

World Vision

Today

SPRING 2001



feeding
the world

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Sponsorship Helped My Daughters

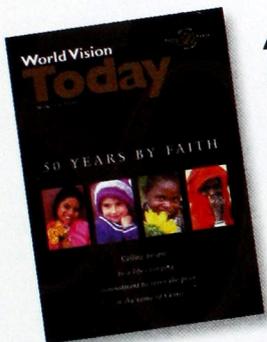
I am originally from Costa Rica, Central America. We were rather poor, but thanks to God and [sponsorship through] your organization, my daughters attended a Christian school and received school books, uniforms, and shoes. One day, one of my daughters received a present from World Vision—it contained clothes that we needed so badly.

About four years ago, I sold everything I owned for an airline ticket to California. I worked as a babysitter to help pay for my daughters' tickets to the United States. We are not rich, but we thank God every day for what we have. My daughters are now 13, 16, and 18 years old, and they will never forget how your organization touched our lives some 11 years ago.

Now that so much joy and blessings have come to us, I want to touch someone else's life the way that your organization has touched ours.

Laura Segobiano, Oceanside, Calif.

Editor's note: Laura is now sponsoring a child in Costa Rica.



Anniversary Accolade

I picked up the 50th anniversary issue [Winter 2000] intending to give it a quick pass, read an article or two, and throw it away. Instead, I was immediately hooked and read it cover to cover! It is so good that we have World Vision to contribute to, knowing that the funds are used to share the gospel and minister to the world's neediest people.

Judy Orr, Howell, Mich.

Constructive Work for the Poor

My name is Caroline Willit, and I am 8 years old. Here is \$10 that I earned today helping my dad clean up our yard after a construction project. He gave me some money for every nail that I picked up. I picked up 250 nails and screws. I told him I wanted to send the money along with some of my allowance to help feed the poor and tell them about Jesus.

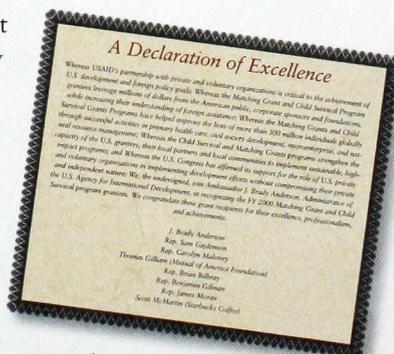
Caroline Willit, Batavia, Ill.

Congressional Appreciation

I congratulate World Vision on its new grant from the Office of Private and Voluntary Cooperation. On Sept. 19, 2000, five members of Congress joined J. Brady Anderson, USAID Administrator, to congratulate FY 2000 Matching Grant and Child Survival Program grantees. Speakers praised the extensive program expertise of the recipients and noted their success in leveraging private support to match USAID funds.

At a time when many doubt public and Congressional support for foreign assistance, this declaration is powerful evidence of Congressional appreciation for our work together.

*Joseph R. Crapa, Assistant Administrator
Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs, Wash. D.C.*



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World Vision distributes emergency to families uprooted from their hom by fighting outside of Freetown, Sierra Photograph by Jon Warren

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Are You Someone's Lifeline?

Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear." ISAIAH 65:24

IF YOU'VE EVER WATCHED THE HIT television show, "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?," you are familiar with the dramatic moment when a distressed contestant uses a "lifeline" to call on a friend or relative to help him out of a tight spot. As Christians, we know that we have an ever-ready lifeline to God through prayer. On a recent trip, I saw just how powerful the prayer lifeline can be.

My wife, Reneé, and I traveled some 5,000 miles to Peru to film a story for an upcoming World Vision television program. After arriving in the capital, Lima, we traveled by plane high into the Andes mountains to Cuzco, an ancient Inca city two miles above sea level. From Cuzco, we drove for hours over makeshift roads until we arrived at Calqui Central. We were struck by the awesome beauty of this place: its clear blue skies, towering mountains, grazing llamas, and colorfully garbed Quechua people who have inhabited and farmed this land for more than 500 years. Sadly, just under the surface of this majestic beauty lay the desperation of poverty.

We met Octaviana Yauri, a recently widowed mother, and her three children: Rosemarie, 9; Justino, 8; and Francisco, 4. Octaviana's plight was heartbreaking. After losing her beloved husband to a respiratory disease, she struggled to farm the land, raise her sheep, pay off a loan that her husband had taken out before his death, and care for her children, all three of whom were sickly. In the harsh mountain climate, life is exceedingly difficult. Octaviana and her chil-

dren live in a mud house with no electricity or running water. They live off what little they can grow. The water carries parasites that bring sickness to the family. As this dear woman told us her story, we cried with her.

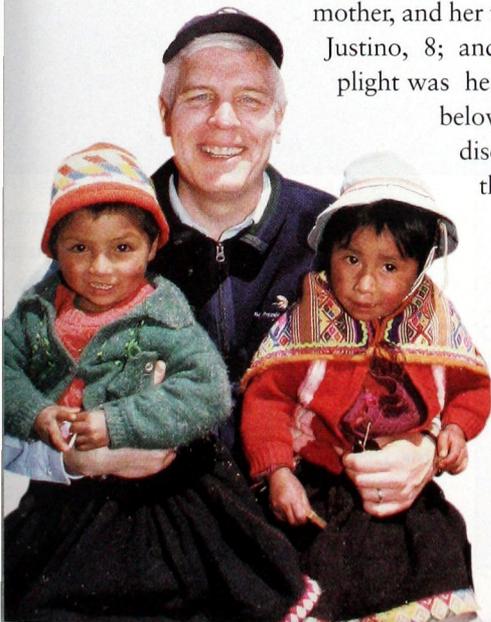
And yet, remarkably, Octaviana shared how she has continually cried out to the Lord in prayer, pleading that he would not forget her or her children, and that somehow, he would send help. Octaviana was using the only lifeline she had.

As she shared with us this prayer in her little house, 11,800 feet up in the Andes mountains and thousands of miles from our home in Seattle, I had a remarkable and humbling revelation: God sent me as the answer to Octaviana's prayers. God had not only heard her cry for help, but he had sent the president of one of the largest Christian humanitarian organizations in the world directly to her doorstep. What an incredible answer to a fervent prayer!

Today, Octaviana and other mothers in Calqui Central receive training through World Vision's health workshops that enable them to improve their children's well-being. Rosemarie, Justino, and Francisco are enrolled in sponsorship; they attend school, and their nutrition and overall health are regularly monitored by World Vision staff. Best of all, World Vision helped Octaviana pay off the debt that imprisoned her in hopeless poverty. Now she is free to focus on learning new farming techniques that will enable her to produce more food for her children as well as income.

From meeting Octaviana, I learned that each one of us can be the answer to someone's prayer. We may not always see it as clearly as I did that day, but God has chosen to use each of us in answer to the prayers of others. We can literally be lifelines to those in distress.

Are you willing to be the answer to someone's prayer? Right now, someone may be crying out to God for help. May God send you as his answer. ■



Rich with Quechua children in Peru.

Richard E. Stearns

Sisters Across



ESDRAS H. SUAREZ/DENVER ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS

World Vision sponsorship builds a bridge
between two girls' very different worlds

ne Divide

SHANNON CANTWELL, 11, A BLUE-EYED REDHEAD, LIVES IN LAKEWOOD, AN upscale Colorado suburb, the only child of a physician and his wife.

Debora Nascimento, 12, with long, dark hair, brown eyes, and olive skin, lives in a poor neighborhood of Araguaina, Brazil, where her father sells fruit from

cart, and her mother crochets and cleans houses to support their eight children.

It's unlikely the two would have met if not for World Vision's child sponsorship program. Shannon's family, sponsors for five years, began sponsoring Debora in September 1999. "We wanted Shannon to have a sister somewhere in the world," explained Shannon's mom, Monica Cantwell.

Through sponsorship, Debora receives school uniform and supplies. The funds are also pooled with those from other sponsors to provide a new prenatal clinic, parenting classes, and youth programs for Debora's community. The Cantwells and Debora exchange letters, with World Vision translating the Cantwells' English to Portuguese for Debora.

On Shannon's 11th birthday, she requested donations for her sponsored sister in lieu of presents, raising \$210. "I have learned that I don't need a bunch of things. [Debora] lives with so little," said Shannon. "I wanted to do something because that's what Jesus told me to do."

