs from Mombasa to Nairobi and on to Uganda.

gift planning

meals and the

try this fall. See

Don't leave your legacy to chance.

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

A plan to protect you . . .

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

and a legacy that lasts . . .

You can use your estate plan to not only provide for loved ones but also pass on your values and create a legacy of compassion and generosity that will last for generations.

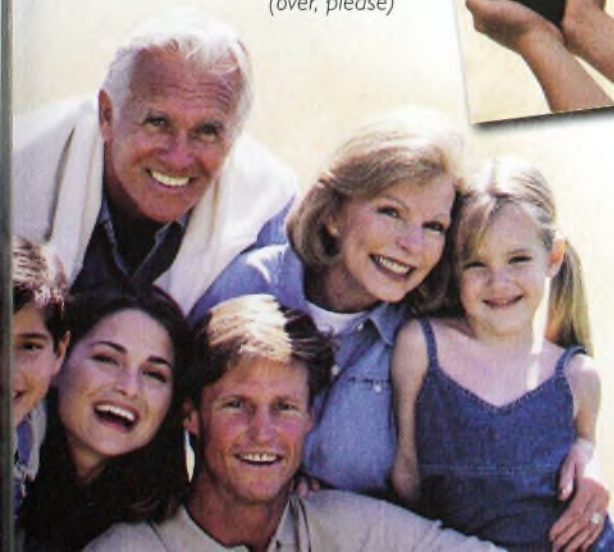
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Complete the card between pages 28 and 29 to request your copy of our Legacy Planner—a FREE resource for faithful friends like you.

The plans of the righteous are just . . . the house of the righteous stands firm.
PROVERBS 12:5, 7 (NIV)



Alma Mater »

*"Far above Cayuga's waters,
With its waves
Stands our no
Glorious to vie*



In May, my daughter graduated from college. It was a big celebration of hard work. The school graduates. We celebrated enabled our family or grandparents. As an alumna, I ended of Hannah in 1964, when at requesting the going through the like to actually finished the elementary school. My parents possibility of the



*"Apply your heart
your ears*

But 11 years of hardships, and loans and the University allowed me to go to my five children.

But for millions to come true. During named Nagav back a family of part of her own from school, K Vision was able and she is now

There are no Mathabo, a 13-

World Vision®

Building a better world for children

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.

Continue your sponsorship—even after your lifetime

You've given so much to help those in need. Thanks to you, children have a brighter future today.

Did you know you can continue your support even after you are gone? You can use your estate plan to ensure that your sponsored child(ren) and others like them continue to receive life-transforming help for years to come.

To leave a legacy of compassion, simply name World Vision as a beneficiary of your:

- Will or trust
- Retirement assets
- Life insurance policy

We're here to help

Whether you've decided to include World Vision in your estate plan or you're just beginning to explore your options, we're here to help. Our specialists are available to answer any questions you may have.

To receive free, confidential help from a Gift Planning specialist, please . . .

- Call us at 1.866.962.4453
- E-mail us at giftplanning@worldvision.org
- Visit www.worldvision.org/legacyplanner

Complete the card between pages 28 and 29 today to learn more—and receive your FREE Legacy Planner.

FRONT LINES

Compiled by James Addis

Shedding Light on AIDS

The boy in the red shirt surrounded by some of his friends is 11-year-old Kombo Amina Washe. Kombo lost both his parents to AIDS and is HIV-positive himself. He lives with his grandmother, Sophia, who operates a late-night restaurant at a dirty truck stop in Kenya. It's located along the "AIDS Highway" which runs from Mombasa to Nairobi and on to Uganda.

Sophia makes about \$8 a night from the restaurant and struggles to give Kombo nutritional meals and the healthy environment that would keep HIV-related infections at bay.

Kombo's life story is featured in the World Vision Experience: AIDS—an exhibit touring the country this fall. See page 11 for details. ■



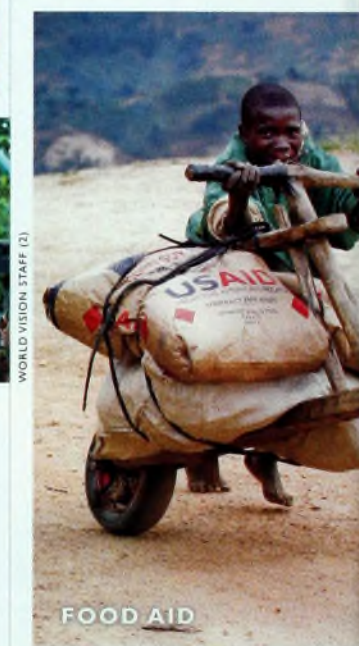


WORLD WATCH

INDONESIA | SCHOOL REPAIRED

FOUR TIMES » Long-suffering pupils at Alue Mie elementary school in Aceh are back in class after the institution was destroyed four times in five years. The school was burned down in 1999, 2002, and 2003 due to a long-running war with rebels. It was destroyed again by the Asian tsunami in 2004. In April, World Vision rebuilt the school once more—providing six classrooms, a staff room, toilets, a warehouse, and a prayer room.

SOLOMON ISLANDS | TSUNAMI STRIKES » Thousands were forced to flee and survive by eating scattered coconuts and fish left dead on dry land after several islands were hit by a major earthquake and tsunami in April. World Vision rushed tarpaulins, mosquito nets, and blankets to displaced people and provided secure safe water supplies.



UNITED STATES | SENATE CHALLENGED ON FOOD » World Vision urged the Senate Subcommittee on Agriculture Appropriations to bolster U.S. government funding for non-emergency food aid from \$350 million to \$600 million as part of its Food for Peace program. World Vision representative Walter Middleton told the committee that previously, government budget pressures had focused funding on emergency programs. But he said non-emergency programs, which typically last several years, provide the best hope of long-term food security in food-scarce regions. It's hoped Congress will finalize the budget in September.

PHILIPPINES | EVERY KEY WINS A HOUSE » Beneficiaries of a World Vision shelter project in Bubog village were invited to pull out a set of keys from a basket and try them to open the doors of 90 new typhoon-resistant houses. The house they were able to open was theirs to keep. Families formerly lived in crumbling dwellings without toilets.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA | CHILD RESEARCHERS BOOST CROPS » Schools in Madang are conducting trials on varieties of sweet potato and distributing promising vines and tubers to local communities. Schoolchildren learn data collection and identification of pests and diseases affecting the potatoes. World Vision and the National Agriculture Research Institute implemented the project.

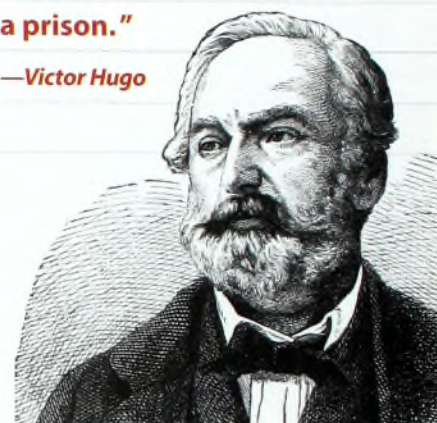
SRI LANKA | CHILDREN FLEE WAR » About 4,500 World Vision-sponsored children and their families fled intense fighting between government forces and rebel Tamil Tigers in eastern parts of the country. World Vision distributed food and drinking water to the displaced. Meanwhile heavy shelling and landmines hamper many of the organization's operations.

UGANDA | PUSH FOR PEACE » World Vision organized a teleconference between government negotiators and representatives of the rebel Lord's Resistance Army to try to revive stalled peace talks. Both parties promised to uphold a cessation of hostilities agreement until talks resumed. During the 20-year conflict the LRA has forcibly abducted thousands of children and forced them to serve as soldiers or sex slaves. ■



QUOTABLE » "He who opens a school door closes a prison."

—Victor Hugo



GENDER & MONEY

Women's salaries as a percentage of men's, by region.

