



# WorldVision

AUTUMN 2008

*Comfort*  
**IN CRISIS )))**

Breaking AIDS' death grip with life-giving care



# She lives at the **epicenter** of AIDS

Many believe her village is where AIDS first began to spread. It killed her father. Then her mother fell ill. For months, Babiryte and her sister struggled to survive—homeless and hungry in Uganda.

But now Babiryte has hope in the middle of the AIDS pandemic . . .



To sponsor a child like Babiryte, please call 1.866.962.4453

Find out how Babiryte is surviving with the help of a child sponsor. To see if our interactive exhibit featuring Babiryte's story is coming to your area, visit [www.worldvisionexperience.org](http://www.worldvisionexperience.org)!

## The difference a sponsor makes:

One million children in Uganda—including Babiryte—have lost one or both parents to AIDS. Each one has a story. Thanks to her sponsor, Babiryte's life is changing for the better. Like every child in World Vision's HopeChild sponsorship program, Babiryte benefits from access to resources like:

- Clean water, health care, and education.
- Age-appropriate HIV-awareness training based on biblical values.
- Programs to mobilize churches and other local organizations to support HIV prevention and AIDS care.
- The comfort of knowing that people care.

NEW sponsorship welcome kit with FREE DVD!

SOURCE: 1127151

Yes! I want to 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

In:  Africa  the Caribbean

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 each month\*:  VISA  MasterCard  American Express  Discover

Card number

Expiration date

Signature (required)

World Vision account number

Mr.  Mrs.  Ms.  Other

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.

\*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.

**World Vision**  
World Vision Child Sponsorship  
P.O. Box 70050  
Tacoma, WA 98481-0050  
1.866.962.4453

SP08621\_0508 © 2008 World Vision, Inc.

## WorldVision

VOLUME 12, NUMBER 1

<b>President</b>	Richard E. Stearns
<b>Editorial Director</b>	Milana McLead
<b>Editor-in-Chief</b>	Jane Sutton-Redner
<b>Senior Editor</b>	James Addis
<b>Associate Editor</b>	Ryan Smith
<b>Contributing Editor</b>	Kari Costanza
<b>Photo Editor</b>	Jon Warren
<b>Production Manager</b>	Karen Latta
<b>Design &amp; Production</b>	Journey Group, Inc.

### » ON THE COVER

In AIDS-affected Zambian communities, a World Vision-led consortium is transforming care for orphans like Isaiah Musoka. 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 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 46 cents a copy to produce.

We welcome your comments and/or address changes. Send them to: The Editor, *World Vision* magazine, P.O. Box 9716, Federal Way, WA 98063-9716 or e-mail us: [wvmagazine@worldvision.org](mailto:wvmagazine@worldvision.org).

All scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. NIV®. Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved.

Charter Member, Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability; Member, Evangelical Press Association; Member, Society of National Association Publications.



**WORLDVISION.ORG**

Visit World Vision's Web site today!

At [www.worldvision.org/magazine](http://www.worldvision.org/magazine), you can read current and past issues; find special audio, video, and photo features; and e-mail articles to friends.

**World Vision**  
Building a better world for children

COPYRIGHT © 2008  
BY WORLD VISION INC.  
866-962-4453

[www.worldvision.org](http://www.worldvision.org)



# FEATURES



**On the Cover:**  
**THE LAZARUS EFFECT** » In AIDS-ravaged  
countries, people and communities are coming back to life.

12

**HEAD OF THE CLASS** »  
Teens in the Dominican Republic teach their peers  
about AIDS prevention.

24

**AIDS: WHAT CAN I DO?** »  
Ways to give, pray, and raise awareness to help  
solve the AIDS pandemic.

28



## IN EVERY ISSUE

4 5

**FROM THE PRESIDENT**  
Ten years later—good  
news about AIDS.

**FRONTLINES**  
Crisis updates, a mayor's  
journey, and more.

32 34

**WHERE ARE THEY NOW?**  
A sponsor's support  
sows success.

**INSPIRATION**  
Erasing stigma  
in churches.

35

**RETROSPECT**  
The wave of the future.



## Ten Years Later »

It has now been 10 years since I left my corporate career and began serving at World Vision. It has also been 10 years since my very first trip to Africa and my first exposure to the terrible AIDS pandemic. That trip changed me forever.

In 1998, in Rakai, Uganda, I met children who had been orphaned by AIDS. I visited *child-headed households*—three words that should never appear together in a sentence. I can vividly remember the emotional punch in the stomach from that first encounter with AIDS that left me weeping and broken.

This was to be the moment that would ever after define me. My sadness that day was replaced by grief and repentance. *Why hadn't I known about this before? Why hadn't I done something?* Then came anger. *Why wasn't this story being told? Where were the headlines and the magazine covers? Millions of orphans and no one noticed? Why wasn't more being done?*

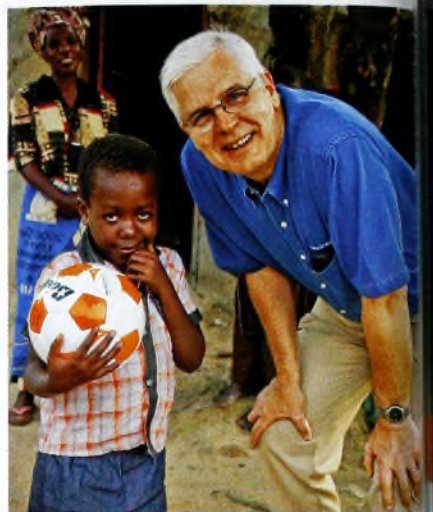
Those were days of hopelessness in communities ravaged by AIDS. The life-saving drugs that restored life to HIV-positive Americans and Europeans were not available to the poor—they were far too expensive. Few understood the social catastrophe unfolding for so many widows and orphans with no safety net.

*“If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.” —1 John 3:17-18*

AIDS came with a horrible stigma. People would not talk about it openly; the infected refused to be tested; and churches passed judgment on the afflicted, showing no compassion. It seemed that AIDS was a lost cause. The world paid little attention.

I returned from Uganda determined that World Vision would do everything in its power to come to the aid of widows and orphans and to plead their cause before American Christians. Surveys told us that few Americans were willing to get involved. But we would not give up. We pled their case to the media, to churches and pastors, to the American public, to corporations and foundations, and to our own government. We were not alone. Others also spoke up and got involved—influential pastors, congressmen and senators, journalists and average citizens—a broad movement of people calling for Americans to take the moral high road and do the right thing. And it has made a difference.

I returned to a different Africa earlier this year. I returned to an Africa that believes it can win the battle against AIDS; an Africa



**In Zambia, Rich found that people have reasons to smile again.**

that is talking about it openly, teaching prevention to young people and breaking down the stigma of this disease. The children and young people I met are determined to become an AIDS-free generation. African churches are caring for their own communities. Trained caregivers are going house-to-house to “love their neighbors” by comforting and caring for the sick and their children. Pastors are talking about abstinence, faithfulness, and compassion for widows and orphans.

Thanks in large part to the U.S. government, the anti-retroviral drugs that were formerly out of reach are now available to the sick—and the “almost dead” are coming back to life, regaining their strength and productivity (see “The Lazarus Effect,” page 12). Mothers with HIV can now expect to raise their children. But most importantly, hope is breaking out where before there was none.

Those of you who have stood with us over these past years deserve to hear the good news. You have made a difference. You have changed lives and restored hope. We cannot say the job is done nor the battle won, but we can celebrate with the tens of thousands who live today because someone cared. And we can thank God for using each of us to shine his light on a disease that engulfs so many in darkness. ■



# FRONT LINES

Compiled by James Addis



## The Human Touch

Student Ashley Capps, 20, gently massages the hands and face of Ntefeleng Molete, a mother of two suffering from AIDS who was disowned by her husband's family. Ntefeleng now lives with her mother. A World Vision volunteer caregiver visits her every other day.

gift planning

World Vision donors to AIDS-ravaged...  
who. She says Ntefeleng was too ill...  
passed her. She says rejected AIDS-...  
her human being.  
...ntly studying sign language and...  
teach deaf children. ■

...ose hurt by AIDS.

28.

## 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 . . .

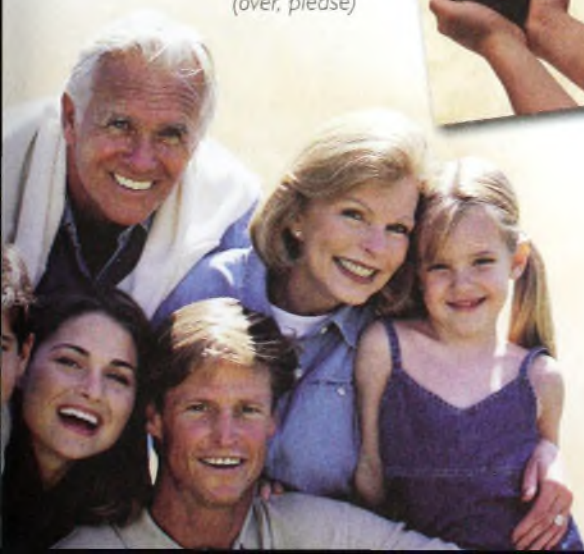
You can use your estate plan to not only provide for loved ones but also pass on your values and create a legacy of compassion and generosity that will last for generations.

(over, please)

### FREE Legacy Planner!



Complete the card between pages 32 and 33 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.*

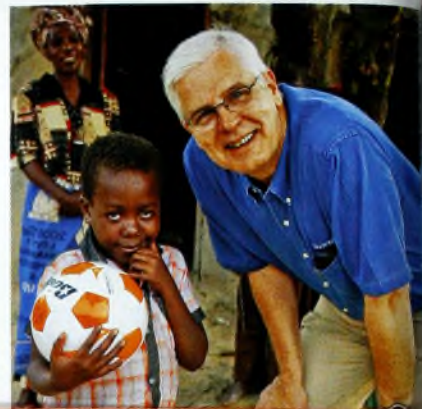
—Proverbs 12:5, 7 (NIV)



MARK KUNDA



# Ten Years Later »



It has now been 10 years since I left my corporate career and began serving my very first orphans in Africa. In 1998, I was orphaned by AIDS. I remember the encounter with the AIDS pandemic.

In 1998, I was orphaned by AIDS. I remember the encounter with the AIDS pandemic. This was 10 years ago. My sadness that I hadn't known then came in the form of headlines and news stories that I noticed? Why?

Those were the years when we were far too busy with our unfolding fight against AIDS. The Americans at home were far too busy with our unfolding fight against AIDS.



## Continue your sponsorship—even after your lifetime

You've given so much to help those in need. Thank 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](mailto:giftplanning@worldvision.org)
- Visit [www.worldvision.org/legacyplanner](http://www.worldvision.org/legacyplanner)

**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.*

*"If anyone has material possessions in need but has no place to be in him? Dear children, or tongue but u*

AIDS came v it openly; the judgment or that AIDS wa

I returnec do everythir orphans and Surveys told But we woul churches an foundations, Others also s gressmen ar movement c road and do

I returnec Africa that b

*Complete the card between pages 32 and 33 today to learn more—and receive your FREE Legacy Planner.*



# FRONT LINES

Compiled by James Addis

## The Human Touch

Student Ashley Capps, 20, gently massages the hands and face of Ntefeleng Molete, a mother of two suffering from AIDS who was disowned by her husband's family. Ntefeleng now lives with her mother. A World Vision volunteer caregiver visits her every other day.