In September 2000, World Vision brought Shannon and Debora together during a Seattle concert celebrating the organization's 50th anniversary—keeping a secret from the girls until they met onstage. "It was exciting," Shannon said. She was stunned, and I was stunned." Shannon broke the ice by saying "I love you," to Debora in Portuguese.

Debora and her mother, Lucia, accompanied the Cantwells back to Colorado so that the girls could get to know each other. Wearing matching outfits, the girls

spent a day with Shannon's class at Beth Eden Baptist School in Wheat Ridge (pictured left). They also went horseback riding and ice skating. There was an interpreter along, but Shannon and Debora often worked around the language barrier in their own way, through hand signals. They even devised a secret handshake that ended in a hug.

Debora liked the United States, describing it as "very calm." Back home, her neighborhood is in one of the poorest and most dangerous parts of Brazil. "People are murdered almost every day," said interpreter Jane Gomes. "What



Debora (left) and Shannon (right) with Lorraine Pierce, wife of World Vision founder Bob Pierce, at the 50th anniversary concert.

[Debora and Lucia] are enjoying most is that they can go out with no danger."

The girls became so attached that it was difficult to say good-bye at the end of their visit. But the Cantwells hope that Debora can come back and study in the United States when she's older.

"It has really been a blessing for our family to have this unique relationship develop," said Monica. ■

RAISING THE BAR World Vision Increases Sponsorship Commitment

For nearly 50 years, World Vision has enabled families like the Cantwells to broaden their own world vision through child sponsorship. Today, more than 500,000 Americans sponsor needy children overseas.

World Vision wants the best for every sponsored child. Driven by faith, we attack the root causes of poverty in order to help children all over the world realize their God-given potential. We work diligently to keep our administrative costs down so that all sponsored children and their families receive every benefit we can provide to improve their lives. In spite of a highly volatile international economy, we have only changed the rate of sponsorship twice in the last 20 years.

After careful consideration, World Vision must ask the help of all our sponsors in maintaining the effectiveness of our programs overseas. We are requesting that sponsors increase their pledge to \$26. The change is effective Feb. 1, 2001. Every penny of the increase will go toward meeting children's ministry needs, including providing clean water, health care, agriculture, and education.

World Vision values sponsors who care so much for children worldwide. We do not want to lose any sponsors as a result of this change. If you have any questions, please call toll-free and speak with one of our customer service representatives at (888) 511-6550.



help your kids counter a culture of

EVER WORRY ABOUT BUILDING YOUR KIDS' CHARACTER IN A culture of plenty? I know I do. Maybe it's because I grew up poor myself, and I know first-hand the powerful lessons poverty can teach. I'm grateful my husband and I are able to give our children so much that I missed, but I'm also painfully aware of how those advantages crowd out the character-building that comes from never being able to take your school clothes, your medicine, or even your next meal for granted. And it doesn't help either that we live in a culture heavily skewed toward entertainment—much of it unhealthy—and based on a “me-first” mentality.

That's why since becoming Christians some 13 years ago, my husband and I have worked extra hard to broaden our 11 chil-

dren's horizons, to counter the cultural blindness that comes with being too comfortable, and awaken in their hearts the idea that those who look like they have less may often have a little more.

PICTURE THIS

We can add more dimension to our children's world vision and better build their appreciation of other cultures by first understanding that children learn differently than we do.

Young children under age 6 often are not capable of abstract thinking. Words like *sacrifice*, *courage*, *kindness* have no meaning for them. But the concepts can be communicated through pictures and stories which convey those abstract ideas in the things that people do. Children aged 6 to 12, while becoming

more capable of abstract thinking, still learn more effectively with a multi-sensory, hands-on approach.

So while there are plenty of books at the library to help children learn about other countries, I've found a few ways to help my children zero in a little more, to feel less on the outside looking in, and to appropriate for themselves some of the more admirable qualities found in other cultures.

Sometimes, I'll pull my kids together for a special project: making a collage illustrating a specific activity such as reading or

playing games, or a value like honoring

parents or caring for brothers and sisters. I explain we'll

be looking for and cutting out pictures of children engaged in

doing whatever we're focusing on, then turn them loose to hunt

through the stacks of *National Geographic* magazines I've

collected through the years from library and garage sales (going for about a quarter each). When every-

body has their pictures, we discuss them, point out

on the globe where the children live, then glue

them to a big piece of poster board, adding a Bible

verse that relates to the subject.

It's one thing to have your child memorize a command-

ment. It's another thing to immerse them in scenes of how it hap-

pens all over the world. And because the lessons we learn at an

early age are the ones that stay with us all our lives, it's a way of

giving your child a real foundation in the knowledge that we're

all God's children. Though we may send money to help

those who have less materially, they may have as many or

more of the things money can't buy.

erenty

Y BARBARA CURTIS

NUGGLE-UP LESSON

a picture's worth a thousand words, a movie's worth a million. And because movies involve more senses, they have an even greater impact on children.

One of the advantages of foreign films is that they bring other cultures right into our living rooms. If you've shied away from videos with subtitles, you may be missing more than you think. Everyone in the family can enjoy foreign films. Simply snuggle your pre-readers next to you and quietly read the subtitles—not every word, but just enough to keep them involved with the story.

There's nothing like gathering your children together to

watch a film that boosts their compassion and teaches them simple, spiritual lessons. Try a gem of a tale like *Children of Heaven*, nominated for an Academy Award as best foreign film of 1997. Set in Iran, it is a simple story of a boy who picks up his sister's newly-repaired shoes, then misplaces them while running the rest of the family's errands. Both of the children are anguished by the loss, as each has only one pair of shoes. They dare not tell their parents, who are already behind in rent and struggling to keep food on the table. And so they come up with a plan to share the brother's shoes. How they manage, and how eventually the brother finds a way to earn another pair of shoes, paints a portrait of selfless love, steadfastness, and grace.

All the easier for children to absorb when the main characters are children and the problem is child-sized. Young viewers will never look inside their own closet—or at their brothers and sisters—in the same way again.

Cross-cultural activities are really about more than supporting missionaries and helping those in need. As Samuel 16:7 says, "Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." We benefit by understanding ourselves and teaching our children that in some important ways, we comfortable Americans are needy too. ■

Barbara Curtis is an educator, freelance writer, and public speaker living in Petaluma, Calif.

WORLD VISION CAN HELP KIDS CARE

Sponsorship: A sponsored child lends a crucial human face to a faraway country. With your child in mind, involve your family in learning about his or her culture, lifestyle, and even language. Consult an atlas and identify not just the country, but also the major town nearest the child's project. On the Internet, search for Web sites and news articles about the country and region. Choose a major language spoken in the sponsored child's area—e.g. Spanish, French, or Swahili—and learn a few phrases.

Don't forget to involve your children as you write letters to your sponsored child. Ask them to suggest questions about school, games, friends, or favorite activities. When the answers come back, your children might be surprised by what they have in common with kids overseas—a shared interest in soccer, perhaps, or a distaste for chores.

30 Hour Famine: Through this youth-oriented, fund-raising program, older children can learn the unforgettable lesson of what it feels like to be hungry. The educational materials also provide vivid examples of children living in poverty.

World Vision's Gift Catalog: Encourage your children to help you choose donations for family and friends that benefit children overseas. When kids see that "gifts" mean more than games and toys—they can mean the difference between life and death—it opens their eyes to the needs of the world.



SWIFT AID AFTER ASIA'S FLOODS

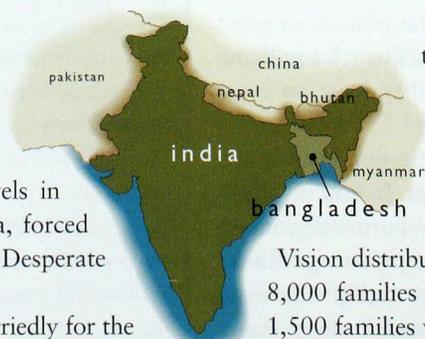
BY JANE SUTTON-REDNER | Photographs by Satyarthi Sahu

Massive flooding in southern Asia last year claimed more than 2,000 lives and left nearly 20 million people homeless. The disasters were the worst in decades, even for a region that experiences annual monsoons and frequent flooding. Volatile weather, caused in part by global warming, and deforestation contributed to the severity of the floods. World Vision, which operates programs in the worst-affected countries—India, Bangladesh, Vietnam, and Cambodia—quickly responded to help families who lost their homes, possessions, and crops.