60%	Industrialized countries, Central/Eastern Europe, East Asia, former Soviet Republics
50%	Sub-Saharan Africa
40%	Latin America and South Asia
30%	Middle East and North Africa

Source: *The State of the World's Children 2007*, UNICEF

MINORITY HELL

Top 10 places in the world where ethnic and religious minorities are persecuted.

1. Somalia
2. Iraq
3. Sudan
4. Afghanistan
5. Myanmar
6. Democratic Republic of Congo
7. Nigeria
8. Pakistan
9. Angola
10. Russian Federation

Source: *Minority Rights Group Int'l*





FASTFACT » Every 14

seconds a child is orphaned

because of AIDS. Source: UNAIDS

in your world," he says. "You can make a difference even if you are still a kid."

There could be no better model for the philosophy than Austin himself.

At age 9, Austin, from Mesa, Ariz., was so devastated by the plight of African children who lost their parents because of AIDS that he decided to get people to sponsor him to shoot baskets to support World Vision's work among orphans.

He took a day off school and shot 2,057 free-throws—one for every child orphaned by AIDS during the school day.

That first event raised a respectable \$3,000. But Austin was not content to let matters rest there. A passionate speaker, he began to give talks at school and church groups, encouraging other youngsters to join him in a campaign that was soon dubbed "Hoops of Hope."

In 2005, 50 children got together to shoot hoops and raised \$35,000. Last year more than 1,400 children in seven states repeated the event around the country, raising more than \$54,000. The money will help World Vision build a school in AIDS-devastated Zambia.

Austin hopes to visit the school one day and says his dad has promised to take him to see it if Hoops of Hope can generate \$100,000.

That day may not be too far off. Planning is under way for Hoops of Hope 2007 to be held on World AIDS Day (Dec. 1). Austin hopes that children from all 50 states will participate. ■

» To learn more about Hoops of Hope, visit www.hoopsofhope.org. Or start planning for World AIDS Day by visiting www.worldvision.org/worldaidsday.

Hoops of Hope

An Arizona youngster sets out to change the world.

Basketball fan Austin Gutwein, 12, has a message for children everywhere. "You don't have to be an adult to make a difference

DAVID KADULBOWSKI/GENESIS PHOTOS

why I love

BEING A CHILD SPONSOR »

It has been difficult to call Los Angeles home, plant my roots, and find a solid community. But after coming here from Toronto, I have established a few friends [and joined] a local gym and a church. But I felt something was missing.

My slump was diminished when I was inspired to sacrifice something for another.

My decision to sponsor a child from India came naturally and without question.

However, being 21, a waitress, and an aspiring actress, financial troubles appear consistently. How could I afford to share a small token of my paycheck?

Answer: I risked my "solid" L.A. lifestyle to gain true comfort. I cancelled my precious gym membership to bring water, education, and a childhood to my beautiful sponsored girl—Neha Prabhonath.

A good workout has been inconvenient to lose, but when I come home to a letter from Neha, man oh man, it's like Christmas. ■

TELL US YOUR STORY

Why do you love being a child sponsor? Write the editors at wvmagazine@worldvision.org.



EMILY MILLEN
Los Angeles, Calif.



COURTESY ANNE DOWD

change AGENT

Name: Anne Dowd

Home: Charlotte, N.C.

Occupation: Homemaker

Program: Women of Vision

Buzz: Anne realized a dream for young girls living in difficult circumstances when she urged her Women of Vision chapter to organize a Christian summer camp in Appalachia. Many of the girls who took part live with their families in cramped trailers—often without electricity or hot water. The fun-filled camp program inspired the girls to have a positive vision of themselves and their future. ■

God *equips* us all with meaningful *tools* for impacting young lives: *caring* hearts, smiling faces, and *hugs*.

—ANNE DOWD

» To learn more about Women of Vision and other ways to change your world, visit www.worldvision.org/change.



DAVID MADLUBOWSKI/GENESIS PHOTOS

Top Golfer Finds New Drive

Betsy King turns her energies to combating AIDS in Rwanda.

WHEN GOLFER BETSY KING RETIRED from the professional game, she had a big hole to fill. The former U.S. Women's Open winner used to spend about 10 hours a day on golf courses, six days a week, for weeks on end.

But taking a World Vision trip to Rwanda gave her a fresh vision of how to redirect her energies. "I had just retired from the LPGA and felt God was leading me in this area," she says.

AIDS-devastated Rwanda gave her a lesson in just how dire poverty could be.

She recalls a widower raising his 10-month-old baby and fearing he would soon be evicted from his home because he could not afford the rent of \$10 a month. She met others who explained that although anti-retroviral drugs are now available to treat AIDS, they still lacked sufficient food. The drugs are only effective when combined with proper nutrition.

But amid tragic stories were examples of hope.

Betsy was especially taken with the work of World Vision-trained volunteer AIDS caregivers who conscientiously take care of the sick and dying, though many are HIV-positive themselves.

One mother of three told Betsy that without the support of her caregiver, she would be dead. Before she and the caregiver made contact, she had lain at home waiting to die. "It really is a life-and-death situation, and the caregivers are making a difference," says Betsy.

When she returned to the United States, Betsy resolved to join efforts to assemble World Vision Caregiver Kits containing basic medical supplies to support volunteers'

work. She organized two kit assemblies at churches she attends in Reading, Pa., and Scottsdale, Ariz., completing 3,500 kits.

Meanwhile, Betsy is hoping to get the LPGA to support Golf Fore Africa—an organization she is creating to fund World Vision development work in Mudusomwa, in southern Rwanda. Golf Fore Africa aims to raise \$250,000 to fund health, education, and agricultural rehabilitation work in the village.

"I want to use whatever influence I have to reach other people and get them involved in the work," Betsy says. ■

» To get your church involved in assembling Caregiver Kits, go to www.worldvision.org/caregiverkits.

SHAUN KEMPSTON/WORLD VISION



EXPERIENCE: AIDS National Tour

The World Vision Experience: AIDS is a 2,500-square-foot experiential exhibit that invites you to take an intimate walk in the footsteps of a child scarred by Africa's most frightening disease. At the end of this life-changing journey, visitors can respond through prayer, advocacy, or giving.

The exhibit is currently touring churches across the United States:
AUGUST » Illinois, Indiana, Ohio
SEPTEMBER » Indiana, Michigan, Pennsylvania
OCTOBER » Pennsylvania, Virginia, Tennessee, Alabama

» For more information visit www.worldvisionexperience.org.



FAST FACT » About one-fifth of the world's adults—781 million—cannot read or write.

Source: UNESCO

WHAT Can I Do?

5 WAYS TO CHANGE YOUR WORLD.

1. Chicago Marathon | Join hundreds of runners to help raise funds for AIDS-affected families in Africa, Oct. 7.
www.worldvision.org/chicagoteam

2. School Tools | Assemble kits of school supplies for children in need around the world—or in a city near you.
www.worldvision.org/schooltools

3. Faith in Action Sunday | Turn your church inside out by encouraging your congregation to share God's love in a practical way Oct. 14.
www.PutYourFaithinAction.org

4. Stigma Project | College students: Invite the Stigma Project—World Vision's touring ministry about AIDS—to appear on your campus.
www.actingonaids.org/stigmaproject

5. Uganda Child Soldiers | Get a free Children of War Mobilizer's Toolkit and host a video night to advocate against child soldiers. The kit features a DVD, "Caught in the Crossfire."
 E-mail nochildsoldiers@worldvision.org. ■

» **WANT MORE OPTIONS?**
 Go to www.worldvision.org/change.

Recovering Reader

How Rosa Cintron overcame her fear of print.

A FEW YEARS AGO, if someone dared ask Rosa Cintron, 12, to read a book as simple as one by Dr. Seuss, there would be mayhem. In the midst of screaming and pounding fists, Rosa was known to overturn her desk and send books flying across the room.

"I would think, *Are they slow? Why don't they understand? I don't read!*" she says.

Teachers gave up on her, opting to manage her tantrums rather than provide instruction.

Things changed when Rosa began attending an after-school program run by Children of the City, a World Vision partner in Brooklyn, N.Y. In addition to learning to read, she found the nurture and structure she needed to thrive.