Ashley was among a group of World Vision donors to AIDS-ravaged communities in South Africa and Lesotho. She says Ntefeleng was too ill to speak, but her face lit up as she caressed her. She says rejected AIDS-sufferers long to feel the touch of another human being.

Ashley, from Renton, Wash., is currently studying sign language and hopes one day to return to Africa to teach deaf children. ■

» **YOU CAN REACH OUT** to those hurt by AIDS.

See "AIDS: What Can I Do?" on page 28.







## ★ CHINA ★



**Dead** » 69,000  
**Missing** » 18,000  
**Impacted** » 45.6 million

WORLD VISION'S RESPO

**Target beneficiaries** »  
 1 million over the next three

**Assistance includes** »  
 » Food and shelter  
 » Medicines and clinic rec  
 » Child-Friendly Spaces  
 » School reconstruction

**Operational areas** »  
 Sichuan, Shaanxi, Gansu



ANITA ZHAO/WORLD VISION (2)

## WORLD WATCH

**CHINA** | **QUAKE CRIPPLES** »

**MAY 12:** The worst earthquake in decades struck central China, killing more than 69,000 people, leaving 5 million homeless, and trapping hundreds of children in collapsed schools. World Vision truck drivers battled roads buried by landslides and heavy rains to bring tents and bedding to survivors. Later distributions included rice, water, and larger tents to establish schoolrooms and Child-Friendly Spaces. Long-term rehabilitation activities will focus on shelter and school reconstruction. World Vision plans to assist more than 1 million people over the next three years.

**LI YAO'S STORY** » When 9-year-old Li Yao's classroom began to shake, she ran to the windows, screaming. Somebody pushed her from behind, and she fell three stories into the courtyard below while her school collapsed all around her. Her clothes were covered in blood when her parents pulled her from the debris, but miraculously she had only minor injuries. Nevertheless, her home was destroyed and more than 200 of her classmates killed. Li recalls sitting under a tree throughout the night, listening to survivors weeping and desperately trying to dig family members out from the rubble. Later, Li and her family took refuge at a shelter in Shifang City. World Vision staff distributed toys and notebooks to comfort children at the shelter. Li said she would use her notebook to make a diary of her experiences.



## MYANMAR ★



**Dead** » 84,000

**Missing** » 56,000

**Impacted** » 2.5 million

### WORLD VISION'S RESPONSE

**Target beneficiaries** »  
500,000 in first six months

**Assistance includes** »  
» Food and shelter  
» Water  
» Sanitation  
» Child-Friendly Spaces

**Operational areas** »  
Yangon, Irrawaddy Delta

# FRONT LINES



COURTESY PAM NELSON

**RIGHT:**  
Claire Mortimore, 15,  
Lilia Karimi, 15,  
Olivia Hadreas, 15,  
Aliy Nelson, 15,  
Erika Raaum, 15.

**MYANMAR | STORM SLAMS** » **MAY 2:** Tropical Cyclone Nargis proved the deadliest natural disaster in Myanmar's history, creating mayhem in five states. Winds exceeding 100 miles an hour flattened villages, overturned cars, uprooted trees, blocked roads, and destroyed communications. The death toll topped 80,000; 2 million are homeless; and thousands must drink polluted water. With extensive operations previously established in Myanmar, World Vision was able to provide clothes, shelter, food, and water within hours. The initial response reached 250,000 people. The organization plans to reach 500,000 within the first six months and will remain in affected communities for up to three years.



**NWAY'S STORY** » Nway\*, 7, surveys the ruins of the school she once attended at the village of Nat Sin on the Irrawaddy Delta. During Cyclone Nargis she was staying with her aunt and uncle. As their home began to disintegrate all around them, the trio braced the ferocious winds to seek refuge in the village chief's brick house. When dawn broke, the chief's house was the only one in Nat Sin still standing. About a quarter of the village perished—among them Nway's parents and her three siblings. Nway took shelter in a neighboring village. Kindly villagers gave her a yellow silk dress, which is now her proudest possession. Nway returned to Nat Sin when World Vision began to distribute food and basic supplies in her devastated village. ■

*\*Name changed for protection.*

» **To help children and families in China and Myanmar, see the envelope between pages 18 and 19.**

## CARING FOR MYANMAR

A classroom discussion about the crisis in Myanmar led to more than just talk for five girls at Northshore Junior High School in Bothell, Wash. The girls were so moved that they started a T-shirt campaign, "Dare to Care."

The girls came up with an eye-catching design for the shirt, which they then had professionally screen-printed. Each wore the shirt to school and encouraged fellow students to purchase one, with profits to go toward World Vision's Myanmar relief effort.

Olivia Hadreas, 15, says the girls chose World Vision because in the early days of the crisis, it was one of the few humanitarian organizations with aid workers in country.

The girls originally planned to produce 70 shirts, but their first order was almost double that amount. They decided to continue their campaign throughout the summer. To bolster interest further, the girls created a video and posted it on YouTube.

Olivia says the images of destruction in Myanmar reminded the girls of the devastating Asia tsunami of 2004. "We just kept seeing the numbers of dead skyrocket and thinking of the kids homeless on the street. We wanted to do something to help," she says. ■

» **See the girls' video on YouTube**  
Visit [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and search "Dare to Care" Myanmar.





JARIS ADDIS/WORLD VISION

## Literary Light

*A California writer spreads good news in Eastern Europe.*

When communism collapsed in countries like Albania, Armenia, and Romania, suddenly the Orthodox Church had a challenge.

After decades of suppression of Christianity, there existed a hunger for God but insufficient means of finding out about him. Christian literature for children was rare. Some youngsters might have a vague acquaintance with the Orthodox Church, but they lacked the meaning of its liturgy and icons.

Helping redress the problem is Sirarpi Aivazian. She works from her home in Fresno, Calif., writing and editing textbooks that are used in Sunday schools in six countries in Eastern Europe and in Lebanon.

She is helping to produce the Youth Bible Curriculum, a joint project of Gospel Light Worldwide and World Vision, to support the work of the Orthodox Church to spread the good news.

Sirarpi has the right background for the job. Her grandparents were deported from Armenia during a period of Ottoman persecution. She grew up in Cairo, where her father served as a priest at the cathedral. After immigrating to the United States, she became director of religious education for the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church in New York, and worked for Macmillan Publishing on the *Encyclopedia of Religion*.

Sirarpi says her goal is to present scriptural material that will impact children's lives and help them make sense of the traditions of their church.

She says it requires a different approach than would be commonly used in the United States. Cartoons, for example, are out. "It's not because children don't like cartoons, but they're coming from a tradition where they would be viewed as sacrilegious," she says.

So far, almost 2,500 Sunday school teachers have been trained to use the material. An encouraging trend is the adoption of the texts for use in dozens of public schools—former bastions of atheism. ■

» **Don't miss the Winter edition of *World Vision* magazine, which will feature the Youth Bible Curriculum's impact in Albania.**



# emotional rendezvous

*A Colorado couple meet their sponsored child.*

Child sponsors Chris and Joanne Rippe were scheduled to meet their sponsored child, Josephine Mufabyimana, 15, toward the end of their visit to Rwanda, but Josephine simply could not wait.

She first tried to contact them during their visit to a World Vision-supported elementary school in her community, but with 900 other excited schoolchildren around, it proved impossible to attract their attention. Fortunately, the following day the couple from Englewood, Colo., visited a young man, whose home happened to be almost next door to Josephine's.

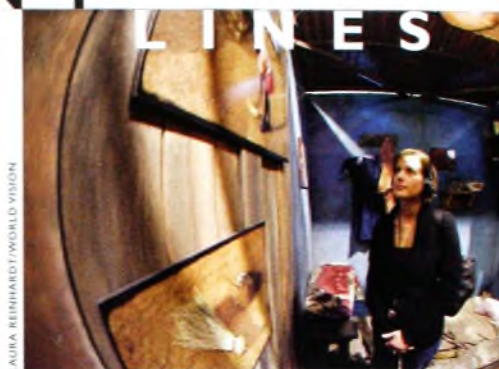
The couple was astonished when the girl introduced herself to them. She not only knew their names but also correctly identified the couple's three boys from a photograph of a mannequin pulled from her purse.

After lots of hugs, Josephine invited the couple to come and meet her mom at her home. Once there, she grabbed a bag and pulled out a much-thumbed stack of letters, pictures, cards, and postcards the couple had sent her during their four years of sponsorship.

Chris says the moment brought tears to his eyes. "You always wonder when you send money, *Does it really make a difference? Do they really even get the letters and read them?*" he says. "This was living proof that they do."

Chris says the clearest benefit sponsorship had brought to Josephine was support for her education. The couple were delighted to discover Josephine had passed her elementary school exams and been accepted into secondary school.

World Vision also plans to build Josephine's family a new house next year to replace their single-room mud-and-thatch hut. Chris says the family of four could use a bigger place. Although he is only 5 feet 4 inches tall, he had to stoop and twist himself sideways to get through their front door. ■



LAURA REINHARDT/WORLD VISION

## WORLDVISION EXPERIENCE: AIDS NATIONAL TOUR

See the 2,500-square-foot experiential exhibit that invites you to walk in the footsteps of an African child scarred by AIDS.



**September:** North Carolina, New York, California

**October:** Minnesota, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Colorado

**November:** Iowa

**December:** Washington

» For more information and schedule updates, visit [www.worldvisionexperience.org](http://www.worldvisionexperience.org).

## KITCOUNT

# 144,920

**Number of Caregiver Kits** assembled since October 2006 by U.S. churches, businesses, and community groups to equip World Vision volunteers caring for those living with AIDS. If your group is interested in assembling kits, visit [www.worldvision.org/carekits](http://www.worldvision.org/carekits). ■





JARIE O'LOCK

Mayor Bill Baarsma  
in Lesotho.

## City Mission

*Tacoma steps in to help an AIDS-hit African community.*

It might be thought that the mayor of a midsized American city could have enough on his plate dealing with local issues. But when Mayor Bill Baarsma, of Tacoma, Wash., was invited to visit World Vision's work in an AIDS-devastated community in Lesotho, southern Africa, he was eager to go.

Bill says having had several close friends die of AIDS and having been an active member of the Pierce County AIDS Foundation, he was acutely conscious of the anguish the disease caused. His concerns only deepened when he visited Sekameng, western Lesotho, along with representatives from Tacoma's businesses and churches.

The party met with orphans caring for younger siblings and soon-to-be orphans caring for dying parents. Bill says one poignant moment was meeting 14-year-old Motlasi Sesinyi, who was valiantly struggling to feed and clothe his 8-year-old sister after their parents perished. When Bill turned to Motlasi's schoolteacher, she said about a third of her pupils were in similar dire straits.