INDIA

In September 2000, rains rapidly deluged West Bengal state, causing swollen rivers to overflow. More than 1,400 people died in the worst flooding since 1978. Rising water levels in Ranaghat district, 40 miles north of Calcutta, forced people to take refuge on rooftops, then trees. Desperate and hungry, they leapt into any passing boats.

“We did not have time to pack, and left hurriedly for the safety of the highway with the very clothes on our backs and all the money we had at home,” said Saraswati, a housewife who fled with her husband, Rabindranath, and their three children. Though



they were safely evacuated out of their village. Rabindranath bemoaned the loss of his four-room, mud home—and the eight bags of rice he’d stored there that would have fed the family for the next four months.

With funds from a USAID grant, World Vision distributed food and cooking supplies to more than 8,000 families like Saraswati’s and permanent shelter kits to 1,500 families who lost their homes.

BANGLADESH

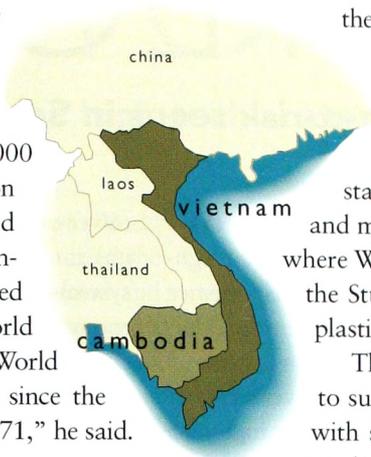
India’s flooding carried over to southwest Bangladesh, a region

he flooding in India's West Bengal state was the worst since 1978. The government needed World Vision and other humanitarian organizations to help handle the crisis.

Ordering West Bengal that is generally untouched by heavy flooding. Thousands of families took refuge on embankments under plastic sheeting rigged up with bamboo poles. Mohammed Mondol, an owner of extensive rice fields in the Kalaroa district, said, "This flood has made us penniless. Now the flood victims are the same—no rich, no poor."

Even after floodwaters receded, some 2,000 families remained in makeshift camps, fearful of waterborne diseases such as cholera and despondent over their lost homes and crops.

World Vision provided emergency food for 35,000 families. Medical staff traveled to hard-hit areas on motorboats to distribute medicine to ill or injured people. Bangladesh's State Minister for disaster management and relief, Talukder Abdul Khaleque, visited the flood region in late October and thanked World Vision for the assistance. "We highly appreciate World Vision's relief initiatives during various disasters since the organization started operating in Bangladesh in 1971," he said.



Vietnam

Unusually early and intense monsoons last summer fueled the "Dragon Flood"—named for 2000, the year of the dragon—the worst deluge in southern Vietnam in 40 years. Tragically, two-thirds of the 350 fatalities were children. Parents who left their children at home while they looked for food returned to find their children drowned. Other youngsters fell into the water as they slept.

Crop loss exacerbated chronic hunger in some areas. In October, Vietnamese officials estimated that tens of thousands of people along the Mekong Delta suffered from acute malnutrition. The flood will have a lasting impact on Vietnam's rice, fish, and fruit industries, which come from the delta region.

In addition to distributing food to 14,000 people, and boats and nets to 2,000 families, World Vision launched a campaign reminding parents to protect their children. Banners and posters

Flood victims' most dire need after losing their homes and crops is food. World Vision distributed bags of rice and other emergency food to affected populations of last year's Asia floods.

instructed families not to leave their children alone at home or in boats, and to keep them from swimming in the dangerous floodwaters. World Vision will also provide the most severely affected families with simple houses that will withstand future floods.

CAMBODIA

The flooding of the Mekong River in September left 20 of Cambodia's 23 provinces under water. More than 300 people died, and dozens of bridges and schools were damaged. Families struggled to remain in their homes, lifting their floors higher on the supporting wood poles until they were above the water line. But the surrounding deep water soon became too dangerous, and tens of thousands of people fled to higher ground.

Working with the Red Cross, World Vision staff distributed food, medicine, shelter materials, and mosquito nets to 60,000 people. In Phnom Penh, where World Vision assists scrap collectors living around the Stung Meanchey dump, staff distributed rice and plastic sheeting to affected families.

Through next summer, World Vision will continue to sustain flood victims with food and provide them with seeds so that they can replant their crops. The organization will also help communities rebuild irrigation systems, roads, houses, schools, and bridges through food-for-work programs. ■

With reports from Tran Thu Huyen, Mark Kelly, Raphael Palma, Satyarthi Sahu, Kith Veasna, and Lily Venkatarangam.



WORLD VISION'S ASIA FLOOD RESPONSE

30 YEARS OF LIFE-SAVING AID

In flood-prone Asian countries, World Vision's relief and rehabilitation programs have been an integral part of working among the poor, who are often defenseless against calamities such as cyclones, typhoons, or heavy monsoons.

In Bangladesh, for example, World Vision began its ministry with a \$200,000 flood and cyclone relief project in 1970. Staff remained to help the affected communities rebuild roads, schools, and health dispensaries. In the early 1990s, World Vision built 11 reinforced concrete shelters, each capable of protecting 2,000 people during a strong cyclone. The shelters can be used year-round as education

facilities, medical clinics, and for storing emergency supplies.

India and Vietnam also benefited from World Vision's flood relief programs since the early 1970s. Affected families received emergency food, pure drinking water, medicine, clothing, and shelter reconstruction.

"If we did not have the relief component in these countries early on, such emergencies could substantially retard or even wipe out the gains we have achieved through our development programs," says Fe Garcia, World Vision United States team leader for Asia programs.

HIGH-TECH MEE

World Vision's program for at-risk teens in Seattle and Tacoma, Wash., beco

LEAD KIDS IN A CHEER AT A SEATTLE MARINERS baseball game; crash a party in one of the area's tougher neighborhoods; visit a young offender at the Kent Regional Justice Center; and construct a sculpture out of rebar in Seattle's University District.

What do these activities have in common? They were all part of vQuest, a 24-hour race/scavenger hunt that employs high-tech gadgetry to uncover locations for successive clues. "The Game," as it is known, has taken various U.S. cities by storm since the mid-1980s, attracting the premier professionals of the technology world as its savvy players.

But this time, vQuest had a greater purpose: to benefit charity. Each of the 10 competing teams in the August 2000 event paid a \$25,000 entrance fee that was donated to Vision Youth, a mentoring and educational support program for at-risk teens in the Puget Sound area. Vision Youth, a ministry of World Vision and its local partners, Northwest Leadership Foundation and the Coalition for Community Development/Renewal, works in cooperation with neighborhood churches and schools.

Companies such as VeriSign and Amazon.com sponsored entire teams. Individual players from businesses such as Idealab, Check Point, Microsoft, RealNetworks, and XYZFind got their firms to contribute to the entrance fee. Traditionally the victors win only bragging rights among their peers, but the lack of a prize never dampens the competition.

tower overlooking Puget Sound. Teams came equipped with digital cameras, headsets, cell phones, laptops, global positioning systems, and other gizmos. Rookie players scoured the meeting rooms, looking for the first game clue or any nuance that might give them an edge. Seasoned groups appeared nonchalant and wary; their experience proved that The Game doesn't really get serious until about 4 a.m. Sunday morning.

After receiving Mission Impossible-style instructions, the players in 10 teams—Purple, Black, Plaid, Gold, Blue, Pink, Cobalt, Silver, White, and Khaki—raced to waiting vans and RVs. The groups moved from place to place by figuring out clues that included deciphering binary code from lit windows of a high-rise office building and cracking the code found on the license plates in a row of parked cars.