"It's like I was put in a jacket, a warm jacket that heats you up. It lets you go outside. It surrounds you," she says.

Through Children of the City, Rosa began doing her schoolwork, going to church, and getting counseling. "God was preparing me for a higher calling," says Rosa. "The calling God wanted for me wasn't possible unless I got an education."

Now Rosa is in sixth grade and doing well. She recently read C.S. Lewis' *The Screwtape Letters* and loved it. ■

—Andrea Dearborn

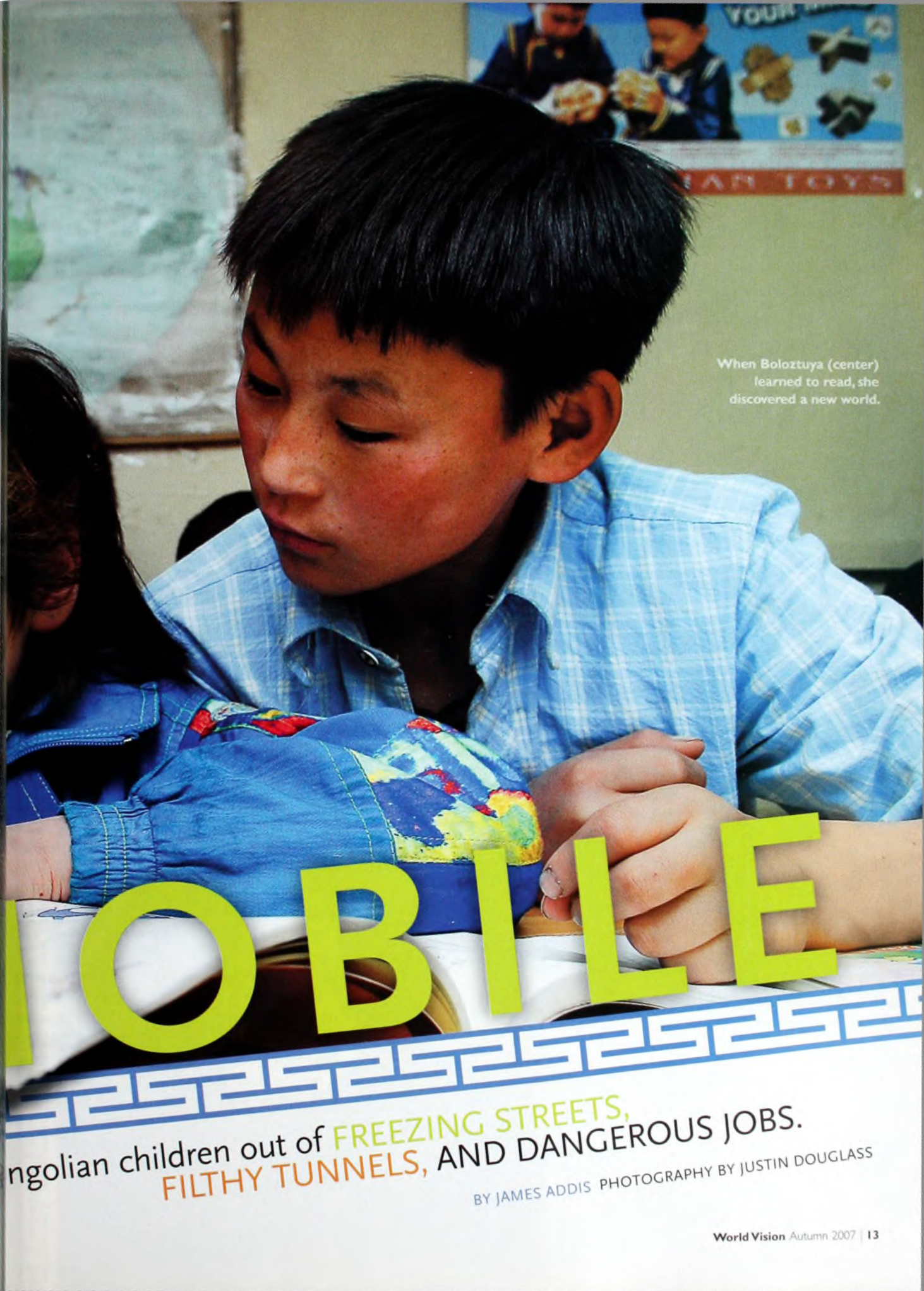


ANDREA DEARBORN/WORLD VISION



UPWARDLY

Education lifts disadvantaged



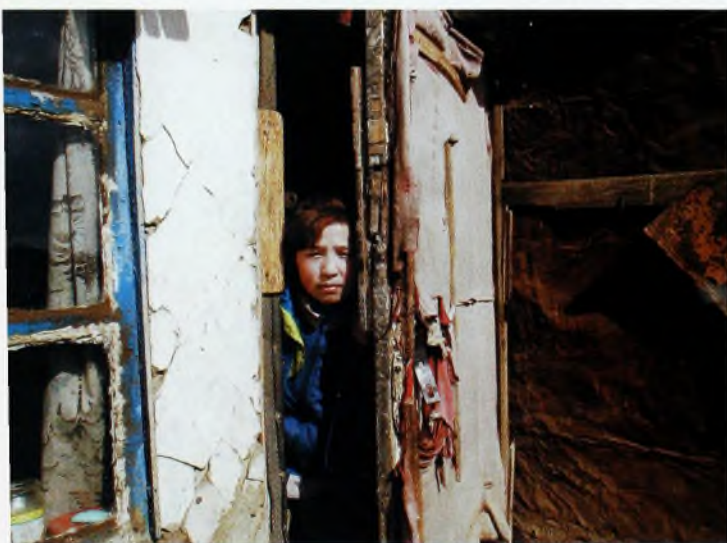
When Boloztuya (center)
learned to read, she
discovered a new world.

MOBILE

ngolian children out of **FREEZING STREETS,**
FILTHY TUNNELS, AND DANGEROUS JOBS.

BY JAMES ADDIS PHOTOGRAPHY BY JUSTIN DOUGLASS

It's 6 p.m. on Seoul Street in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia's capital, and already the fading light and fierce chill is persuading commuters to hurry home. But for Boloztuya, it's just the beginning of what promises to be a long night. The girl is 14, though her growth is so stunted she might easily be confused for a child of 8.



Standing outside the California Restaurant, she tries to interest passersby to buy her few packets of chewing gum, which she proffers with hands covered in sores and warts. She has an expert eye for likely customers. Well-dressed, middle-aged women and foreigners are good prospects. After a few hours selling gum, she may switch to guarding cars in restaurant parking lots for well-to-do diners. Afterward she will go back to selling gum to patrons emerging from pubs and discothèques.