Bill says although Sekameng is thousands of miles from

Tacoma, he felt his city could not ignore such pain. "We are all God's children; we are all part of the community of the world. This was an easy call for me to make," he says.

After discussions with Tacoma pastor Dean Curry and businessman Ken Grassi, it was decided to establish the Global Neighbor Project—a community-to-community effort whereby the citizens of Tacoma could meet some of the desperate needs in Sekameng.

Support poured in from churches, schools, a synagogue, private individuals, and the Tacoma Symphony Orchestra, which performed benefit concerts.

So far more than 1,000 Lesotho children have been sponsored through World Vision and more than \$130,000 raised to support the organization's orphan care, education, health, and water projects in Sekameng.

Bill says he admires World Vision's holistic approach to helping the community and the fact that it is developing local leaders to meet the tough challenges ahead. ■

» For more information, visit [www.GlobalNeighborProject.org](http://www.GlobalNeighborProject.org).



## FAMINE MAKES INDELIBLE IMPRESSION

Tattoos create fond memories for a New Jersey youth leader.

Each year the young people of First Baptist Church of Burlington, N.J., raise about \$3,000 for the World Vision 30 Hour Famine to help feed the world's starving children.

It's an impressive effort, given that the church's youth group has fewer than 10 members.

On the other hand, their youth leader, Brian Keller, 48, does manage to spice interest up a bit. Several years ago, he

volunteered to have the 30 Hour Famine logo tattooed to his forearm if the group raised \$2,500.

Since then, he has added the name of each youngster who raises more than \$250. If they achieve the feat more than once, he adds an asterisk to their names. So far he has acquired 11 names and 12 asterisks.

Brian says it's important when having a tattoo to be sure that you will be happy with it for the rest of your life, and he is certain he will not regret having one of the 30 Hour Famine. "I know that if I live to 70 years old, it will bring back fond memories of what it was about—a wonderful thing that was done for starving children and the Lord," he says. ■

» For more information about the 30 Hour Famine, visit [www.30hourfamine.org](http://www.30hourfamine.org).



LAURA REINHARDT/WORLD VISION

## changeAGENT

**Name:** John Nobile

**Home:** Woodinville, Wash.

**Occupation:** Software Engineer

**Program:** Matching Gifts

**Buzz:** When John proposed to his fiancée, Danielly Menezes, they both felt uncomfortable spending thousands on an expensive engagement ring. Instead, John donated \$5,000 of the "ring money" to World Vision's Neavear Thmey Trauma Recovery Center in Cambodia, which rehabilitates girls forced into the sex trade. John's employer, Microsoft, matched his donation, making it \$10,000. ■

We wanted to honor the role God has played in our relationship and begin practicing good stewardship together from the beginning.

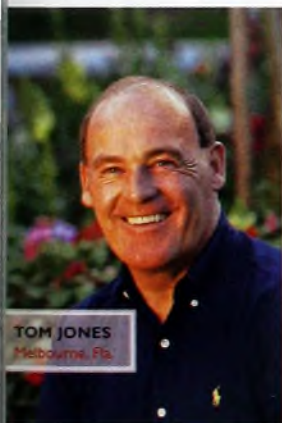
—JOHN NOBILE

» For more on Matching Gifts and other ways to change your world, visit [www.worldvision.org/change](http://www.worldvision.org/change).

## why I love

BEING A CHILD SPONSOR »

**My lovely wife** and I have sponsored five children through World Vision for 12 years. In 2001, I was in an auto accident and was given two days to live. That night I was in bed, dying, and I felt these arms wrap around me. I thought it was my wife saying goodbye, but she wasn't in the room. It was the arms of the Heavenly Father holding me as he asked me to listen to his heartbeat. I heard his heart beat: "people, people, people." If we all listen to the Father's heart, it says, "people, people, people." Well, to make a long story short, I fully recovered. The experience made sponsorship all the more important to me. It has been a joy to receive the many letters of accomplishment from the children. I often wonder if the children we are helping might become the next president or the next great doctor to find a cure for AIDS or cancer. I feel these children will have a greater destiny with the support of so many of you. My thanks to the many others who have helped and have also heard the heartbeat of the Lord. ■



TOM JONES  
Melbourne, Fla.

### TELL US YOUR STORY

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



STORY BY JAMES ADDIS  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY JON WARREN





A woman in a dark blue shirt is sitting on a bed, holding a young child who appears to be sick. The child is lying on their side, and the woman is looking down at them with a concerned expression. A white bottle of medicine is visible on the bed next to the child. The background shows a simple, somewhat worn wall with some peeling paint.

# THE *Lasarus* EFFECT )))

**IN AIDS-RAVAGED ZAMBIA,** the increased availability of anti-retroviral drugs and a World Vision-led effort to empower ordinary Zambians to care for the sick and orphaned are enabling thousands to escape their deathbeds and live again.





**"I THOUGHT MY  
WHOLE FAMILY  
WAS BEWITCHED."**

**( AGNES )**

**S**ITTING OUTSIDE her one-room home, Agnes Njobvu, 42, tells a story that sounds faintly reminiscent of the biblical book of Job. But it's difficult to hear her at first. She has to speak above the din emanating from a boom box at the Bluebar and Tavern—a vile drinking den next door. It's one of many that ill-serves the people of Chainda—a rough settlement on the fringes of Zambia's capital, Lusaka.

Agnes explains that she once had a husband, five sisters, and a brother. Her sister, Loveness, died in 1989. Then at regular intervals so, too, did Agnes' husband and remaining siblings. Each death was preceded by a long illness featuring vomiting, diarrhea, and overwhelming weakness that confined the sufferer to bed.

As each sibling died, Agnes took care of their children. "They had no one else," she explains. The partners of her brother and sisters were either already dead or disappeared when the sickness came. So last year, Agnes, a widow, found herself responsible for





**LEFT:** Medicine and care brought Agnes Njobvu back from death's door. But with 13 dependents, including grandchildren (**RIGHT**), she needs ongoing support from Pastor Cosmas Tembo (**BELOW**).

13 children—seven orphans, three children of her own, and three grandchildren from her older daughters.

Then, like Job, she got sick herself. The symptoms were familiar—diarrhea, vomiting, weakness. “I thought it was witchcraft,” she says. “I thought my whole family was bewitched.”

Agnes dragged herself out of bed to seek spiritual help from Cosmas Tembo—a local Pentecostal pastor. Unbeknownst to her, Pastor Tembo also happened to be a World Vision-trained AIDS caregiver and counselor. He persuaded Agnes to go to a health clinic, a 15-minute bus ride away. Agnes had to lean on Cosmas’ shoulders as he helped her onto the bus. At the clinic, she tested HIV-positive. Cosmas found a quiet place to reassure Agnes that the news was not all bad.

“He started encouraging me. He told me that there were plenty of others who were HIV-positive but were now using ARV [anti-retroviral therapy] and were living OK,” she says. “He said I could, too, but I must take the drugs consistently.”

That day was the start of a firm friendship. Cosmas began to visit Agnes every other day. Through World Vision, he secured extra clothes, blankets, food, and mosquito nets for the struggling family. Agnes began a course of anti-retroviral treatment. She soon began to feel better and found some work. “There’s encouragement. I have a new lease on life,” she says.

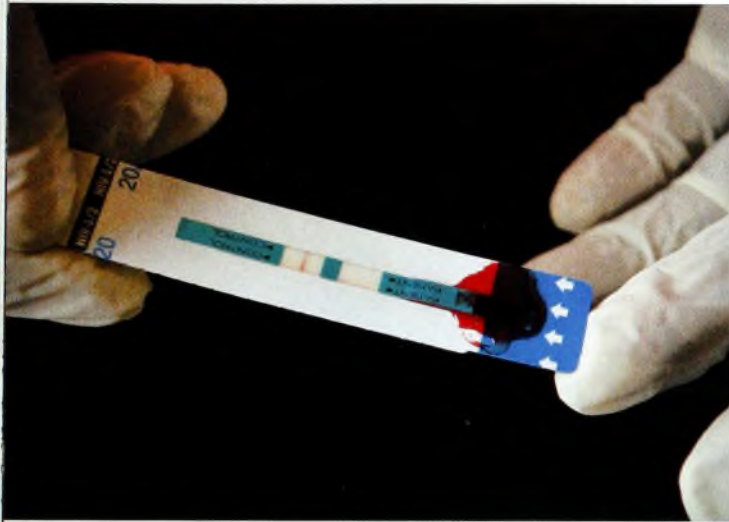
It’s called the “Lazarus Effect”—people suffering from AIDS literally getting up from their deathbeds and living again.





# "IT'S ABOUT CREATING A SOCIAL MOVEMENT RIGHT ACROSS ZAMBIA."

( RAPIDS CHIEF BRUCE WILKINSON )



## RAPID Results

**RAPIDS** is the largest U.S. government-funded project in Zambia for orphans and vulnerable children and those infected with AIDS. "RAPIDS is unique because it is a great partnership," says Melissa Williams, director of USAID programs in Zambia. The consortium comprises World Vision, Africare, CARE, Catholic Relief Services, Expanded Church Response, Salvation Army, World Bicycle Relief, and about 180 churches and community organizations. Its reputation reaches far beyond Zambia; among those to visit and view its work are first lady Laura Bush and actor Matt Damon.

### Between October 2007 and March 2008, RAPIDS:

- » Assisted 228,535 orphaned and vulnerable children.
- » Arranged HIV counseling and testing for 16,894 people.
- » Reached 62,752 youth with AIDS-prevention messages.
- » Delivered home-based care to 43,868 HIV-positive people.
- » Helped 24,939 people adhere to ARV treatment. ■

### SEEDS OF HOPE

The fact that anti-retroviral treatment is now available for free in Zambia is due in part to an international determination to fight AIDS among the world's poor. In 2003, U.S. President George W. Bush pledged \$15 billion to tackle the global AIDS crisis as part of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). Suddenly, funding began to flow for ARV treatment for the poor, care for orphaned children, and AIDS prevention programs.

But it is a truism of aid delivery that goodwill and money do not always translate into effective assistance. Even anti-retroviral drugs are useless if those who need them are afraid to get a HIV test, can't get to a clinic, or don't get the support to follow a complicated treatment regimen. Furthermore, the disease has upset the basic unit of societal cohesion—the family. Poor families might be obliged to adopt half a dozen orphans or more, straining their meager resources; frail grandparents struggle to take care of orphaned children; the chronically ill spend their money on health care, while their children go hungry. On top of all this, those affected by AIDS are often aware that their lot is due to the sexual irresponsibility of a close family member.

If there was a glimmer of hope, it lay in the desire of ordinary Zambians to care for their own: community stalwarts like Pastor Tembo who visit the sick, help those supporting orphans, and bring comfort. What if thousands of such people could be trained in counseling and basic health care to enhance their efforts in restoring broken families? What if they could bring food, clothes, and school supplies to those in need? Such caregivers would be uniquely placed to understand their needs and respond in the best ways.