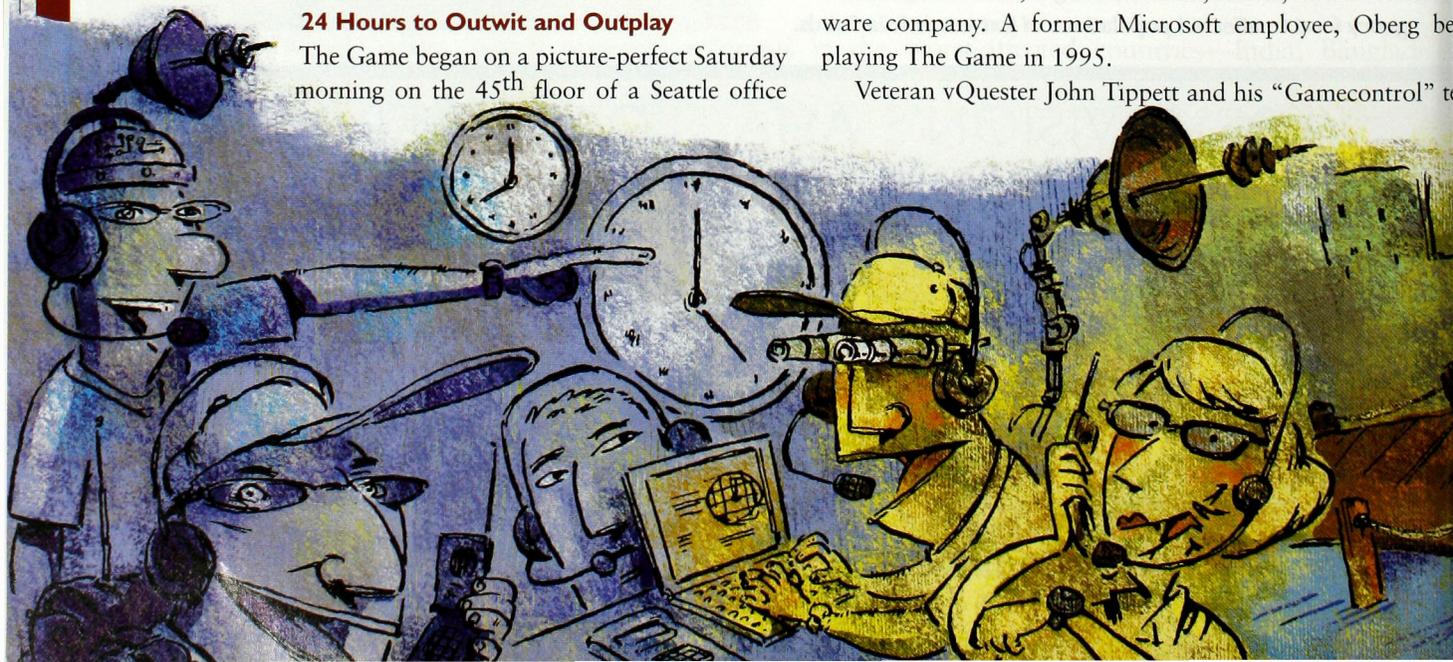
One of the more challenging experiences for all of the groups involved being pulled over by the police for a non-functional tail light. When the officer began to inquire about all their electronic equipment because of an alleged robbery at a local computer store, the players thought they would end up in jail. After talking themselves out of an arrest, they weren't able to avoid citation. The ticket for the tail light, of course, was the clue to the next location. After laughing and cheering with relief, players from Team Purple concluded it was the best clue ever.

"This is the most intense way to have fun that I know of," said Team Purple's Bruce Oberg, one of the founders of Studio Punch Productions, a small Bellevue, Wash., entertainment software company. A former Microsoft employee, Oberg began playing The Game in 1995.

Veteran vQuester John Tippett and his "Gamecontrol" team

24 Hours to Outwit and Outplay

The Game began on a picture-perfect Saturday morning on the 45th floor of a Seattle office



By Denise Koenig

Illustration by Travis Foster

HIGH-TOUCH

Charity to benefit from vQuest, a high-tech scavenger hunt.

acked the players' progress. John's team, with help from World Vision and Vision Youth staff, designed the clues, organized the venue at each puzzle site, nourished the players with food and beverages, and kept The Game on schedule. Because this year's event benefited a charity, high-profile Seattle establishments granted access to their locations. Teams climbed to the top of the Space Needle, flew Alaska Airlines' flight simulator, and raced to the finish line.

About 10 a.m. on Sunday morning, a tired but charged Team Silver jumped from their van and ran across the finish line to beat Team Purple by 15 seconds. "We like to win," said captain Christine Belfiore. "It's the spirit of competition that brings us back." This was their second consecutive victory.

Backed-up traffic for a Mariners game around Safeco Field and a train blocking an intersection near the pier were some of the obstacles that held up the rest of the teams. Ninth-place team Gold Captain Sharon Thomas Moore catalogued 21 valuable lessons from her vQuest experience. One lesson, "Anything can happen," was so important that it made the list four times. But Moore noted Number 3 as the most rewarding lesson: "Being charitable really rocks!"

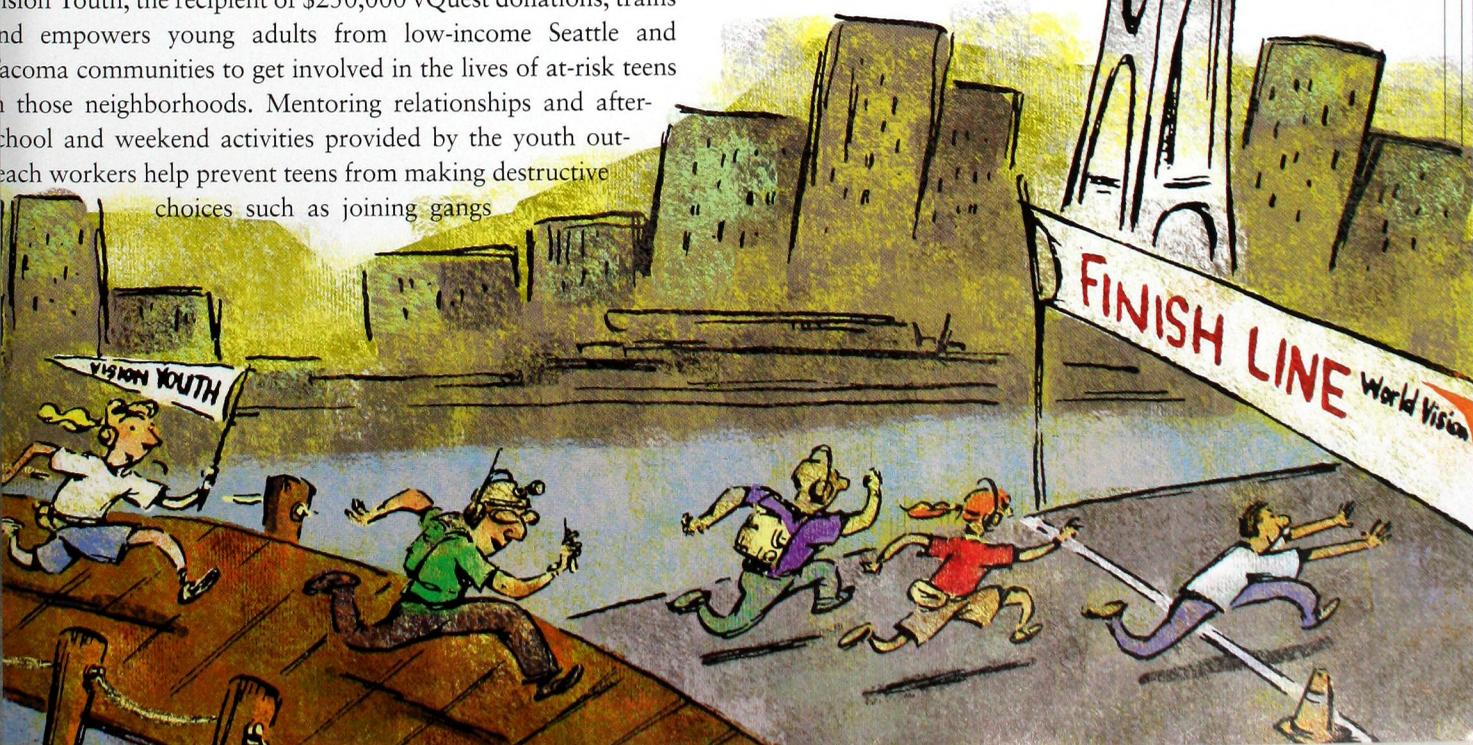
World Vision Teen Initiative is the Real Winner

Vision Youth, the recipient of \$250,000 vQuest donations, trains and empowers young adults from low-income Seattle and Tacoma communities to get involved in the lives of at-risk teens in those neighborhoods. Mentoring relationships and after-school and weekend activities provided by the youth outreach workers help prevent teens from making destructive choices such as joining gangs

or abusing drugs or alcohol.

Many inner-city teens don't even allow themselves to dream about attending college, as it seems out of their economic or academic reach. Vision Youth places trained education specialists in schools and tutoring labs to encourage and inspire teens to achieve in high school. The education specialists also help students access financial aid, grants, and scholarships for post-secondary education.