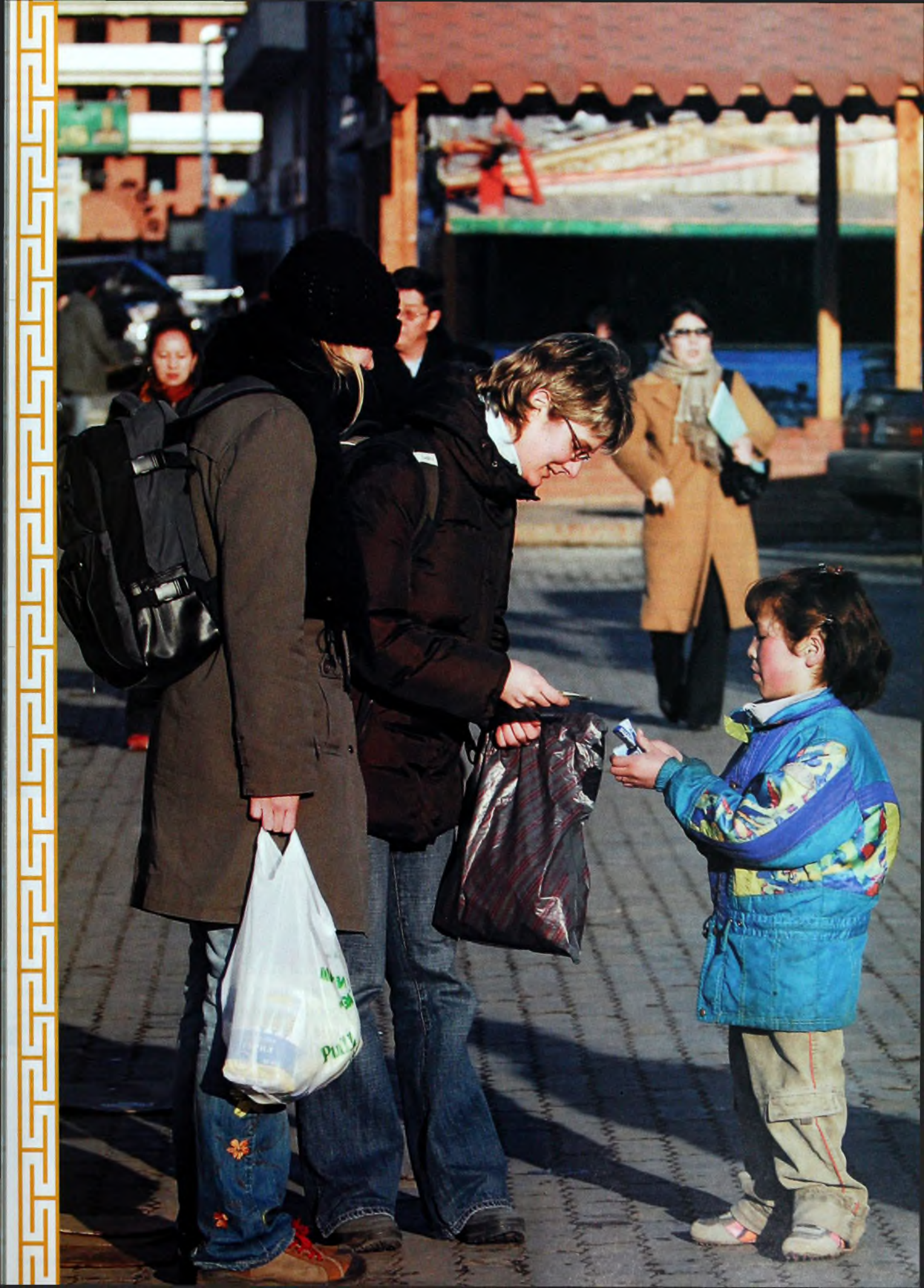
"Sometimes people just tell me to go away, but sometimes they are OK," she says.

On a good night she will head home around 2 a.m. She will return to a leaking, crudely constructed wooden hut, which she shares with her unemployed mother, younger brother, and older sister.

Boloztuya dares not go home if she hasn't made much money. Her mother will scream at her. Sometimes she has beaten her with a belt and occasionally with an iron poker. The beatings are worse during holidays or festivals when her mother gets drunk. At those times, Boloztuya will spend the night alone on the street, hunkering down in shop doorways. Ulaanbaatar is the coldest capital city in the world. In the winter, temperatures can drop to minus 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

ABOVE: Boloztuya's home—a crude, wooden hut.

FACING PAGE: Boloztuya sells gum on the streets. Well-dressed women and foreigners are the best prospects.





There are so many mind-numbing obstacles in Boloztuya's life that at first sight it's difficult to find any cause for encouragement. But recently she achieved something to be proud of: She learned to read and write—skills acquired at World Vision's informal education program. Nowadays, Boloztuya delights in applying her newfound abilities to reading poetry, something that transports her to a happier world. Without hesitation she quotes Mongolia's best-loved poet, D. Natsagdorj:

*To the north mountains adorned with forest /
Boundless, golden, shimmering blue priceless Gobi /
Leading to the south oceans of shifting sand / This
is my birthplace, / Mongolian beautiful country.*

Mongolia is beautiful, but as Boloztuya knows, there is also ugliness. Since the 1920s, the country leaned heavily on the Soviet Union, but the collapse of that power meant the abrupt end of support for the Mongolian economy, bringing unprecedented hardships. Unemployment and inflation soared. Families cracked under the strain. Parents found solace in vodka. Children were violently beaten and sexually abused; thousands fled their dysfunctional homes for life on the streets.

To escape the freezing conditions, street children often seek refuge in foul-smelling underground tunnels (see "Tunnel Vision," page 20), which carry the city's hot-water pipes. The grandiose public utility is wasteful of power, but each night the warren provides comfort to hundreds of lonely children who huddle against the pipes for warmth.

In 1997, a New Zealand couple working for World Vision, Peter and Sue Bryan, began to address children's grievous problems. At night they would befriend children living in the tunnels, and during the day they would clean out the basements of grim Soviet-style apartment blocks, removing rotting floorboards and fixing up leaking pipes. The basements were to become among the first centers for street children in Mongolia. They were dubbed "Lighthouses" by the children who came to live there—a reference to the radiance they found there in contrast to the darkness of street life.



The work expanded. Today there are four World Vision residential Lighthouses, plus three day-care centers, where children like Boloztuya who still have some semblance of a home can come for meals, a hot shower, medical attention, fun, and friendship.

But it quickly became clear that the centers were only part of the solution. Oyunchimeg Duni, a child psychologist and coordinator of World Vision's children's programs in Mongolia, says it was apparent that children from troubled or nonexistent families were poorly served by the state education system. Most teachers preferred better-dressed, better-performing students.

To counter this, World Vision worked with education authorities to begin informal education programs, providing special attention for children who may have missed years of schooling. Informal education is conducted at the day-care centers, but elsewhere World Vision built dedicated classrooms at state schools, paid for specialist teachers, and provided extra equipment. Last year almost 1,000 students benefited from the program.

—continued on page 19»



World Vision



It is *education* that
makes me a *full person*.

—Tarikayehu Sali, II,
a sponsored child in Ethiopia



n searches for gold.

PRICE OF GOLD

n means Bayarsaikhan's mining days are numbered.


he last days Bayarsaikhan, 18, will crawl down a
inding, dark hole, guided by a flickering candle,
uds of dust.

irching for gold. He hacks away at the rock face and
nps that are chipped off in a bag to be dragged to

y he works three to four days to fill a truck with rocks
according to the quantity of gold extracted. The most
n has made from a truckload is \$120. Sometimes he
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rs are children—some younger than 12. 

—James Addis



There are so many mind-numbing obstacles in Boloztuya life that at first sight it's difficult to find any cause for encouragement. But recently she achieved something to be proud of. She learned to read and write—skills acquired at World Vision informal education program. Nowadays, Boloztuya delights in applying her newfound abilities to reading poetry, something that transports her to a happier world. Without hesitation she quotes Mongolia's best-loved poet, D. Natsagdorj:

*To the north mountains adorned with forest /
Boundless, golden, shimmering blue priceless Gobi /
Leading to the south oceans of shifting sand / This
is my birthplace, / Mongolian beautiful country.*

Mongolia is beautiful, but as Boloztuya knows, there is also ugliness. Since the 1920s, the country leaned heavily on the Soviet Union, but the collapse of that power meant a abrupt end of support for the Mongolian economy, bringing unprecedented hardships. Unemployment and inflation soared. Families cracked under the strain. Parents found solace in vodka. Children were violently beaten and sexually abused; thousands fled their dysfunctional homes for life on the streets.

To escape the freezing conditions, street children often seek refuge in foul-smelling underground tunnels (see "Tunnel Vision," page 20), which carry the city's hot-water pipes. The grandiose public utility is wasteful of power, but each night the warren provides comfort to hundreds of lonely children who huddle against the pipes for warmth.

In 1997, a New Zealand couple working for World Vision, Peter and Sue Bryan, began to address children's grievous problems. At night they would befriend children living in the tunnels, and during the day they would clean out the basements of grim Soviet-style apartment blocks, removing rotting floorboards and fixing up leaking pipes. The basements became among the first centers for street children in Mongolia. They were dubbed "Lighthouses" by the children who came to live there—a reference to the radiance they found there in contrast to the darkness of street life.



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on searches for gold.

PRICE OF GOLD

on means Bayarsaikhan's mining days are numbered.