This was the vision of RAPIDS—Reaching HIV/AIDS Affected People with Integrated Development and Support—a five-year program launched in 2005 with \$57 million of PEPFAR funding. From inception, World Vision realized it needed to join with others to accomplish the kind of mass social empowerment the program envisaged. So organizations such as CARE, Catholic Relief Services, and the Salvation Army, as well as churches and smaller community organizations, were invited to rally under the RAPIDS banner. Their efforts have thus far mobilized caregivers to reach out in 52 of Zambia's 72 districts—more than 70 percent of the country. "It's about creating a social movement right across Zambia," says RAPIDS chief Bruce Wilkinson.





ABOVE: Bicycles are a boost to caregivers like Charity Chimpande. BELOW, LEFT: Armed with a Caregiver Kit assembled in the U.S., Maggie Mutale visits a patient. FACING PAGE AND BELOW: With medicine available, people are willing to get HIV tests.







**TOP:** Charity Chimpande tends to ailing Patrick Musonda. **FACING PAGE:** Caregivers Georgina Fube (left) and Maggie Mutale (right) check the progress of Margaret Kampamba (center). **ABOVE:** Georgina ensures that patients take anti-retroviral treatment correctly.

The results have been stellar (see “RAPID Results,” page 16). About 15,000 caregivers have been trained, many of them equipped with a specially designed bicycle to broaden their reach (see “Nice Set of Wheels,” page 19). Bruce estimates that of the 228,000 orphans and vulnerable children reached by RAPIDS interventions, only 30 percent were in school three years ago. Now about 90 percent of them are.

But if RAPIDS empowers Zambians, it equally empowers donors. Corporations willing to give items like clothes, personal care products and school supplies can do so knowing that their goods will reach those who need them most via the caregiver network. Last year, the Global Business Coalition against HIV/AIDS, Malaria, and TB, in partnership with the U.S. government, donated 500,000 mosquito nets, confident that caregivers would not only deliver the nets but also instruct beneficiaries on how to use them. The impact on AIDS-affected households, which are more susceptible to opportunistic infections such as malaria, was extraordinary. Richard Bradbury, an administrator at a Salvation Army hospital in Chikankata, says children’s wards emptied following the net distributions.

### CALLED TO CARE

To further equip caregivers, World Vision has mobilized scores of U.S. churches and community organizations to assemble Caregiver Kits for them to use as they visit families in need. Now, in hundreds of struggling Zambian communities, caregivers are a common sight, riding their black bicycles with their orange kit strapped to the bike’s carrier.

In Zamtan, a former squatter settlement in Zambia’s Copperbelt Province, where HIV prevalence is 23 percent, caregivers talk about what drives them. Georgina Fube, a peasant farmer, says her passion arose after nursing her sick sister for 18 months before she died of AIDS in 1999. Later, when Georgina learned that the arrival of anti-retrovirals meant the disease was

— continued on page 20



# set of wheels

When F.K. Day, co-founder of leading bicycle component maker SRAM, asked World Vision if the company could assist relief efforts in Sri Lanka following the Asia tsunami, the answer was an emphatic "yes."

F.K. provided 24,351 bikes. The project's success led him to found World Bicycle Relief, a nonprofit organization based on the conviction that providing mobility to the world's

BELOW: F.K. Day took on the daunting challenge of providing thousands of bicycles for Zambian caregivers.

World Vision



"Religion that **God** the Father **accepts** as pure and faultless is this: to look after **orphans** and **widows** in their distress..."

- James 1:27

sun-  
the  
M  
e  
  
ploy-  
tance







Visit us at  
[www.worldvision.org](http://www.worldvision.org)



PLEASE REMOVE BEFORE MAILING

- Orphans and Widows Fund (one-time gift) \$100
- Orphans and Widows Fund (monthly pledge) \$20
- Share of home \$50
- Food, blankets, school supplies \$127
- Feed children affected by AIDS \$50
- Send a child to school \$70
- I want to sponsor a HopeChild for \$35/month.
- GENDER:  BOY  GIRL
- LIVING IN:  AFRICA  LATIN AMERICA
- I want to help families affected by disasters in China and Myanmar. Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Gift: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Charge gift to debit/credit card

VISA  MASTERCARD  AMERICAN EXPRESS  DISCOVER

CARD NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

CARD EXPIRES \_\_\_\_\_

NAME ON CARD \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

TO RECEIVE PERIODIC UPDATES ABOUT THE IMPACT OF YOUR GIFT

The results have been 16). About 15,000 caregivers equipped with a special reach (see "Nice Set of that of the 228,000 orphans by RAPIDS interventions, years ago. Now about 90

But if RAPIDS empowers donors. Corporations will care products and school goods will reach those in the network. Last year, the Global AIDS, Malaria, and TB, ment, donated 500,000 ment would not only deliver them on how to use them. The which are more susceptible to malaria, was extraordinary at a Salvation Army hospital wards emptied following t

### CALLED TO CARE

To further equip caregivers of U.S. churches and local Caregiver Kits for them. Now, in hundreds of struggling areas, a common sight, orange kit strapped to the

In Zamtan, a former Copperbelt Province, where caregivers talk about what their lives were like months before she died of malaria. She learned that the arrival of



TOP: Charity Chimpande tends to ailing Patrick Musonda. FACING PAGE: Caregivers Georgina Fube (left) and Maggie Mutale (right) check the progress of Margaret Kampamba (center). ABOVE: Georgina ensures that patients take anti-retroviral treatment correctly.



# set of wheels

When **F.K. Day**, co-founder of leading bicycle component maker SRAM, asked World Vision if the company could assist relief efforts in Sri Lanka following the Asia tsunami, the answer was an emphatic "yes."

F.K. provided 24,351 bikes. The project's success led him to found World Bicycle Relief, a nonprofit organization, based on the conviction that providing mobility to the world's

BELOW: F.K. Day took on the daunting challenge of providing thousands of bicycles for Zambian caregivers.



JOHN WARREN/WORLD VISION

Through World Vision's Gift Catalog, you can provide lasting help to a child or family impacted by HIV and AIDS:

- » **Orphans and Widows Fund:** Help local workers respond to the growing needs. \$100 for a one-time gift or \$20 for a monthly pledge.
- » **Provide a home for AIDS-affected children:** \$50 contributes to the construction or renovation of a house.
- » **Food, blankets, and school supplies for an orphan:** Provide some of the basics for a boy or girl, \$127.
- » **Feed children affected by AIDS:** Provide nutritional support for children who might not know where their next meal is coming from. \$50.
- » **Send an AIDS-affected child to school for a year:** \$70 provides essentials like school fees, a uniform, and school supplies.

For more details about these gifts, see page 28.

sun-  
the  
.M  
e  
  
employ-  
ance



JAMES ARDRE/WORLD VISION







**TOP:** Charity Chimpande tends to ailing Patrick Musonda. **FACING PAGE:** Caregivers Georgina Fube (left) and Maggie Mutale (right) check the progress of Margaret Kampamba (center). **ABOVE:** Georgina ensures that patients take anti-retroviral treatment correctly.

The results (16). About 15,000 people are equipped with reach (see "Nicotiana" that of the 228 people by RAPIDS in ten years ago. Now

But if RAPIDS donors. Corporate care products and goods will reach network. Last year AIDS, Malaria, ment, donated 5 would not only on how to use t which are more malaria, was ex tor at a Salvatio wards emptied f

### CALLED TO CARE

To further equip of U.S. church Caregiver Kits 1 Now, in hundre ers are a comm orange kit strap

In Zamtan, Copperbelt Prov givers talk abou farmer, says her months before s learned that the



**WORLD VISION**  
**PO BOX 70081**  
**TACOMA WA 98471-0081**

1127151  
**BUSINESS REPLY MAIL**  
 FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO 568 TACOMA WA  
 POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE



NO POSTAGE  
 NECESSARY  
 IF MAILED  
 IN THE  
 UNITED STATES



# A set of wheels

When **F.K. Day**, co-founder of leading bicycle component maker SRAM, asked World Vision if the company could assist relief efforts in Sri Lanka following the Asia tsunami, the answer was an emphatic "yes."

F.K. provided 24,351 bikes. The project's success led him to found World Bicycle Relief, a nonprofit organization, based on the conviction that providing mobility to the world's poorest people could help them thrive.

World Vision's next challenge to F.K.: provide 23,000 bikes for AIDS caregivers in Zambia. But it proved impossible to find a bike in Zambia that would withstand the punishing conditions caregivers encounter on dirt tracks. Even the most promising bike, the Tata Eagle, disintegrated within weeks. Fortunately, Tata was willing to work with SRAM engineers to improve the bike, including changing the braking system, enhancing the steering, and strengthening the carrier so that it could bear the weight of a patient.

Parts for the bike are shipped from India and assembled in Lusaka—providing employment for local young people. F.K. never tires of emphasizing to assemblers the importance of quality. "Lives will be lost if we can't provide the mobility people expect," he says. ■

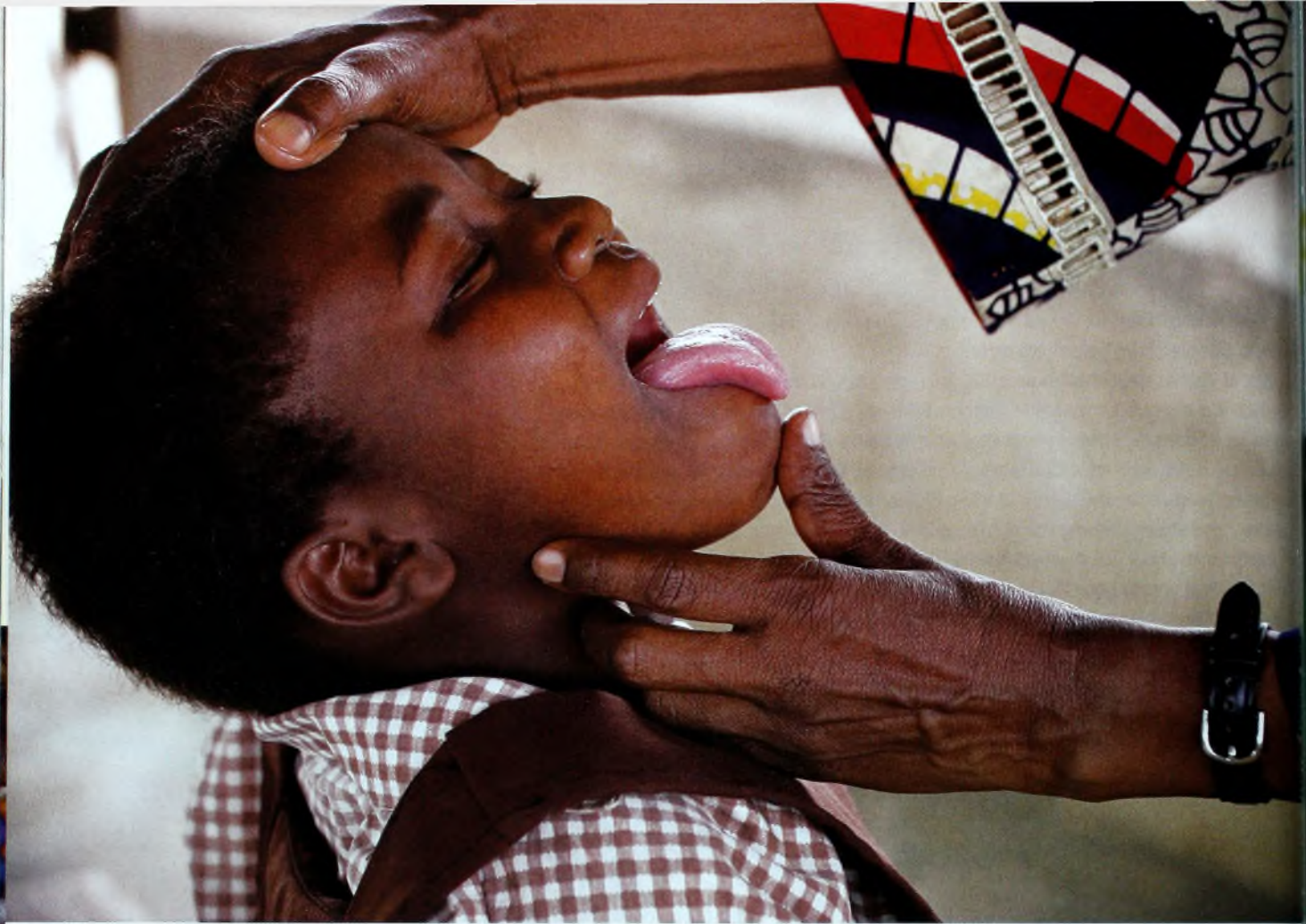
**BELOW:** F.K. Day took on the daunting challenge of providing thousands of bicycles for Zambian caregivers.