Meeting some of these teens and seeing a glimpse of their lives added special meaning to the vQuest challenge. Many of the players had never seriously considered giving to a charity before. "It helped the techies realize how fortunate they are to even play The Game," said Vision Youth Development Director Kim Ambrose. "It's not just running around and having fun." ■



feeding the

World Vision's holistic approach to hunger in the developed world means helping families produce better crops

“HOW CAN I HAVE FAITH WITHOUT FOOD? How can I have hope without bread? The Bible says a man who doesn't take care of his family is worse than an infidel. I can't even provide a little food for my family.” These plaintive words from a man in Sierra Leone, one of the world's most food-deficient countries, cut to the heart of hunger's effects on human beings. Along with physical emaciation, there is a devastating loss of self-worth.

world

tain healthier diets.

THE GLOBAL FOOD CRISIS THE FACTS

How many people are undernourished?

Worldwide, 826 million people are chronically undernourished, lacking enough food or sufficient nutrition to lead a healthy life.

Where do they live?

The vast majority—792 million—live in developing countries. The largest number of undernourished people are in Asia, more than 500 million. In sub-Saharan Africa, 39 percent of the population is chronically undernourished.

Is it getting better or worse?

Total numbers and percentages of undernourished people in the developing world have decreased slightly in the last decade. But the pace of the improvements isn't happening fast enough in some regions. Experts predict that by 2007, two-thirds of sub-Saharan Africa's population will lack sufficient food.

How does it affect children?

Of the 12 million deaths among children under age 5 in developing countries each year, more than half are attributable to malnutrition. Protein and nutrient deficiencies cause stunted growth, vision problems, learning disabilities, and high susceptibility to disease.

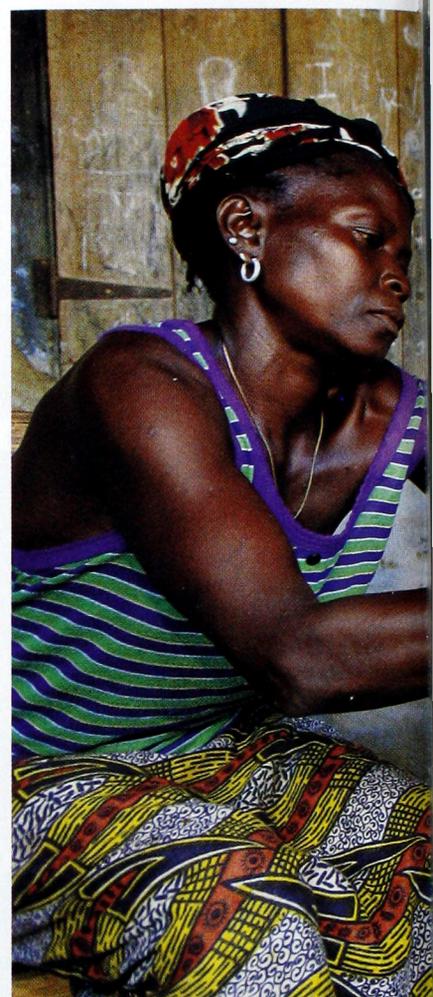
The world currently produces enough food to feed all 6 billion people on earth, yet 826 million people are chronically undernourished, the majority in developing countries. This slow, silent tragedy lurks in the shadow of attention-grabbing famines, epidemics, and wars—but it is just as devastating, striking women and children disproportionately, robbing people of their ability to work, and eroding the progress of entire communities.

Feeding the hungry is only step one. The solution to this global crisis is to help people achieve food security: the ability to access enough food for a healthy life today, tomorrow, and into the future.

World Vision helps to feed the world in numerous ways, primarily by empowering families to feed themselves. Staff distribute food in famine emergencies, but they also conduct long-term, sustainable food programs encompassing health and agricultural training; improving clean water and irrigation systems; advancing literacy lessons and loans—and modeling Christian love that focuses families on the true Bread of Life.

FOOD WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS

The poor have little to buffer them against natural disasters or war. When a crisis hits, wiping out crops or uprooting families, one of the most devastating consequences is acute hunger. Food aid is the first line of defense. World Vision was the largest food provider among relief agencies in Ethiopia and Mozambique in the 1980s, and the organization continues large-scale, emergency food programs in the drought-ravaged Horn of Africa.



But food aid is only a stop-gap measure in extreme circumstances. As soon as possible, World Vision moves people away from dependency to recovery. In many areas, food-for-work programs have proven effective in supporting people's food needs while involving them in rebuilding their communities. In exchange for food, adults contribute to construction projects such as digging irrigation canals, improving roads, or building granaries.

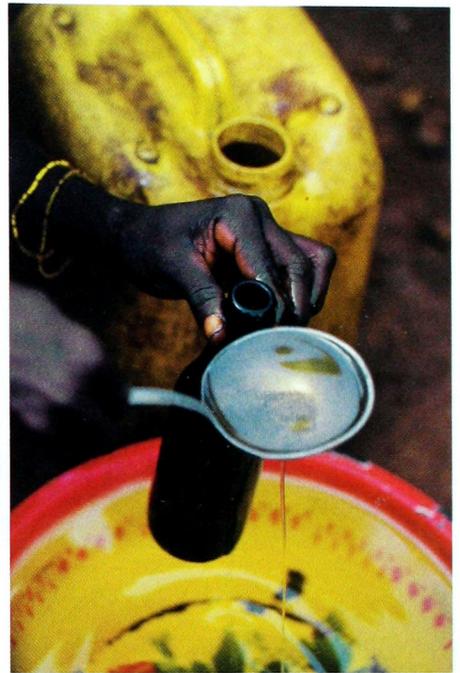
In Somalia, recently ranked in the top three hungriest countries by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, World Vision is helping drought-affected communities through food-for-work initiatives. "World Vision motivated us to build a water catchment so that the whole village could benefit," said Chief Sheikh Dahir of Wargududo village where families have almost exhausted their last grain reserves. The 30-day project

A cassava production plant in Leleima, Sierra Leone, assisted by World Vision, ensures families can produce food even in the lean time between harvests.





World Vision's agricultural recovery program in Sierra Leone helps families grapple with the effects of an eight-year civil war. Assistance includes everything from veterinary care (left) to distributing cooking oil to war-affected families (below).

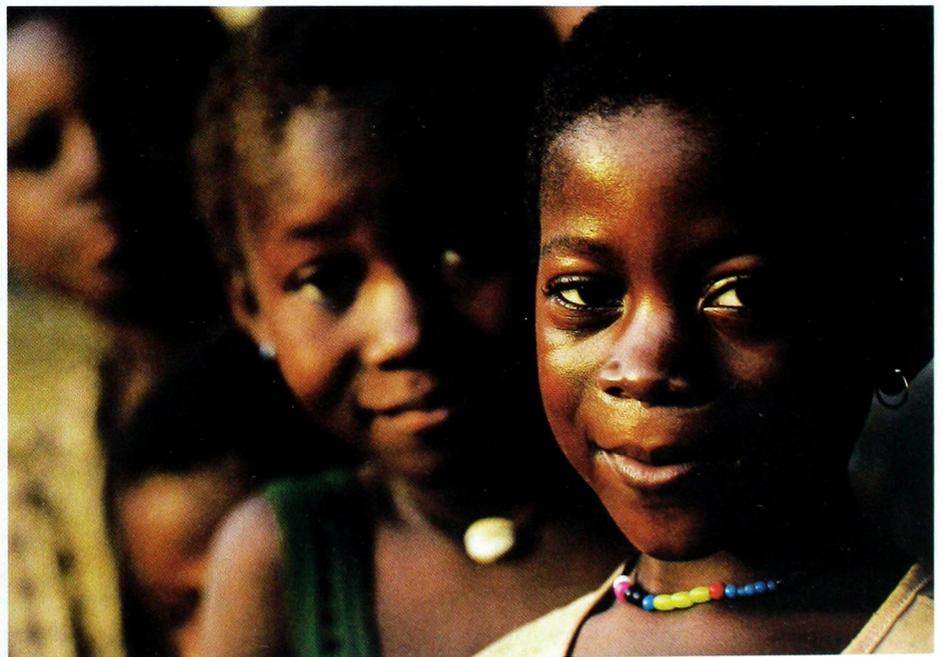


enlisted 150 people who were paid with two bags of sorghum each, enough to stave off hunger should the drought continue.

"This project was the only chance to get food for my family, and I thought it would be good for the community also," said Abdirahman Ma'alim Muktar. "I am not afraid of work, but there is nothing we can do if nature is against us."

During prolonged conflict, World Vision tries to ensure that people still have the means to feed themselves. In Gulu, northern Uganda, World Vision helps families who were forced from their homes by a rebel group called the Lord's Resistance Army.