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—James Addis



There are so many mind-numbing obstacles in life that at first sight it's difficult to find any cause and effect. But recently she achieved something to be proud of. She learned to read and write—skills acquired at World Vision's informal education program. Nowadays, Boloztuya is applying her newfound abilities to reading poetry, that transports her to a happier world. Without hesitation, she quotes Mongolia's best-loved poet, D. Natsagdorj:

*To the north mountains adorned with frost
Boundless, golden, shimmering blue priceless
/ Leading to the south oceans of shifting sand /
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Mongolia is beautiful, but as Boloztuya knows, it is also ugly. Since the 1920s, the country leaned on the Soviet Union, but the collapse of that power brought an abrupt end of support for the Mongolian economy, leading to unprecedented hardships. Unemployment soared. Families cracked under the strain. Parents drank for solace in vodka. Children were violently beaten and abused; thousands fled their dysfunctional homes to live on the streets.

To escape the freezing conditions, street children seek refuge in foul-smelling underground tunnels (see "Vision," page 20), which carry the city's hot-water heating. The grandiose public utility is wasteful of power, but each small warren provides comfort to hundreds of lonely children huddled against the pipes for warmth.

In 1997, a New Zealand couple working for World Vision, Peter and Sue Bryan, began to address children's problems. At night they would befriend children living in the tunnels, and during the day they would clean out the basements of grim Soviet-style apartment blocks, remove rotting floorboards and fix up leaking pipes. The basements became among the first centers for street children in Ulaanbaatar. They were dubbed "Lighthouses" by the children who lived there—a reference to the radiance they found in contrast to the darkness of street life.

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FACING PAGE: Boloztuya and friends at a World Vision center. **TOP:** Homeless children are assessed at the police's child welfare center. They may then be referred to World Vision for more permanent care. **ABOVE:** Dancing at the Lighthouse—a big contrast to the darkness of street life.



Bayarsaikhan searches for gold.

THE PRICE OF GOLD

An education means Bayarsaikhan's mining days are numbered.


These are the last days Bayarsaikhan, 18, will crawl down a 400-foot, winding, dark hole, guided by a flickering candle, inhaling clouds of dust.

He is searching for gold. He hacks away at the rock face and puts the lumps that are chipped off in a bag to be dragged to the surface.

Normally he works three to four days to fill a truck with rocks and is paid according to the quantity of gold extracted. The most Bayarsaikhan has made from a truckload is \$120. Sometimes he has made just \$2.

Bayarsaikhan quit school and started mining when his father suffered a stroke and couldn't work. Bayarsaikhan was determined to support his older sister, who is studying English and planning to become a tour guide.

In 2002, Bayarsaikhan joined a World Vision informal education class in his village, which helped him pass his eighth-grade exams. This means he is eligible to begin a hospitality course to fulfill his dream of becoming a chef. When his sister graduates, she will help him with his tuition fees. "I'll gladly leave the mining," he says.

One can understand why. Poorly regulated mines, where Bayarsaikhan works, are notorious for shaft collapses and explosives accidents. In Mongolia, about 10-15 percent of unregulated mine workers are children—some younger than 12. 

—James Addis



—continued from page 16—

Most classes are in Ulaanbaatar, though about 30 percent of students attend programs in rural areas, where their impoverished circumstances have forced them to leave school and take dangerous jobs such as gold mining (see “The Price of Gold,” page 17).

Chat with children who attend classes, and their stories seem to echo a Charles Dickens novel.

The previous home of Munkerdene, 8, and his brother, Munkhsukh, 5, was a tent constructed of cardboard boxes. Their mother was a street cleaner until she got too sick to work. One day the boys watched in horror as their mother turned blue, hemorrhaged, and died.

Otgon, 15, fled an abusive stepfather when she was 12. Before she found a home at one of the Lighthouses, she lived in the basement of a partly completed building with about 30 other children and nine prostitutes. They slept on Styrofoam, salvaged from cardboard boxes, and followed the orders of a female pimp. Otgon was set to work recovering cans and bottles for recycling while other children stole wing mirrors from vehicles. Otgon might have been being groomed for prostitution. “Only later did I realize what a danger I was in,” she says.

Attempting to educate children with such tormented backgrounds might seem like a teacher’s worst nightmare. But walk into an informal classroom today and it’s hard to believe that nearly all the students are former dropouts. In Dolgormaa Yumjav’s high school class, students quietly copy down a lesson in traditional Mongolian script. Peace reigns, until a visitor asks the class if their teacher is any good.

“*Tlim!*” (“yes”) everybody yells in unison, followed by squeals of laughter—all much to Dolgormaa’s embarrassment.

Dolgormaa says she opted to specialize in informal education because students estranged from their parents often interact with their teachers at a deeper level. “I have a much closer relationship with these students than I could in a normal classroom,” she says.

She adds that children feel more relaxed in an informal class. Class sizes are small and lessons are tailored to suit students’ ability, irrespective of their age. Students don’t sneer at an older peer working from an elementary textbook. Dolgormaa says the students’ common experiences help, building a sense of camaraderie.

If Dolgormaa’s class is uninhibited, another informal class at the nearby elementary school is even more so. Batbaatar, 12, stands and sings a traditional folksong. Other children join in the chorus, though mostly he sings confidently, unaccompanied—a far cry from the frightened figure who turned



FACING PAGE: Teacher Dolgormaa in action. **ABOVE:** Batbaatar, a once-battered boy, sings. **LEFT:** Otgon writes in a script that originates from the time of Genghis Khan.



up at a Lighthouse after fleeing regular thrashings from his drunken stepfather. A bright student, Batbaatar has already made up for his disrupted schooling and speaks confidently about resuming regular classes next year.

It would be foolhardy to think that helping children with troubled backgrounds is a piece of cake. Oyunchimeg Duni says children brought up on a diet of abuse don’t turn into angels overnight. Some accepted into Lighthouse residential programs find it hard to adjust and drift back to the streets—occasionally returning drunk or with makeshift knives hidden under their coat sleeves. On one occasion, a female houseparent was attacked with a chair and ended up in the hospital.

But Oyunchimeg says that over time, the vast majority of children—about 80 percent—respond to the atmosphere of acceptance the informal education programs and the Lighthouse centers foster—the antidote to the rejection they have experienced most of their lives.

“These children lack compassionate mothers and fathers—you have to become a mother, a father, a sister, and a brother to these children,” she says.

The other key to success, Oyunchimeg says, is to give children hope. Although government rules forbid overt evangelism, many Lighthouse children have become Christians through casual discussions with their house parents. Ten girls currently living in one of the residences now regularly attend church.

Such care and kindness seem to work. The boys benefiting from informal education do not exhibit any of the sullen

TUNNEL VISION

Bilguan recalls life beneath the streets.

When Bilguan, 16, learned to play the flute at a World Vision Lighthouse center, he discovered that his love for the instrument helped steady his turbulent emotions.

He fled home at age 10 after repeated beatings by his policeman stepfather who would handcuff him to a radiator and whip him with an electrical cord. Other times he would lock him out on the balcony of their apartment, barely clothed, even in the winter. Bilguan recalls pleading at the window, but his stepfather just carried on watching television.

Bilguan eventually sought refuge in Ulaanbaataar's infamous tunnels. "Inside they are dark and full of cockroaches and rats," he says. "You see by candlelight. There are usually two pipes—one hot and one cold. It's better to sleep under the cold pipe, otherwise it's too hot. The hot pipes are so hot you can cook food on them. When we had money we would buy beef patties and cook them on the pipes.

"Your skin sweats a lot and gets very itchy. It's best to sleep near the manhole so you can get out during the night and get some air. But it's mostly adults who sleep there. Children are pushed further down the tunnel. Once people came in and started beating us. I got lots of blows to the head."

Does it hurt to remember all this?

"It helps to talk; it brings healing," he says. "When I play the flute, I feel at peace on the inside." ☐

—James Addis

Rough street life becomes a dim memory when Bilguan performs.



hostility one might expect given their history. Instead, they are courteous and talkative. Engage them in a conversation about what makes a good parent, and everybody has something to say: "Parents should stay together. When they split up, it's like removing the leg from a table—the whole family falls down."... "If a child makes a mistake, learn to forgive. Don't assume they will always make the same mistake."... "If you use bad words all the time, your child will die."