JAMES ADDIS/WORLD VISION







— continued from page 18

no longer a death sentence, she was determined to spread the word. “I did not want others to go through the same thing my sister and her children did,” she says.

Maggie Mutale says her heart was broken by those facing discrimination, and she wanted to combat ignorance. She recalls a desperately sick HIV-positive neighbor banished by her family to a lonely shed. When she tried to drink water from a cup, it was angrily snatched away with the accusation that she was trying to spread death to the rest of the family.

Retired teacher Margaret Chileshe says her concern is to help orphans. She paraphrases Exodus 22:23, saying that an orphan’s painful cry is deeply felt by God.

The condition of some caregiver patients—like Patrick Musonda, 35—is awful. He is 6 feet tall but weighs just 110 pounds. Most days he lies alone on a dirty foam mattress in a tiny dark room. His doctor says he cannot take anti-retrovirals because of a tuberculosis complication. The visit of his caregiver, Charity Chimpane is always the highlight of his day. After chatting, Charity pops open her Caregiver Kit, dons surgical gloves, and begins to bathe the sores on Patrick’s legs with cotton balls, soap, and water. Her kit is a big help—especially the anti-fungal cream, painkillers, soap, and the flashlight. Formerly, if she was called out at night, she had to rely on candles. Before she leaves patients, Charity prepares a meal for them and prays with them.

Fortunately, cases like Patrick’s are becoming rare as ARV use becomes more common. But HIV-positive patients must still contend with a plethora of opportunistic infections that cause regular bouts of fever, oral thrush, diarrhea, and coughing. Caregivers are trained to keep a record of their patients’ symptoms, treat minor ailments, and identify when more qualified assistance is required. Georgina Fube says the ability to transport sick patients on the carrier of a caregiver’s bike to a nearby clinic is a big help. “Previously, we would have to put the patient in a wheelbarrow,” she says.

But today, more and more patients can walk themselves to get help. On Monday mornings, Zamtan caregivers gather and hold a clinic with nurse Phyllis Chintu, an employee of the local Catholic diocese. Phyllis says most of the patients would be dead by now if it were not for anti-retrovirals. So an important job of caregivers is to persuade those reluctant to get a HIV test to do so and thereby get access to the drugs. “Some feel ashamed to own up to their status, especially if they think it’s related to promiscuity,” Phyllis says. “We counsel them and drive the feeling of stigma out of them.”

One who has got the message is 13-year-old Given Chipepo, a HIV-positive orphan who turns up at the clinic complaining of a sore throat. The girl was in a terrible state before caregivers persuaded her grandparents to get her on ARV medication.



# "AIDS DOES NOT FRIGHTEN ME." ( GIVEN )



**FACING PAGE:** HIV-positive Given Chipepo thrives on ARV medication. **ABOVE:** Vegetable gardening helps widow Mary Keloeto support her children and grandchildren. **RIGHT:** Student Hellen Museba educates her peers about AIDS.

After that she gained 22 pounds and a ton of courage. "I tell people myself that I am on ARV and that I am an orphan," she says without flinching. "AIDS does not frighten me."

## TERMINATING TRANSMISSION

Although anti-retrovirals are a huge help, the RAPIDS consortium nevertheless recognizes that if AIDS is to be eliminated, it's critical to stop its transmission. Last year, RAPIDS programs reached more than 62,000 young people with AIDS-prevention education. At Zamtan's Kafue Bridge Basic School, World Vision trained math teacher Ng'ona Robert to deliver the RAPIDS curriculum and develop older children to become peer educators so they can counsel their classmates. Now, each of the school's 1,800 children get two hours of AIDS-prevention education and life-skills training a week, and the subject is always mentioned at school assemblies.

Often at such open-air gatherings, Hellen Museba, 15, will stand on a small platform with fellow female peer educators to sing. Their harmonies are beautiful, but the words haunt.

*Help us at Kafue Bridge School  
So that we can abstain  
Because this AIDS has claimed our parents  
Has claimed our brothers and sisters  
This AIDS is a deadly disease  
It has come to torment us.*

Hellen's group travels to all the local schools, teaching AIDS-themed songs to other children and giving one-on-one counseling on abstinence to concerned youngsters. She says it is easier for young people to talk frankly about sexual matters to her than it would be to an adult.

## FINDING NEW LIFE

In both Chainda and Zamtan, the work of RAPIDS piggybacks on long-standing World Vision development programs funded by child sponsors and other donors. For example, at the Chainda Community School—funded by World Vision child sponsors—the AIDS club is easily the most popular. Organizer Fisyani Kumwanda, 17, says sport and drama are all very well, but AIDS is about life and death. Meanwhile, Zamtan now boasts a top-class facility to prevent mother-to-child HIV transmission, funded by World Vision donors from Chicago.

As such initiatives diminish the despair spread by AIDS, a





**ABOVE:** When mothers like Jenipher Mukuma (with son Lloyd, 6) regain health and productivity, their children greatly benefit. Across Zambia, RAPIDS is bringing hope to children like orphan Eletina Nkhoma, 8 (TOP, LEFT), and students at an AIDS assembly (TOP, RIGHT).

**"I LAUGH WITH  
MY PATIENTS.  
WE LIKE SMILING  
TO THE WORLD."**

**( JENIPHER )**

new mood of optimism is emerging. One sign is the enthusiasm of formerly incapacitated families to participate in World Vision-supported income-generating projects such as livestock raising, market gardening, and small trading. In Zamtan, HIV-positive widow Jenipher Mukuma, 39, epitomizes the new spirit. Early this year she secured a loan from a World Vision affiliate organization to help her establish a small kiosk to sell groceries.

The mother to four children recalls her desperate struggle to keep her vegetable garden going before she had access to anti-retrovirals. "Many times I felt too unwell [to cultivate], but the children still needed to eat," she says.

Seeing Jenipher today, it's hard to picture her in those times. In addition to running her kiosk, she has trained as a caregiver herself and specializes in advising patients on ARV adherence. Despite the blight AIDS has imposed on her life, it's impossible to spend time in her company without noticing how often she laughs. "Yes, I keep on joking, it keeps us positive," she says. "And I laugh with my patients. We like smiling to the world."

The gospel writer John concludes his account of the raising of Lazarus with Jesus' words: "Take off the grave clothes and let him go." Today, in Zambia, the grave clothes are similarly being stripped away, and those living under the shadow of death are being set free. ■



# Zambia with love

When Pine Lake Covenant Church of Sammamish, Wash., agreed to assemble 6,500 Caregiver Kits, it stepped into uncharted territory. The church had never attempted a project on such a scale.

But senior pastor Chris Breuninger says the church had little difficulty fulfilling the order when other local churches, businesses, and schools got behind the effort. "The initiative proved very unifying and galvanizing for the wider community," Chris says.

Altogether about 2,500 people helped assemble kits at Pine Lake, most of which were sent to Zambia. Assemblers placed brief notes of support to caregivers inside the kits. ■

**"STAY STRONG IN THE LORD. SMILE, WE LOVE YOU."**

**(KADE & BRILEY OLSEN)**  
AGES 9 AND 7—ASSEMBLED MAGGIE MUTALE'S KIT

**"MAY THESE GIFTS TO YOU BE BLESSED. THANKS BE TO GOD."**

**(BOB HIROTUKA)**  
ASSEMBLED EVELYN LUNGA'S KIT



» To find out how your church, business, or community group can assemble Caregiver Kits, visit [www.worldvision.org/carekits](http://www.worldvision.org/carekits).



JAMES ADDIS/WORLD VISION (3)



RIGHT: Jamie Mesa speaks about AIDS awareness. BELOW: Janirida Alcantara uses her own experiences to mentor children in impoverished Batey district.

# HEAD *of the* CLASS



YOUTH IN  
THEIR P

*by dean owen  
photographs by robert coronado*







# DOMINICAN REPUBLIC CHALLENGE TO FACE THE REALITY OF AIDS.

**A** FAINT BREEZE through two dust-covered, slatted windows is the only relief from the sweltering heat in a classroom where Jaime Mesa is working hard to get the attention of 20 restless teenagers. Before launching into the curriculum, he tapes a piece of butcher paper with hand-scrawled words to the chalkboard, covering up the previous instructor's neatly written math equations.

The irony is striking: One must master Jaime's lesson on AIDS prevention—otherwise, knowing the fine points of algebra will never matter.

Jaime, 19, volunteers as a World Vision-trained peer educator in the Dominican Republic, a country most Americans associate with five-star beachfront resorts, sugarcane fields, and all-star baseball players like Sammy Sosa. This Caribbean nation



# "WHEN YOU SPEAK THE TRUTH, EVENTUALLY PEOPLE ACCEPT REALITY"

( JOHNNY CUEVAS, WORLD VISION TRAINER OF PEER EDUCATORS )

of 9.6 million people, where World Vision has worked for 30 years, fares much better in the AIDS pandemic than its neighbor, Haiti. Yet its own HIV prevalence rate of 1.1 percent among adults is nearly twice the U.S. rate.

In the Batey district, a three-hour drive east of the capital, Santo Domingo, where Jaime and dozens of other young people volunteer, the HIV prevalence rate may be upward of 6 percent—five times the national rate and the highest in the country. In this and other communities near the Haitian border, double-digit unemployment, desperate poverty, and a youth culture shaped by MTV and other American imports converge. Teens agonize over their identities amid raging hormones.

"Young people here learn of HIV from their youth networks," says Delia Viola Gomez, a World Vision health educator. "Youth become sexually active too early. We've seen girls pregnant as young as 12." Batey's teen pregnancy rate is the highest in the Dominican Republic.