"I fled my village in May 1997 because the rebels were killing, torturing, and abducting people, grabbing foodstuffs, and burning houses and granaries," said Paulino Owona, 51, who lives with his family in Kaladina camp, one of 10 safe havens set up by the government. Their first year was lean. Paulino worked all day at an army commander's farm for just \$1, barely enough to cover basic necessities for his 10-member family. "We were eating only once a day," he said.



In 1998, World Vision distributed seeds in six camps, including Paulino's, and trained farmers in new techniques that would maximize their crop yields. Soon there was plenty of maize, beans, sorghum, sweet potatoes, and rice, millet, and groundnuts for the 18,600 households in the camps—more than enough. So World

High child malnutrition levels can persist in war zones even after conflicts end because of the lack of health services or because children are traumatized. Assisting families to restart farming and maintain better nutrition helps heal the children.

Farmers in Dominican Republic have worked the land the same way for generations. They need alternatives to traditional agricultural methods, which can harm the soil.



Vision helped the farmers form cooperative groups to market the surplus. Among the potential buyers: school, relief agencies, and even the World Food Programme.

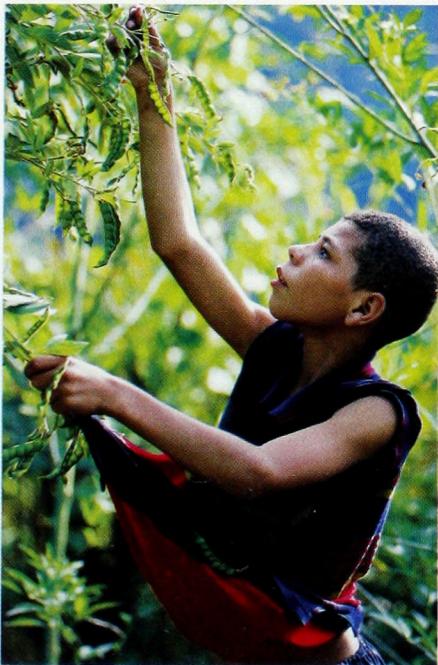
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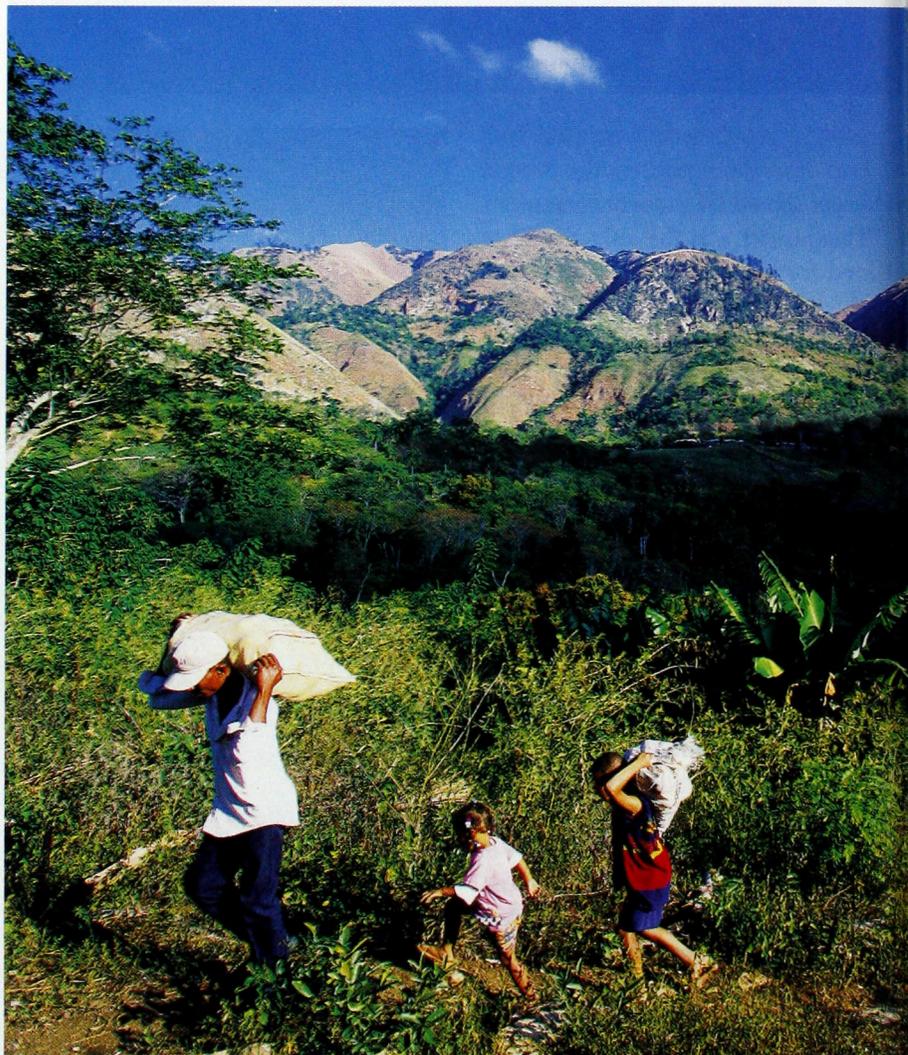
GROWING A BETTER BEAN

In developing countries, the majority of rural families are subsistence farmers struggling from one harvest to the next. Poor rainfall and unexpected climate changes can devastate the small farmer, simultaneously drying up his family's food supply and income. Meanwhile, global farmland is increasingly lost to the demands of swelling populations, and over-cultivation and poor farming methods have already degraded some 20 percent of the earth's land.

In rural areas of sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and Latin America, World Vision staff spend time with subsistence farmers, training them in regionally appropriate new techniques. Drawing from the latest agricultural science developed in universities and international research institutes, World Vision provides such innovations as seeds that grow well



Eladio Faustino Encarnacion's fruit and vegetable crops have improved through agroforestry methods he acquired through World Vision training. Right, he and his children carry their bounty home, and above, son Elias picks peas.



poor soils and crops that resist major pests and diseases. As farmers train others, the benefits fan out to a wider population and improve the food productivity of the whole region. As one agronomist in Mozambique said, it's "developing people rather than planting plants."

In Thailand's Phayao province, where villagers once grew only rice, World Vision helped farmers diversify their crops and break out of debt. Families like

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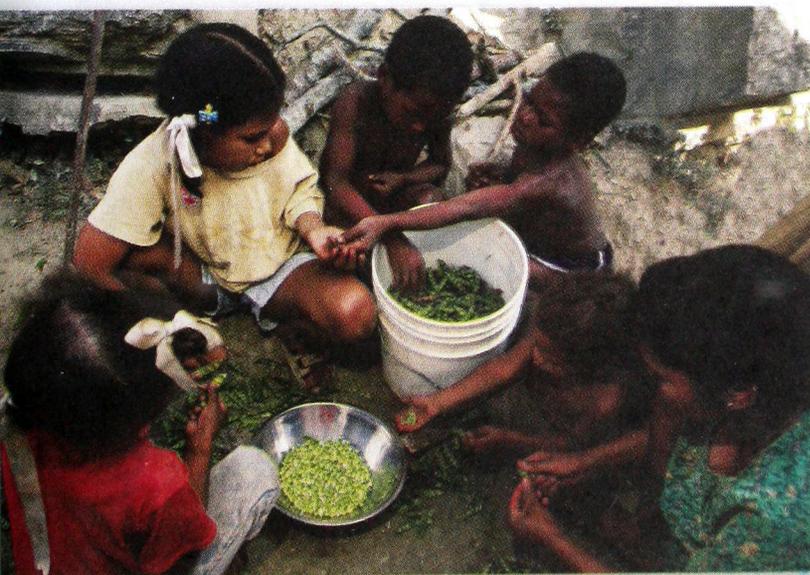
Families who have worked their land the same way for generations may need more than new crop ideas. Sometimes, their methods are ineffective or even environmentally harmful. Farmers in Barahona province, an arid region in southwestern

World Vision



food for thought

The world currently produces enough food for all 6 billion people on earth. Yet 826 million people worldwide are chronically undernourished.



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

World Vision helps hungry families around the world, from providing emergency food during crises to helping farmers grow more nutritious crops. When people can feed themselves, they gain a sense of self-worth that sustains their faith, family relationships, and contribution to society.

HUNGER MYTHS

MYTH: Famines cause most of the hunger-related deaths worldwide.