Returning to the classroom does more than help children find their emotional bearings. Students are at pains to point out that they take the same exams as those in mainstream classes—though they may take extra time to reach the same level.

A good example is Bolormaa, 19, who recently passed her eighth-grade exams after studying at the same day-care center as her sister, Boloztuya (the gum seller). The qualification helped Bolormaa secure a job at a video store.

Children living in the residential Lighthouses have the opportunity to supplement their informal education with a variety of stimulating extra-curricular activities—a nice change from collecting cans or raiding trash bins for food. In particular, Lighthouses have sought to provide opportunities for tuition in traditional instruments, dance, and song—something that has proved popular as the children's love for their culture is extraordinarily strong. Their enthusiasm led to the formation of the 36-strong Children of the Blue Sky Choir. The choir has toured in Korea and some of the standout singers have been invited to perform in India.

For older children, the choir has proved the springboard to greater heights. Star soloist Uranzaya, 18, is one of several who now attend a cultural college. She hopes to make a career as a singer. Confident and fashionably dressed today, it's hard



FACING PAGE: Urantzaya, star soloist of the Children of the Blue Sky Choir. **LEFT:** Shinedarav wants to return to the simple, nomadic lifestyle she once knew. **ABOVE:** Zolzaya hopes to be an aircraft engineer.

disintegrated when her father went to jail. Now her dream is to go back to the simple, nomadic lifestyle she once knew. "Why would anybody want to live in Ulaanbaatar with its pollution, its smoke, and its drunks?" she says.

Watching her herding goats in the spring sunshine, the scene framed by lightly snow-clad mountains, one can see her point.

To see children educated, articulate, and fulfilling their dreams is a great source of joy to Oyunchimeg. She says she spent years delivering lectures on child development from a dry textbook—now she sees child transformation every day. "I believe God has called me to this work," she says.

The informal education program she manages has achieved official recognition. The government uses it as a model for other agencies working with children in difficult circumstances.

Zolzaya, the airplane model whiz, can hardly believe how his education has broadened his horizons. He keenly remembers how people would look down on his dirty, disheveled appearance as a former street urchin. Today, he plans to go to university after finishing technical college, study aircraft engineering, and hopes to ultimately work for the national airline.

His thoughts on all this are quite simple. "Now I have hope," he says. ☐

MORE ON MONGOLIA

☐ **Listen** to behind-the-scenes commentary from the author—and singing by the Children of the Blue Sky Choir—by visiting www.worldvision.org/magazine.

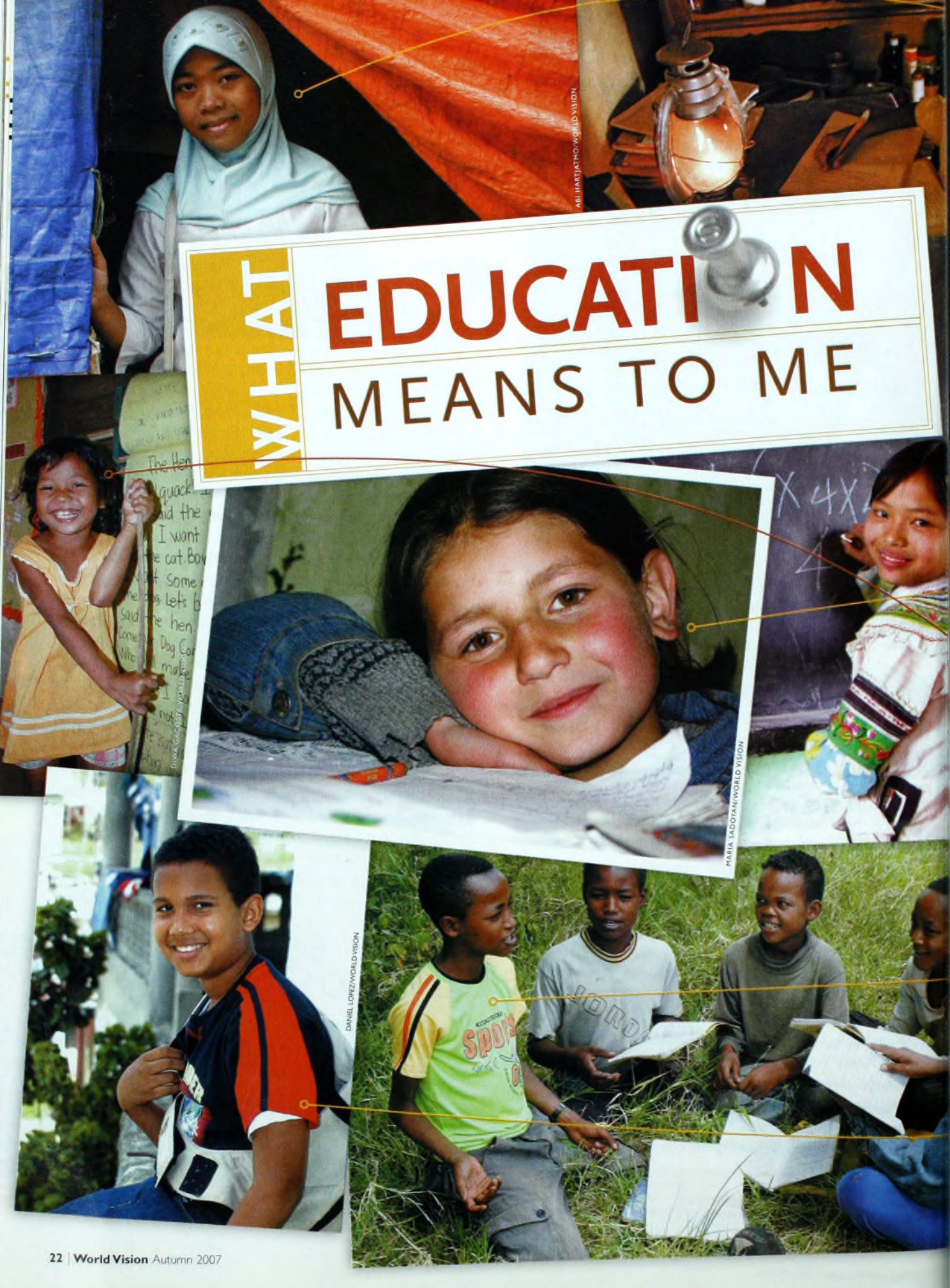
☐ **To donate** to the informal education program or street children's care in Mongolia, call toll-free (866) 962-4453.

to picture the scene seven years ago when the tearful girl was found on the streets of Ulaanbaatar with nowhere to go. "I think I've been very lucky," she says. "I think God had his hand on me."

Other young people are pursuing different directions. After a Lighthouse houseparent introduced the joy of aircraft modeling, he ignited a craze. Zolzaya, 17, entered one of his airplanes in the Mongolian Radio-Controlled Aircraft Association competition, which attracts the top modelers around the country. He won second place, inspiring him to start courses at a technical college.

Shinedarav, 17, has transitioned from informal classes to World Vision's Youth Farm Center. The farm, located an hour's drive from the capital, teaches animal husbandry, vegetable growing, and traditional skills such as yogurt-making.

For Shinedarav, working the farm represents a return to her roots. She ended up in Ulaanbaatar after her rural family



ARI HARTJAHN/WORLD VISION

WHAT

EDUCATION MEANS TO ME

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MARIA SADOYANI/WORLD VISION

DANIEL LOPEZ/WORLD VISION

"No knowledge means no hope."

—Erni Rahmawati, 15, a sponsored child in Indonesia.

"Without education, my life would be directed into a dark life without light."

—Najmul Hossain, 11, a sponsored child in Bangladesh.



ISRAEL CARCANO/WORLD VISION

"I want life to smile at me. Therefore, my goal is to learn more every day."

—Katherine Fabiola Escobar Saucedo, 12, a sponsored child in Honduras.