Realizing that young people look to their peers for support, World Vision has mobilized teens to help fight problems like HIV and early pregnancy, establishing a network of more than 10,500 youth across the Dominican Republic. Core members are peer educator leaders like Jaime—currently there are 690 youth in this role—who receive intensive training in reproductive health, HIV, early pregnancy prevention, gender issues, and violence and drug-abuse prevention. The leaders are responsible for recruiting 10 other young people to replace them when they move or leave for university. Those 10 bring in another 10, and so on.

World Vision's AIDS prevention efforts are founded on biblical teachings. Delia and others work closely with local church leaders, both Protestant and Catholic, to present the "ABC" approach—abstinence, being faithful, and, if necessary,

condom use—to young people in schools, youth clubs, and even on the street. Public health experts credit the ABC methodology with reducing HIV infection rates in Uganda in the 1990s.

"It's part of our integrated mission with the church," says World Vision's Johnny Cuevas, who trains peer educators to emphasize abstinence and faithfulness. "Condoms are a necessary evil," he concedes.

The young leaders deal with lingering stigma and, surprisingly, the belief that AIDS is a myth. Jaime and another educator, John Carbiajal, 23, both have encountered neighbors who believe AIDS is an idea created to scare people. In reply, they explain the debilitating decline one suffers as the immune system erodes and Kaposi's sarcoma lesions develop. "When you speak the truth, eventually people accept reality," John says.

Janirda Alcantara, 19, has seen this reality firsthand. She started volunteering with World Vision four years ago after

watching her older sister die from AIDS. Dressed in her school uniform—she's high-school sophomore—and wearing headband with small white flowers over her closely cropped black hair, she looks younger than her years. Her wide, engaging smile and outgoing manner belie history of childhood abuse.

"I had to care for my younger sibling and take care of our home," Janirda says. "As a result, I had to stay behind in school and face the punishment when could not complete the chores."

Today, Janirda uses these past experiences to help local children. As a peer educator, she advises young women on remaining HIV-free. She also tutors in World Vision-funded after-school homework program for elementary-age students where she is a mentor to several children ages 5 to 10.

"I've seen kids who have lost their parents living on the streets," she says. "They're struggling, they have no guidance—they're 'left-behind' kids."

Orphans are generally taken in by adults in the community, but many of these guardians expect the children to earn extra income, perform household chores, or care for younger children. Janirda intervenes, advocating for the children's right to education.

"At the beginning, some parents didn't appreciate my intervention, because they saw me as an enemy, or someone who would make the children lazy," she says. "But this changed as I explained the implications of the law that protects children from abuse and neglect. Also, I discussed the advantages of sending these children to school and the benefits for the community if the family qualifies for assistance from World Vision."

Back in the dilapidated classroom, Janirda and the other teens watch intently as Jaime and another World Vision peer educator, 14-year-old Fraisiris Michael, perform a skit illustrating negotiating



Alejandra Cuevas represents the hope for an AIDS-free generation.





At 14, Frairis Michael is one of the youngest World Vision-trained peer counselors.

kills girls can use with their boyfriends who demand sex. Frairis fends off Jaime, who first tries gentle persuasion, then more aggressive tactics.

"Just once," pleads Jaime, feigning impatience bordering on anger.

"Just once?" retorts Frairis in a tone of righteous indignation. "Just once, you can get pregnant; just once, you can get STDs; just once, you can get AIDS. If you really love me, you will protect me." The audience—both boys and girls—applauds enthusiastically as Frairis prevails.

Janirida knows this scenario all too well. She had a similar encounter a few months earlier with her boyfriend, but she didn't need training to know what to say. "I told [him] my sister's story," she says, looking, smiling slightly and looking a bit embarrassed. "I told him I did not want the same luck."

Outside, on a dusty road next to the school, 8-year-old Alejandra Cuevas playfully poses for the visitors' camera. It's a safe bet that Alejandra will be strikingly attractive in 10 years. One hopes—and prays—that such young Dominican girls racing toward adolescence will learn important, life-saving strategies and become members of the 21<sup>st</sup> century's first AIDS-free generation. ■

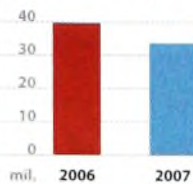
—Dean Owen is corporate communications director for World Vision. Robert Coronado is executive creative director for new media at World Vision.

# MIXED MESSAGES

## AIDS Headlines

### GOOD

#### Estimates Revise AIDS Impact Downward

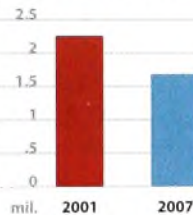


2006 » **39.5 million** people estimated HIV-positive

2007 » **33.2 million** people estimated HIV-positive

*New analysis shows HIV prevalence is lower than previously thought.*

#### HIV Infections Drop in Africa

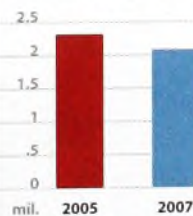


2001 » **2.2 million** new infections

2007 » **1.7 million** new infections

*HIV prevention efforts are working in Botswana, Cameroon, Chad, Kenya, Malawi, Togo, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.*

#### AIDS Deaths Decline



2005 » **2.3 million**

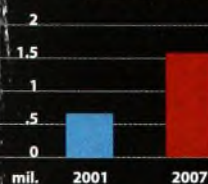
2007 » **2.1 million**

*Increased use of anti-retroviral drugs has cut AIDS deaths.*

Source: UNAIDS and World Vision

### BAD

#### AIDS Soars in Eastern Europe, Central Asia



2001 » **630,000** HIV-positive people

2007 » **1.6 million** HIV-positive people

*Drug abuse and unprotected sex have fuelled the increase.*

#### Child Proportion of HIV Infection Rises

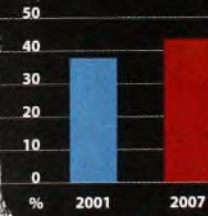


2001 » **14.4%** of new HIV cases are children

2007 » **16.8%** of new HIV cases are children

*Greater efforts are required to prevent mother-to-child HIV transmission.*

#### Women's Proportion of HIV Infection Rises



2001 » **37%** of total HIV cases in Caribbean are women

2007 » **43%** of total HIV cases in Caribbean are women

*Similar proportional increases are found in Latin America, Asia, and Eastern Europe, as men infect female partners.*



# AIDS. WHAT CAN I DO?

Confronted with a global human emergency like AIDS, it's easy to feel overwhelmed. How can one person help the millions of sick and suffering, the children left behind, the overburdened communities? But as World Vision founder Bob Pierce once said, "Don't fail to do something just because you can't do everything."

Everyone *can* do something. You can give, providing basic things families need like food, shelter, and care. You can pray, appealing for God's comfort for orphans and widows. You can act, raising awareness in your community of the plight of voiceless AIDS sufferers. On these pages, find ideas for how you can help a child devastated by AIDS.



**"DON'T FAIL TO DO SOMETHING JUST BECAUSE YOU CAN'T DO EVERYTHING."**  
( BOB PIERCE )

**GIVE** WORLD VISION'S GIFT CATALOG enables you to provide tangible care for children and families affected by AIDS.

### Orphans and Widows Fund

Help local workers respond to the growing needs of widows, orphans, and children affected by the AIDS crisis in their communities. Your gift to the Orphans and Widows Fund will help meet high-priority needs like food, shelter, education, counseling, and job training. By making a special one-time gift or monthly pledge, you'll help our staff respond where and when help is needed most all year long.

**\$100** One-time gift

**\$20** Monthly pledge (debit/credit card only)







SIMON RICHARD MUGENTY/WORLD VISION

## Provide a home for AIDS-affected children

**B** The AIDS pandemic has robbed millions of children of their parents—and their homes, because they can't afford housing. Your gift can help construct and/or renovate a home to replace a leaky, thatched-roof hut or broken-down shack, providing shelter, security, and hope for a family of children in a country like Uganda or Zambia.

**\$50** *Share of a home*

## Food, blankets, and school supplies for an orphan

**C** Bring a smile—and hope for the future—to a vulnerable orphan. Your gift will provide some of the basics he or she needs most: nutritious food like cornmeal and beans to keep hunger away, two blankets for warm and cozy nights, and school supplies and clothing to help ensure another critical year of education.

**\$127**



PHILIP FAHER/WORLD VISION



JOH WARREN/WORLD VISION

## Send an AIDS-affected child to school for a year

**E** Without an education, a child has little hope of breaking free from the destructive cycle of poverty and reaching his or her full potential. And children who have lost parents to AIDS are unable to stay in school because they can't afford fees and supplies. Instill hope in a grieving child in a country such as El Salvador, Malawi, or South Africa with your gift to provide essentials like school supplies, a uniform, and school fees. You'll help one special child overcome tragedy and reach his or her God-given potential.

**\$70**

» **To order these items, use the envelope between pages 18-19, call 866-962-4453, or visit [www.worldvisiongifts.org](http://www.worldvisiongifts.org).**

**Your Gift is a Sacred Trust** » We promise to honor your generosity and use your donation in the most effective way possible. These Gift Catalog needs reflect World Vision projects at the time of writing, and the suggested donation amounts are based on periodic surveys of the countries we serve. Each item is representative of the gift category in which it appears in our Gift Catalog, and donations are used to provide assistance where it is needed most within that category or to address a similar need.

## Feed children affected by AIDS

**D** All too often, children who live in AIDS-affected communities don't know where their next meal will come from. Many are in the care of siblings just a year or two older. Even those taken in by relatives or neighbors face hunger, since a community's meager food resources can be stretched past the limit by the overwhelming number of children in need of caregivers. Your gift will provide nutritional support for children in countries like Angola, El Salvador, and Zimbabwe—giving them a brighter future and easing their caregivers' burdens.

**\$50**



DAVID WARD/WORLD VISION



# AIDS. WHAT CAN I DO?

Confronted with a global human emergency like AIDS, it's easy to feel overwhelmed. How can one person help the millions of sick and suffering, the children left behind, the overburdened communities? But as World Vision founder Bob Pierce once said, "Don't fail to do something just because you can't do everything."

Everyone *can* do something. You can give, providing basic things families need like food, shelter, and care. You can pray, appealing for God's comfort for orphans and widows. You can act, raising awareness in your community of the plight of voiceless AIDS sufferers. On these pages, find ideas for how you can help a child devastated by AIDS.



**"DON'T FAIL TO DO SOMETHING JUST BECAUSE YOU CAN'T DO EVERYTHING."**

( BOB PIERCE )

## GIVE

WORLD VISION'S GIFT CATALOG enables you to provide tangible care for children and families affected by AIDS.

### Orphans and Widows Fund

▲ Help local workers respond to the growing needs of widows, orphans, and children affected by the AIDS crisis in their communities. Your gift to the Orphans and Widows Fund will help meet high-priority needs like food, shelter, education, counseling, and job training. By making a special one-time gift or monthly pledge, you'll help our staff respond where and when help is needed most all year long.