FACT: Famines only account for about 3 percent of the millions of hunger-related deaths every year. The majority of hunger-related deaths results from chronic undernourishment that erodes the body's defense against illnesses.

MYTH: Hunger is a sign of malnutrition.

FACT: People who are malnourished are not always hungry. They may have enough food, but the wrong kinds, lacking certain nutrients the body needs.

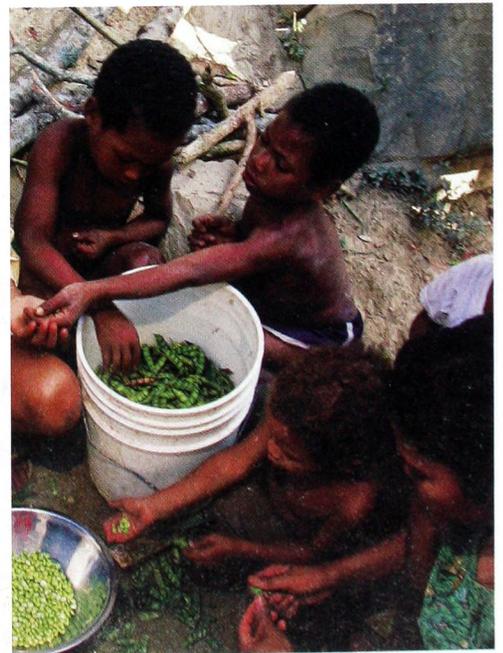
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FACT: An estimated 31 million Americans do not get enough nutritious food. Children account for 40 percent of that number.

MYTH: Undernourished people simply need more food.

FACT: Not just more food—the right food. Many undernourished people do not eat enough proteins or nutrient-rich food. Improving diets is as important as increasing the amount of food.

Since Eladio started using organic fertilizers instead of chemicals, his children (shown shelling home-grown peas) have been healthier.



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Families who have worked their land the same way for generations may need more than new crop ideas. Sometimes, their methods are ineffective or even environmentally harmful. Farmers in Barahona province, an arid region in southwestern

Happy is he whose
help is the God of
Jacob, whose *hope* is in
the *Lord* his God, who
made *heaven* and
earth, the *sea*, and all
that is in them; who *keeps*
faith for ever; who
executes *justice* for the
oppressed; who *gives*
food to the *hungry*.

—Psalm 146:5-7 (RSV)

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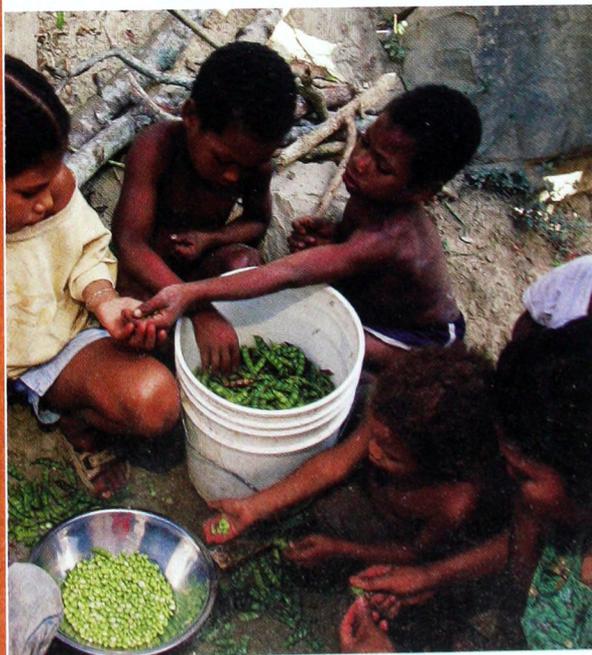
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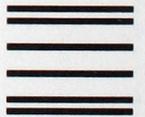
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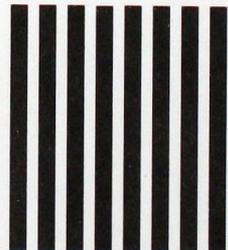
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In Thailand's Phayao province, where villagers once grew only rice, World Vision helped farmers diversify their crops and break out of debt. Families like Kompong and Saengwan Buayai typically borrowed money from a local bank to cultivate their paddies. But they never harvested enough rice to pay off the loans. World Vision staff suggested cultivating different crops—fruit and vegetables, which fetch a higher profit—or raising fish, fowl, or pigs. Staff took villagers to successful farms in the area to show them the possibilities.

The Buayais accepted the new ideas and obtained a revolving loan, fruit seedlings, and other assistance from World Vision. Now they have pigs, chickens, a pond stocked with more than 12,000

fish, and a vegetable and herb garden. They are selling enough bananas, papayas, and rice to pay off their loans and put money aside for their daughters' education.

Families who have worked their land the same way for generations may need more than new crop ideas. Sometimes, their methods are ineffective or even environmentally harmful. Farmers in Barahona province, an arid region in southwestern Dominican Republic just 77 miles north of Haiti, had long cleared their land through traditional slash-and-burn methods that destroyed trees. They also used harsh chemical fertilizers. Unwittingly, they were slowly degrading the land.

In 1992, World Vision started an agricultural institute in the area, Las ECAS (*Escuela Campesina de Agricultura Sostenible*—farm school for sustainable agriculture). About 40 local farmers graduate each year after learning about techniques like agroforestry, horticulture, composting, and bee production.

"All my life, I knew no more than what I learned from my father, who has always grown whatever the land wanted to give him. When I told him I was going to take classes at Las ECAS, he said I was foolish," said farmer Alfonso Matos Tille. At first he didn't believe there could be a better alternative to chemicals. But then he and his father, Jose, learned how to make inexpensive organic fertilizer using natural waste, which improved their coconut and mango crops. "I just started trusting and listening," said Alfonso.

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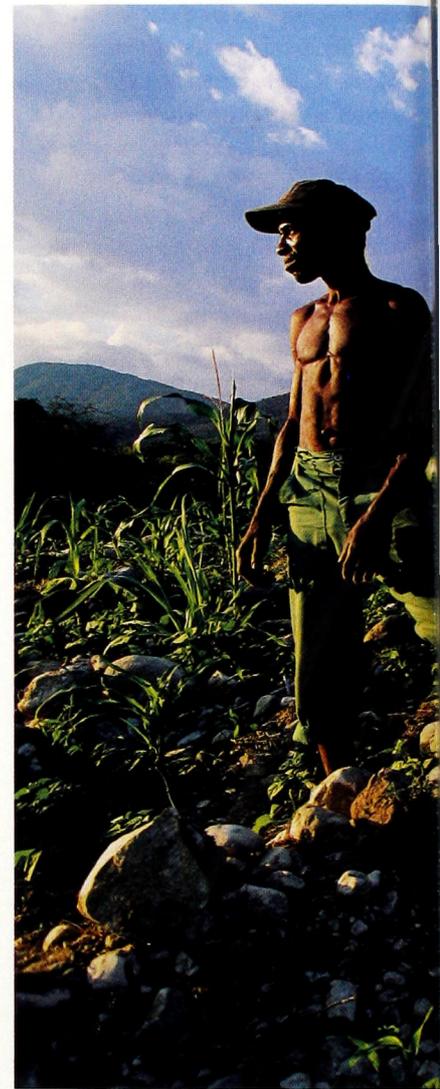
“Educating people in implementing organic techniques is a long process,” said Las ECAS coordinator Ramon Santana. “It is not just teaching them farming techniques, which they already know. It’s creating awareness about taking care of the land, and how that will, in the long run, affect each family by producing more and healthier fruits.”

Eladio Faustino Encarnacion learned agro-forestry and soil conservation at Las ECAS. He has seen a change—not just in his own land, where he now controls erosion, but in the entire community. “We never saw vehicles before,” he said. “No one earned a salary. There was only one poor little school. I didn’t go to school and my father didn’t. Now the person who doesn’t study doesn’t advance.” Four of his children go to school, thanks to World Vision sponsorship, and his two eldest daughters are in college.

Alfonso’s three children also attend a school close to the family’s two-bedroom, brick house. “I can’t say I’m a rich man, but my family won’t go hungry as long as I have this land and my two hands,” he said with pride.

THE ABC’S OF NUTRITION

At 11 months old, Pedrito Horacio’s cheeks should have been chubby with baby fat. Instead, his face and limbs were horribly swollen with a condition called kwashiorkor, a sign of severe protein deficiency. Two-year-old Bastian Evaristo, reduced to skin and bones, shared the same ward at the Morrumbala Hospital in northern



Mozambique. Bastian’s condition, marasmus, indicated a loss of muscle and fat tissue due to a lack of calories.