"I love going to school! This is the best part of my day. I like writing answers on the blackboard—it feels like being a teacher."

—Li Feifei, 11, a sponsored child in China.

DANA PALADE/WORLD VISION



WHAT I WANT TO BE When I Grow Up

From the vantage point of the classroom, children's future dreams take flight.

I want to be a medical doctor, a heart specialist. My maternal grandfather died of a heart attack and nobody was able to bring him back to life. He loved me so much. I want to save the lives of many people through heart surgery."

—Shejuti Mondal Seta, 8, a sponsored child in Bangladesh.
Her grandfather's grave is next to her mud-walled house.

"I want to build roads so that more children can attend school."

—Marianette Fortunato, 7, Philippines, a sponsored girl who has to walk more than a mile on a dirt road that's either dusty or muddy in order to get to school.

"A singer. I want to sing on stage."

—Lidia Lapteva, 10, a sponsored child, prefers this career over the other common jobs in her small, rural Armenian village: shepherd or milkmaid.

"Most teachers don't want to stay in these poor areas. They go to teach children in big cities. I want to stay here and help build a school for the children."

—Nida Bibi, 12, who studies at a tent school in earthquake devastated Pakistan.

"I like accounting, because this is a way of being in charge of your life. For instance, you have a plan for buying a pencil, and if you do not do the accounts with your money, you cannot buy the pencil."

—Victor Manuel Parra Espinal, 13, a sponsored child in the Dominican Republic.

"God willing, I would like to become a medical doctor and try to find a remedy for AIDS, which is killing a lot of people in my country."

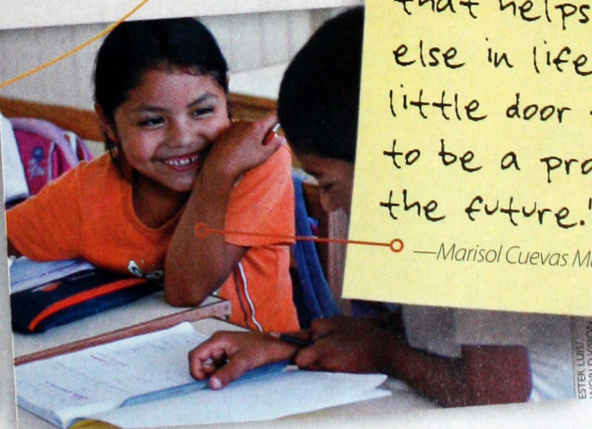
—Tariku Deneke, 12, a sponsored child in Ethiopia. His parents are illiterate.

"Education is something that helps us be something else in life. It's like a little door to go through to be a professional in the future."

—Marisol Cuevas Mariño, 9, a sponsored child in Peru.



RAPHAEL PALMA/WORLD VISION



ESTHER LUIR/WORLD VISION



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WINSTON TOEING/WORLD VISION



MARIA SADDYANI/WORLD VISION



PAUL NEWBOLD VISION

HOW I Go to School

Rare is a school bus or carpool in many rural communities. The most common mode of transportation for school children is their own feet.

- Students in Armenia brave snowy weather on their walk to school.
- Sponsored children in North Molluca, Indonesia, row boats and ride buffalo-drawn buggies to school.
- The rugged terrain of the North West Frontier Province, Pakistan, does not deter an intrepid student eager for education.





WHAT I Can Do

Beyond reading, writing, and arithmetic, children explore their talents in school.

Louxong Xong, a sponsored fourth-grader in Laos, is a talented artist. World Vision took notice of her ability and used Louxong's drawing on an introductory sponsor letter.

The creative learning environment in this World Vision-supported elementary school in Nort Maluku, Indonesia, was established to promote peace and reconciliation after the region's recent conflict.

Since their school doesn't have a playground, Ailin and Lucrecia, 6-year-olds in Guatemala, come up with their own fun at recess.

Music promotes positive values in this Colombian classroom. This boy is part of a group called "Voices of Hope."

Sponsored child Rima Joy Aringo, 15, serves as a child council member for the Philippines' National Anti-Poverty Commission, speaking for her peers' rights.

Students from this Bangladesh high school exercise in unison.





TITANIA REBELE/WORLD VISION

OBSTACLES to Education

Many children in classrooms in poor communities have had to overcome significant barriers to be there.

"Education means everything to me. I am going to make it back to school somehow."

—Pavithra Warnakanthi Karunadasa, 10, was injured in a bomb blast in Sri Lanka that killed her parents. Her eyesight is impaired and her right leg is damaged, so she cannot attend school, but she takes lessons from her older sister.

"Had I not gone to school, I would have remained ignorant and got married at an early age like my mother. My mother got married at my age."

—Tarikayehu Sali, 11, a sponsored girl in Ethiopia, voicing the reality of many girls around the world for whom education is a way out of early marriage.

"I used to think of the other children at school and how they were enjoying school. It was sad."

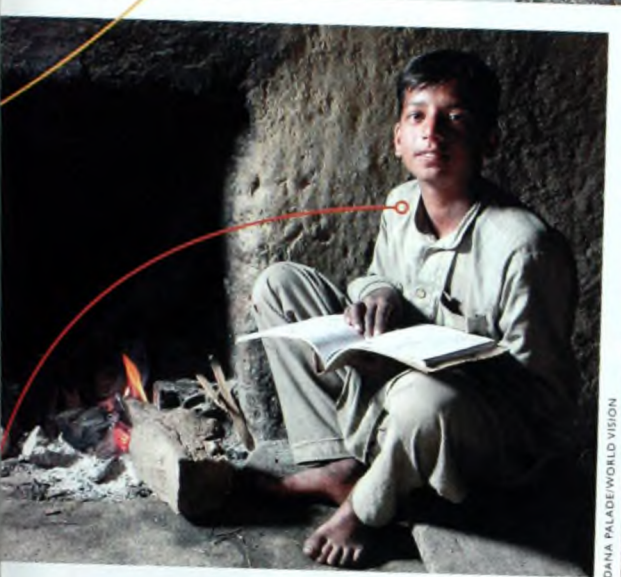
—Anitha Niyonsenga, 13, in Rwanda, had to drop out of school to work on a tea plantation to pay off a loan for her widowed mother. World Vision intervened, and she's happily back in class.



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION



"Sometimes in the village, the electricity goes out; it happens when there is a storm, wind, or heavy rain. I do my homework [by] candlelight. If it is summer, I can do my lessons outside, because it gets dark very late."

—Elena Popescu, 14, lives in rural Romania where there is no running water or paved roads. Nevertheless, she is determined to go to university and become a translator.

"I ran home from school, but our house was collapsed. Then I saw father and our neighbors pulling somebody out from the rubble."

—Mohammed Wajid, 10, watched his mother die of her injuries from the 2005 earthquake in Pakistan. He continues to study, but his teacher says he is sad and fearful.



WANT TO SEE MORE?

Go to www.worldvision.org/magazine to see additional images, quotes, and stories of sponsored children who love going to school.

LEFT: Kirati's job takes her to Bangkok's notorious neighborhoods. **OPPOSITE PAGE:** Kirati counsels a former bar girl at The Well.

of land. When drought hit, as it often did, families struggled and children's health suffered.

Kirati's father died when she was only 7, leaving her mother to raise four daughters. To keep them at school, her mother sold their land, worked as a laborer, took in sewing, and spent almost nothing on her own needs. "I remember she worked very hard," says Kirati. "But I never saw her sad or heard her complain. It wasn't until I had my own children that I understood how hard it must have been for her."

When Kirati was in the sixth grade, World Vision started a sponsorship program in Roi Et. Sponsorship for Kirati meant that she would be able to finish school, maybe even go to college. She could start thinking about her future.

Kirati's American sponsor, a woman named Margaret, wrote letters of encouragement and enclosed greetings from her daughters, who were Kirati's age. Though she was grateful, she remembers that it felt strange.

"I wondered, *Why are they being so good to me? Why, if we are not related, would they help me like this?*"

She found her answer gradually, as she began to talk to local Christians involved with World Vision and started to attend church. "They told me that God's love was in Margaret's family, that Christian values meant concern and care for everyone," she recalls.