**\$100** *One-time gift*

**\$20** *Monthly pledge (debit/credit card only)*







SHON RICHARD RUGENT/WORLD VISION

## Provide a home for AIDS-affected children

**B** The AIDS pandemic has robbed millions of children of their parents—and their homes, because they can't afford housing. Your gift can help construct and/or renovate a home to replace a leaky, thatched-roof hut or broken-down shack, providing shelter, security, and hope for a family of children in a country like Uganda or Zambia.

**\$50** *Share of a home*



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

## Send an AIDS-affected child to school for a year

**E** Without an education, a child has little hope of breaking free from the destructive cycle of poverty and reaching his or her full potential. And children who have lost parents to AIDS are unable to stay in school because they can't afford fees and supplies. Instill hope in a grieving child in a country such as El Salvador, Malawi, or South Africa with your gift to provide essentials like school supplies, a uniform, and school fees. You'll help one special child overcome tragedy and reach his or her God-given potential.

**\$70**

» **To order these items, use the envelope between pages 18-19, call 866-962-4453, or visit [www.worldvisiongifts.org](http://www.worldvisiongifts.org).**

**Your Gift is a Sacred Trust** » We promise to honor your generosity and use your donation in the most effective way possible. These Gift Catalog needs reflect World Vision projects at the time of writing, and the suggested donation amounts are based on periodic surveys of the countries we serve. Each item is representative of the gift category in which it appears in our Gift Catalog, and donations are used to provide assistance where it is needed most within that category or to address a similar need.

## Food, blankets, and school supplies for an orphan

**C** Bring a smile—and hope for the future—to a vulnerable orphan. Your gift will provide some of the basics he or she needs most: nutritious food like cornmeal and beans to keep hunger away, two blankets for warm and cozy nights, and school supplies and clothing to help ensure another critical year of education.

**\$127**



PHILIP MAHEKI/WORLD VISION

## Feed children affected by AIDS

**D** All too often, children who live in AIDS-affected communities don't know where their next meal will come from. Many are in the care of siblings just a year or two older. Even those taken in by relatives or neighbors face hunger, since a community's meager food resources can be stretched past the limit by the overwhelming number of children in need of caregivers. Your gift will provide nutritional support for children in countries like Angola, El Salvador, and Zimbabwe—giving them a brighter future and easing their caregivers' burdens.

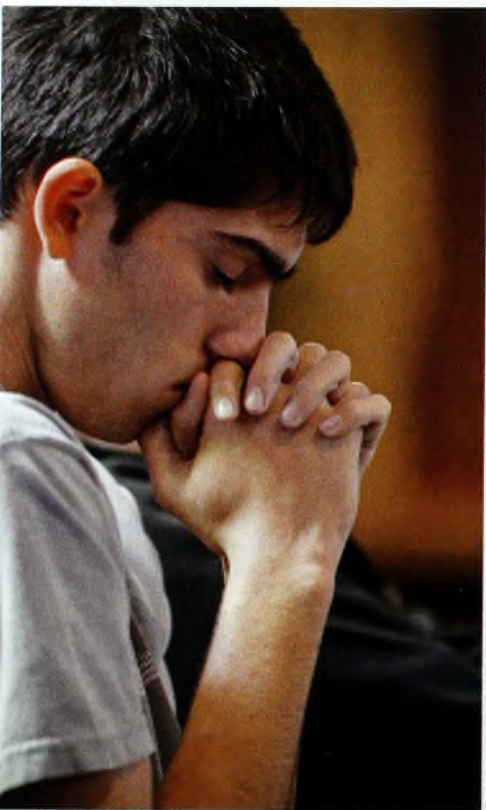
**\$50**



DAVID WARD/WORLD VISION



Prayer during World AIDS Day 2007 (BELOW), and at a Caregiver Kit build in Arizona (BOTTOM).



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

# PRAY

THE WORLDWIDE AIDS pandemic offers an historic opportunity for Christians to demonstrate God's love through powerful, prevailing prayer. But you struggle with how to pray about AIDS? Here is a simple prayer you can use. To print a specially designed version to save or share, visit [www.worldvision.org/magazine](http://www.worldvision.org/magazine).

## PRAYER FOR MY NEIGHBOR

I have listened, Lord. In the pleas of Your child, I have heard Your voice.

*"Thou shalt love thy neighbor" has rung out. And I have found her, at the far ends of the earth, shattered in pain, trapped in fear.*

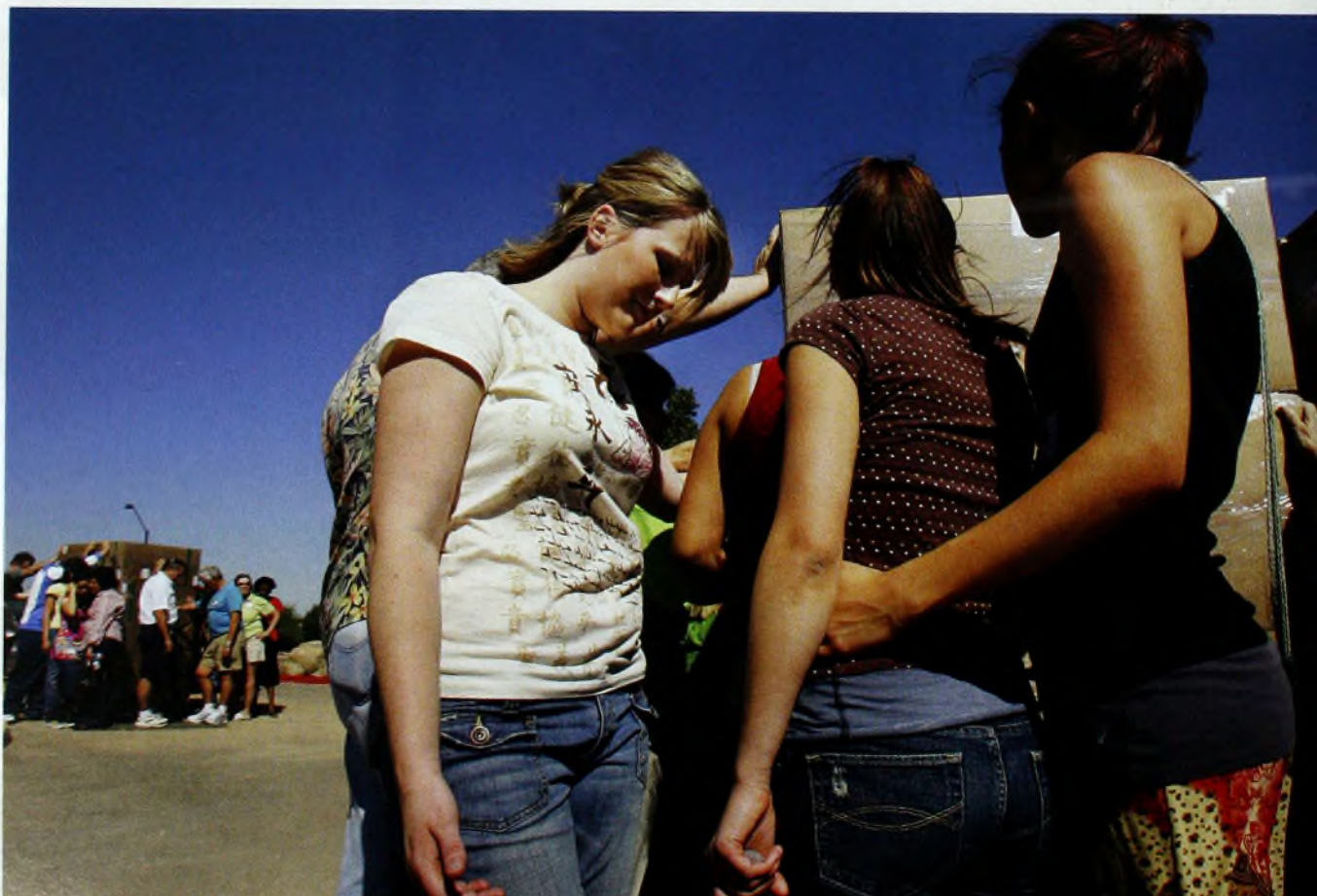
In Your mercy, Lord, heal her afflictions.  
Gather her to You and comfort her distress.

*As I reach out to her, Lord, join my hand with the hands of all Your children.  
Broaden the path beneath us. Be a lamp unto our feet.  
Give us a sense of urgency to bring her Your healing power.*

At the far ends of the earth, where Your voice calls and our hearts dwell,  
may Your kingdom come—on earth as it is in heaven.

AMEN.

Another way to dedicate yourself to praying for children and families devastated by AIDS is through World Vision's Hope Prayer Chain. By signing up as a Hope Prayer Partner, you will receive periodic e-mails with prayer requests, praise reports, and opportunities to get involved. To sign up, visit [www.worldvision.org/hopeprayerchain](http://www.worldvision.org/hopeprayerchain).





# ACT

**WHETHER YOU HAVE** the whole day to spare or just a few minutes—whether you prefer working alone or with a group—there’s something you can do.

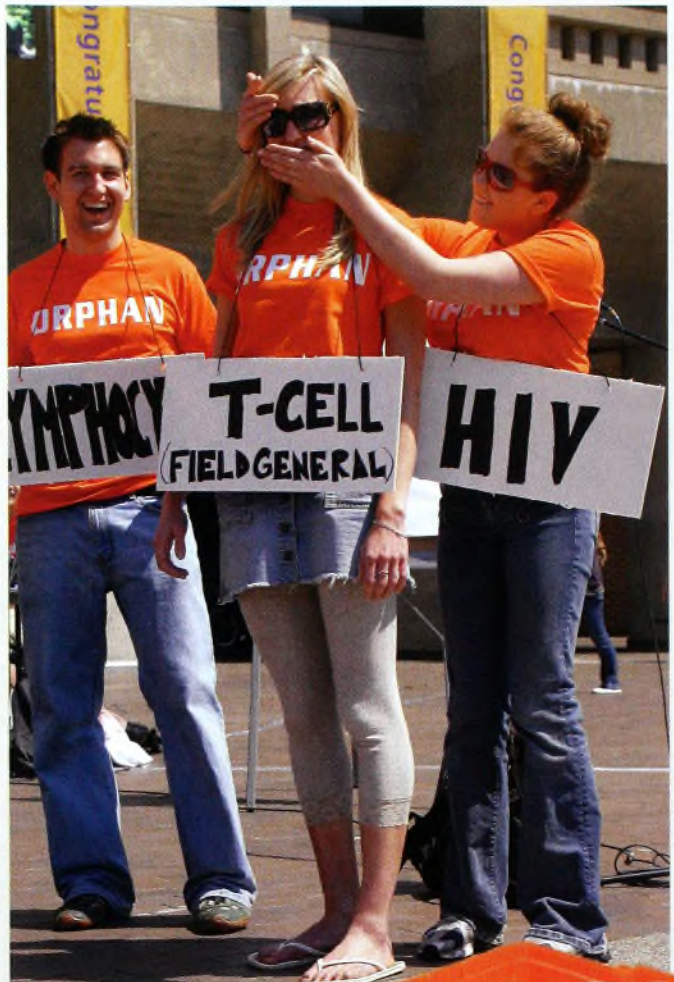
**Do you sponsor a child in an AIDS-affected community?** Tell your friends and family about your child’s life—thereby providing a real face to represent the overwhelming AIDS pandemic. Or become a HopeChild sponsor—use the envelope between pages 18 and 19.