With sponsorship support, Kirati enrolled at a local accounting college where her teachers commended her for her diligence and grades. "I remember they said that my sponsorship had been money well spent, which made me feel proud. It also reminded me of World Vision, who was still paying my fees—I was always

Taking Love to the Streets »

A former sponsored child works with prostitutes in Bangkok and hears the same question she once asked: "Why do you want to help me?"

By Katie Chalk

There are thousands of women available for love, friendship, or something far more fleeting in the bars of Bangkok, Thailand. Living in this city, if you're not looking for them, you learn to look past them. But Kirati Charoensri, a mother of two, has chosen to look after them.

The path that brought her to this role has been long and at times painful. But throughout, she has used the skills and values imparted to her nearly 30 years ago, when she was a World Vision sponsored child. Since then, she says, she has been looking for the right opportunity to return the love and support she received at that crucial time.

Kirati was born in the Isan province of Roi Et, where for years people had survived by growing crops and raising livestock on small plots

KATIE CHALK/WORLD VISION

*As I got to know [the prostitutes],
I saw women who were looking
for love and happiness in a place
where they could not find it.*

wondering when I would have a chance, a _____ had died of AIDS—possibly contracted _____

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WHO WE ARE | World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to helping children, families, and their communities worldwide reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice.

WHOM WE SERVE | Motivated by our faith in Jesus Christ, we serve alongside the poor and oppressed—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.

WHERE ARE THEY

NOW?

LEFT: Kirati's job takes her to Bangkok's notorious neighborhoods. OPPOSITE PAGE: Kirati counsels a former bar girl at The Well, of land. When drought hit, as it often did,

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Taking to t

*A former sponsored
in Bangkok and hear
asked: "Why do you
By Katie Chalk*

There are thousands of
something far more
Living in this city, if y
look past them. But Kirati Ch
look after them.

The path that brought he
painful. But throughout, she
her nearly 30 years ago, whe
Since then, she says, she has
return the love and support.

Kirati was born in the Isai
ple had survived by growing



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*As I got to know [the prostitutes],
I saw women who were looking
for love and happiness in a place
where they could not find it.*

wondering when I would have a chance, a way, to help others."

By the time she had finished her accounting studies, Kirati had developed a strong Christian commitment. "I was hungry to know more," she explains. She went to Bible college and began working in a church. There, she was invited to work at The Well, a center that reaches out to prostitutes in Bangkok.

Initially, she refused. "I honestly used to hate [prostitutes]. I am from a rural background where this work is considered evil, shameful, wicked. I thought they chose to do it, that they liked it," she says. "My mother warned me to stay away in case I became like them. I never thought that one day I would be friends with them."

Kirati had another reason for her prejudice. Her first husband, a worship leader,

had died of AIDS—possibly contracted from a prostitute.

But years later, with the support of her second husband, Jeremy, she began to visit bars and talk to some of the girls she had wanted so badly to avoid. "As I got to know them, I saw women who were looking for love and happiness in a place where they could not find it. Often their boyfriend or husband had abandoned them, or they were from a poor family who had sent them there. One woman asked me, 'Is there any man anywhere that could love me now?'"

After five months of getting to know these women, Kirati joined The Well full time. At first, she would go out into the streets and invite girls to come to the center. "They didn't always come," she says. "But when something happened that would make them fed up, they would remember me and call my number or drop in."

Now Kirati manages one of The Well's three residential centers. She lives there with Jeremy, her two sons, and four former bar girls. They have converted the front room into a small sewing factory making handbags for the tourist markets. As they work, jokes and smiles fly back and forth. Despite the differences in their pasts, Kirati considers them her friends and equals.

And in gaining their trust, Kirati is able to show the girls God's love—the same love she found as a sponsored child.

"Just like I asked as a child, I hear them ask, 'Why are you being so good to us, when we are not related?'" she says. "And I give them the answer that I was given, that we are Christian, so they, too, can understand where the love is coming from." ■

Katie Chalk is a World Vision communicator for the Asia-Pacific region.



About World Vision

WHO WE ARE | World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to helping children, families, and their communities worldwide reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice.

WHOM WE SERVE | Motivated by our faith in Jesus Christ, we serve alongside the poor and oppressed—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.



KATIE CHALK/WORLD VISION

Every Child's Inheritance »

I got it!" is an expression teachers love to hear. We love to see a face full of satisfaction after completing a difficult task. We love to see the amazement as a child first discovers the miracle of reading. Unfortunately, not all children in the world have the luxury of these experiences.

Upendo is a 12-year-old girl in Tanzania who was just given the opportunity to attend primary school. She had always dreamed of learning like other children, but since both her parents died of AIDS-related illnesses, it has been her responsibility to care for herself and two younger siblings. Upendo desires to become a teacher one day but faces some struggles. In her third-grade class, where there are 97 students and one teacher, Upendo shares her textbook with six other students. To pay for her uniform and school supplies, she spends her afternoons and evenings selling vegetables. In order to become a teacher, she will have to attend secondary school and a teachers' training program, both of which are difficult to get into and costly.

Upendo is part of the next generation of Africa—the generation that will play an essential role in Africa's future development. Education is a vital pillar to community development as it brings hope to both the family and child. It can solve community health problems as students learn hygiene and smart health habits. Schooling can bring an end to the cycle of child labor and traffick-

"...We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done."

—Psalm 78:4

ing as parents invest in their children's education. And as children discover their own natural gifts and talents, they become connected to their creator and loving Father.

I have been teaching children and training teachers in Tanzania for only a short time, but God has shown me his heart for education in this part of the world. I've heard horrible stories of injustice toward young girls who are forced to exchange sexual favors to attend class. I've seen marks left on children from physical abuse at the hands of their teachers. And I've heard God's cries and felt his broken heart, for it is not his will for his children to suffer in order to be educated. He stands with those facing injustice and has a great plan to see each person educated.



I believe, as part of this plan, God has placed hope and compassion in the hearts of many like Upendo who desire to become teachers and catalysts for change in East Africa. Despite the obstacles to receive an education, most will go to great lengths for more knowledge. The perseverance I have seen in these young people has been inspiring. I've learned from them to keep my eyes fixed on the goal and to hold on to the hope and promises that God gives us.

God freely gives his inheritance to every child of the world. He wants children to know him, know his ways, and place their trust in him. As teachers, parents, neighbors, or simply followers of Christ, let us "tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord." And we can empower those in places like Tanzania to do the same. When training and knowledge come together with the heart's compassion, it opens the way to offer a child God's inheritance.

I pray that education will be a strong foundation for the next generation in Africa, and that trust and discovery will be more familiar to them than worry and fear. Will you join me in my prayer? ■

Anna Ware, a Tennessee native, is a teacher trainer with Youth With a Mission in Kilimanjaro, Tanzania.

RETROSPECT



I N D I A

Quick, what's $5+7-4+3-6$? If it took you more than a few seconds to come up with the answer (which is 5), you have some catching up to do with these 10-year-old students. In Cuddalore, India, World Vision supports an innovative approach to teaching mathematics: The teacher calls out the calculation, the students solve it by visualizing abacus movements, and then they check their work on the real thing. The program, now operational in five communities, supplements the students' normal school day. World Vision began funding these arithmetic classes after the 2004 tsunami in an effort to challenge students and provide psychosocial support. ■

World Vision

Spread the joy!

Bring sponsorship to your church

Host an A Child Is Waiting event with your congregation or small group.

Throw a Sponsorship Home Party

Invite others to hear your personal sponsorship experience.

Become a Child Ambassador

Share the joys of sponsorship with neighbors, friends, and family.



Deborah sponsors three children, wanted to do more. After learning about a Sponsorship Home Party, she knew: "This was my answer." What she didn't know at the time was how much she would enjoy finding sponsors for other children.

"Now I am helping," she says. "There is no greater joy than helping children in need."



April Wright speaking to her church about Child Sponsorship



As a Child Ambassador Barbara got 50 new sponsors!



Deborah



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