**Do you like a hands-on activity?** Building a Caregiver Kit is for you. Get your church, business, or community group to join you in assembling kits that equip African volunteers caring for the sick and vulnerable (see page 23 for one church’s example). For information, visit [www.worldvision.org/carekits](http://www.worldvision.org/carekits).

**Are you a visual learner?** Don’t miss the World Vision Experience: AIDS. The interactive exhibit allows you to walk in the footsteps of a child affected by AIDS. To see video clips and to find out when the exhibit might come to your area, visit [www.worldvisionexperience.org](http://www.worldvisionexperience.org)

**Are you a college student?** Your campus may already participate in Acting on AIDS, a student-led movement to create awareness and promote activism on AIDS. For activities and information, visit [www.actingonaids.org](http://www.actingonaids.org).

**Are you on Facebook?** You can advocate for those impacted by AIDS on your profile. World Vision helps you get started. Visit [www.worldvision.org/facebook](http://www.worldvision.org/facebook). ■



ANDREA DEARBORN/WORLD VISION



LAURA REINHARDT/WORLD VISION

GARY FONG/GENESIS PHOTOS

» **What Did You Do?** How have you responded to the AIDS pandemic—in one of these ways or through your own idea? Write to the editors at [wvmagazine@worldvision.org](mailto:wvmagazine@worldvision.org).





**Industrious Luu hopes to pursue higher education.**

**Describe where you grew up.**

Dai village was peaceful, with open and friendly people. Villagers lived on plants, rice and vegetables. My house was made of brick. It was small, with two rooms. When it rained, water came through the broken roof, so it was difficult for us to find a dry place inside.

**What was your family's income when you were young?**

We got money from selling vegetables. My father earned 200,000 dong [\$12.50] per month as a taxman. My family was as poor as others in my village.

**What was a typical day like?**

I went to school in the morning and came back home to have lunch. I went to some extra classes to improve my study some afternoons a week. When I had free time I played with my younger sister or my friends. We skipped rope or cooked meals for fun together.

**What were the main challenges for people in your community?**

People were afraid of crop failure due to natural disasters and backward agricultural techniques. As a result, they did not have any money, and many children dropped out of school.

**How did World Vision address these challenges?**

World Vision introduced new models of agriculture and provided villagers with courses on cultivation and animal husbandry. The organization offered micro-finance and others low-interest loans to invest in their businesses. When life was better, families brought their children to school. World Vision provided schools with textbooks [and] gave poor children school bags.

KHUAT QUANG HUNG/WORLD VISION (3)

## Stitching for Success »

*While Luu Thi Huyen, 19, was growing up in rural Vietnam, she enjoyed friendship and encouragement from her Japanese sponsor. Now a high-school graduate, Luu is on her way with a job and plans for the future.*

*Interview by Nguyen Kim Ngan*



**What did you think when you heard about becoming sponsored?**

I felt very excited, because I would be a representative of my community to communicate with people from Japan. As a sponsored child, I could tell them about my village and my family while I could know about their culture.

**What kind of work do you do?**

I started working as a garment worker in July 2007, after I graduated from high school. I realized I should work because my parents needed me to help support my younger sisters. I attended a free course on making clothes after school between January and June 2007.

# a little **planning** can change the **world**

A well-designed estate plan addresses the needs of your family, eliminates unnecessary taxes, and enables you to continue making a difference for children in need.

Do you have a plan in place that reflects your values and leaves the legacy you desire for loved ones and causes dear to your heart?

If not, our Gift Planning office can help. To receive free, *confidential* help from a Gift Planning specialist, please call us today at **1.866.962.4453**, e-mail [giftplanning@worldvision.org](mailto:giftplanning@worldvision.org), or visit [www.worldvision.org/legacyplanner](http://www.worldvision.org/legacyplanner).

You can also request a free copy of our *Legacy Planner*, filled with valuable insights you can use to create or update your estate plan.



Please detach along perforation.

## I don't want to leave my legacy to chance!

I would like to speak to a Gift Planning specialist about my estate plan.

Please send my FREE copy of World Vision's *Legacy Planner*.

I have included World Vision in my estate plan.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  This is a new address

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Best time to call \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**Thank you for your continued support!**



## 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, visit [www.worldvision.org](http://www.worldvision.org).



WHERE ARE THEY

NOW?



**Industrious Luu hopes to pursue higher education.**

**Describe where you grew up.**  
Dai village was peaceful, with open and friendly people. Villagers lived on plants

### Does your estate plan need a tune-up?

Your estate plan represents a snapshot in time. As life changes, your circumstances, needs, and goals may change too.



Call today for your **FREE Legacy Planner!**

It may be time to review your estate plan if . . .

- You've experienced a significant change in net worth
- Your loved ones' needs have changed
- You've experienced a major life change such as retirement, the death of a spouse, or a move to another state
- You wish to include charitable giving in your estate plan

Keep in mind that an out-of-date estate plan can be as bad as not having one at all.

### We are here to help.

Don't miss your opportunity to ensure you leave the legacy you desire. Complete and mail this postage-paid card or call **1.866.962.4453** or e-mail [giftplanning@worldvision.org](mailto:giftplanning@worldvision.org).



## Stitching

*While Luu Thi Huyen in rural Vietnam, she received encouragement from her family. Now a high-school graduate, she is on her way with a job and plan.*

*Interview by Nguyen Kim*



NO POSTAGE  
NECESSARY  
IF MAILED  
IN THE  
UNITED STATES

**BUSINESS REPLY MAIL**  
FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 568 TACOMA WA

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

**WORLD VISION**  
PO BOX 70438  
TACOMA WA 98471-0438





### What did you think when you heard about becoming sponsored?

I felt very excited, because I would be a representative of my community to communicate with people from Japan. As a sponsored child, I could tell them about my village and my family while I could know about their culture.

### Who was your sponsor?

Her name was Noriko Kuwata. She was a teacher for disabled children. She wrote to me quite often. I also received her gifts, such as picture books, photos, and music tapes, especially at Christmas. I still keep a photo of her. She looked beautiful and kind-hearted.

### What was your favorite thing about being a sponsored child?

I loved to write letters to my sponsor. I had not written anyone a letter before I joined the sponsorship program.

### What do you remember from your years in school?

I went to school by bicycle. I loved studying math, so I always got good marks in the subject. When I was a primary student, I participated in clubs to sing, dance, and tell stories.

### What kind of work do you do?

I started working as a garment worker in July 2007, after I graduated from high school. I realized I should work because my parents needed me to help support my younger sisters. I attended a free course on making clothes after school between January and June 2007.

### What are your dreams for the future?

I [will] continue working at the garment company while I study at night. I want to get higher education and become a policewoman. If not, I'll work hard to become a good tailor and get an opportunity to work abroad. When I work overseas, I can earn a better salary as well as broaden my knowledge about the world. Whether I'm a policewoman or a tailor, I want to live independently and support my [family].

### How do you show appreciation to your sponsor?

When I was small, I tried to study well, because it was a way to thank my sponsor. At present, I will work hard to have a good life. ■

» **Nguyen Kim Ngan** is a communications officer for World Vision in Vietnam.



## 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, visit [www.worldvision.org](http://www.worldvision.org).





## Compelled by Christ »

**W**hy would we need a new ministry on AIDS? We do not have anyone with AIDS in our church!" I cringed as I listened to these words from the head of social services of the Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa. It was March 1990—three months before I announced to the congregation where I served as minister that I was living with HIV.

It is now 2008. Many things have changed since that terrible day. Despite sometimes fierce resistance, many churches have started amazing HIV and AIDS ministries. But the reality is that stigma still prevents many churches from responding appropriately.

Thomas Lebiletsa, a pastor of Calvary Hope of the Nations Church from Lesotho, acknowledges that he used to be part of the problem: "I would tell my congregation almost every Sunday, 'Those with HIV must repent. You will come back to the church when your legs are as thin as the pole holding up this tent and ask for forgiveness... and I will be ready to conduct your funerals.'"

But in 2006, Thomas was trained as a facilitator for World Vision's Channels of Hope program, which aims to equip church leaders and their congregations to respond effectively to HIV and AIDS. He left the training a different man. He realized those who were suffering because of the pandemic could never come to him for support unless his attitude changed.

*Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. —Romans 15:7*

Thomas did not intend to stigmatize. He wanted to prevent new HIV infections. But the words he used communicated a strong undertone of blame and judgment. Instead of embracing and providing hope to those affected and infected by HIV, he was casting them away and making their situation worse.

God calls us to accept others as Christ accepted us. As followers of Christ we are compelled by the love of Christ to reach out to people living with or affected by HIV. And only the experience of Christ can lead to true compassion, because true compassion flows from the love of Christ poured in our hearts by the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5). Such compassion crosses barriers in society and identifies with all who are stigmatized, ostracized, or oppressed. It embraces them with unconditional love. Through



Christo and his wife, Liesel.

this kind of compassion, Christians can be advocates in society for those whose voices have been silenced.

Thomas publicly repented before his congregation when he returned from the Channels of Hope training. Now he dedicates one Sunday a month to share about HIV and AIDS. Whenever possible, people living positively with HIV share their life experiences to provide hope for others in the congregation.

The church has since established a member committee to spearhead issues related to HIV and AIDS. Volunteers in the congregation visit orphans and vulnerable children in their homes. They make sure that adults and children get the care and support they require. Currently, the congregation of only 90 members feed and cares for 35 orphans and 21 people living with HIV.

This is truly compassion in action. May God continue to renew our hearts and us with his compassion in similar ways. We be compelled by the love of Christ. ■

» **Christo Greyling** leads World Vision's HIV and AIDS and Church Partnerships teams in Africa. He has been living with HIV since 19



# RETROSPECT



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

## R W A N D A

Children in Rwanda can raise a banner to their future, despite their country's tragic past. Nearly 17 percent of children under 18 are orphans, largely because of AIDS and the genocide in 1994. World Vision created the Rwanda Care and Support Project to bring communities together to support children in need. Now, community volunteers establish relationships with orphans, make regular home visits, and offer care and guidance. By providing for the physical and emotional needs of children haunted by tragedy, World Vision is helping them face their future with hope. ■



World Vision

Building a better world for



## Use your voice for children

*You can share the joy of helping a child in need; simply give your church or small group the opportunity to become a child sponsor.*

**Share** your story and **invite** others to join you.  
It's fun to do, and we've got lots of free tools to make it easy.

**FIND OUT MORE**  
about this rewarding opportunity today by visiting  
[www.worldvision.org/achildiswaiting](http://www.worldvision.org/achildiswaiting)  
or calling 1.866.962.4453.

Published by  
World Vision Inc.  
P.O. Box 70172  
Tacoma, WA  
98481-0172

If you have questions, comments,  
or a change of address,  
you may call toll-free:  
(866) 962-4453

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
World Vision