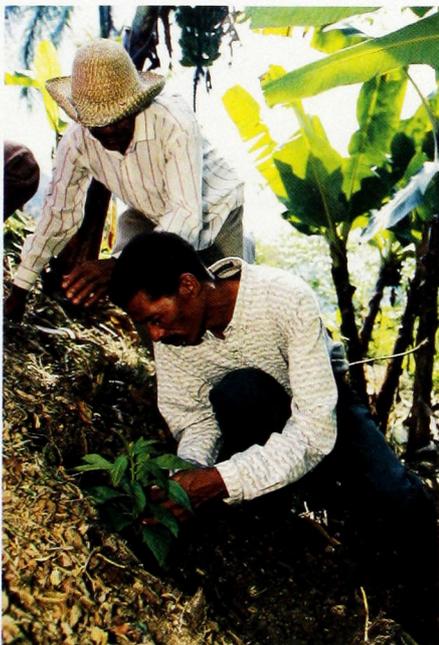
Why were children starving in 1999, in peacetime, and in one of Mozambique’s most agriculturally productive regions?

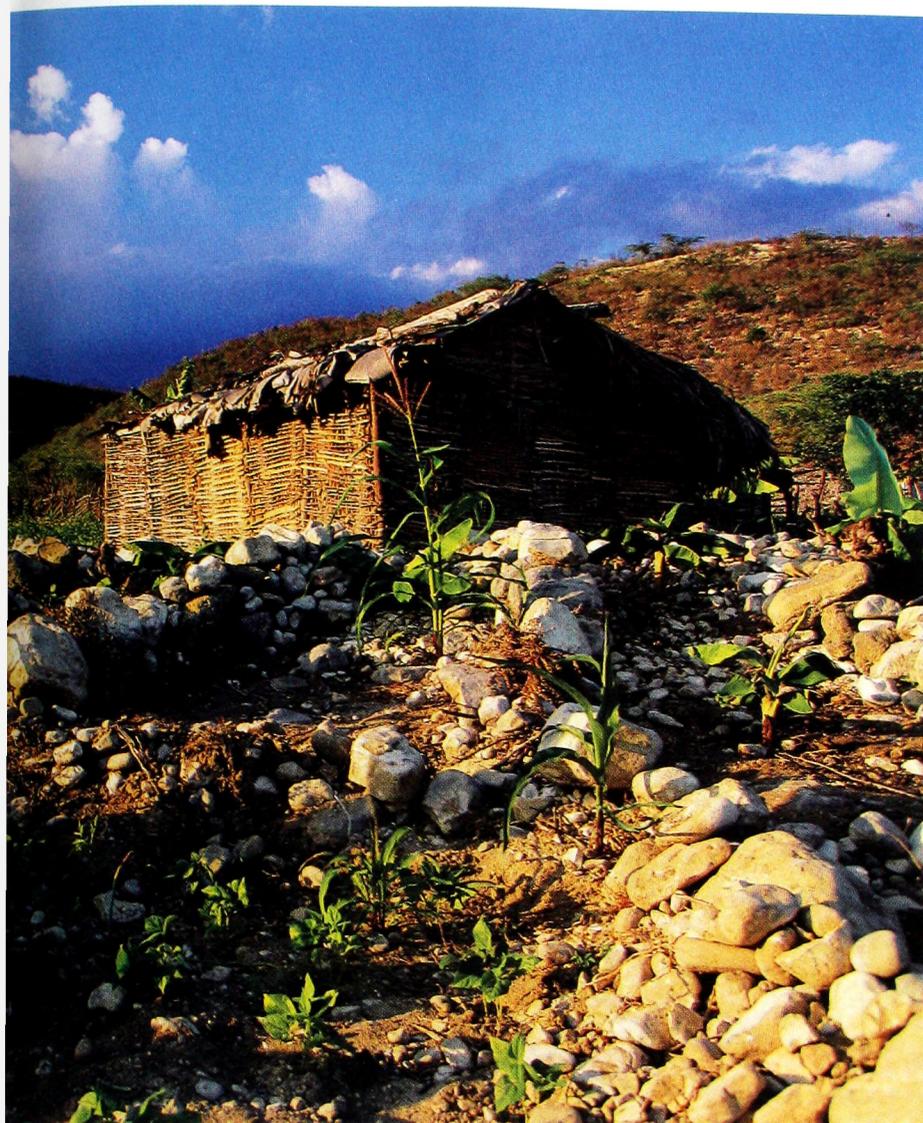
“The malnutrition here is mostly due to a lack of nutritional knowledge,” said Lizzie Cumba, a World Vision health coordinator. “People don’t know how to combine food for the best nutritional value. There are many sources of nutrition—grain, poultry, vegetables—but mothers need to learn how to use them.”

The source of Pedrito’s malnutrition, Lizzie found, was that his mother, Sidalia, stopped breastfeeding him after four months when she discovered she was pregnant again. Families here believe

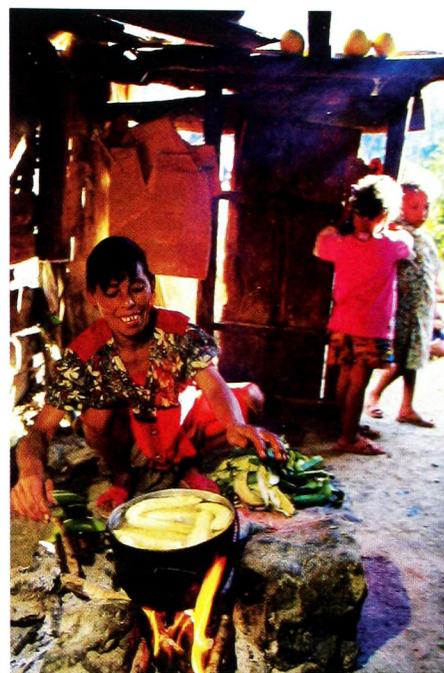
At World Vision’s Las ECAS farm school in Dominican Republic, local farmers learn innovative techniques drawn for the latest agricultural science.

Farmers in deforested regions of Dominican Republic are learning about the benefits that trees bring to their fields, such as soil protection and shade.





The arid, rocky border region where Dominican Republic meets Haiti is challenging for subsistence farmers. But Mariana Bitaro, left, perseveres, using rocks as erosion barriers.



that the breast milk of a pregnant mother is poison to her other children. Pedrito's father, Horacio, couldn't afford cow's milk for the child very often. So Pedrito ate maize porridge, full of starch but few nutrients. Bastian was also the victim of a poor diet—just maize porridge and greens. His mother, Hilaria, took him to a health clinic when his diarrhea wouldn't go away. By then, he needed intensive treatment. Hilaria's first child, Vincent, had died at 9 months old under strikingly similar circumstances.

These are not cases of intentional parental neglect. Some 200 million children are moderately to severely underweight around the world, and tens of millions suffer from dietary deficiencies that stunt their growth, impair their mental development, or cause lifelong problems such as blindness. A combination of poverty-related factors contributes to child malnutrition. Poor access to healthy food, clean water, health services, and sanitation leaves children in a vicious



cycle of disease and hunger from which they may never recover.

International efforts are yielding encouraging results: Sixty percent of the world's edible salt is now enriched with iodine, reducing the incidence of goiter,

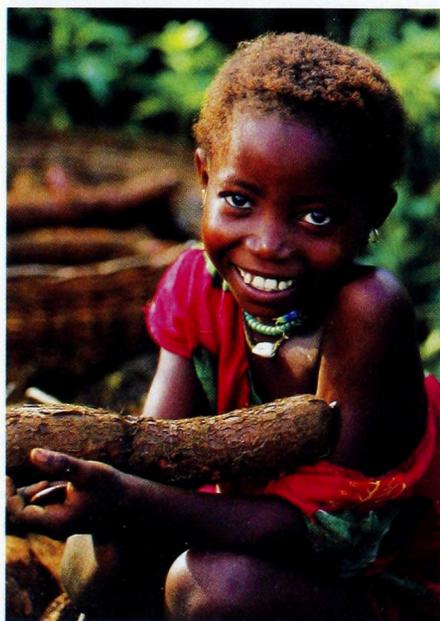
World Vision helps farmers in Dominican Republic diversify their crops to improve family diets (top right). Alfonso Matos Tille (above) once thought he could grow only coconuts; now his land yields bananas and other fruits as well.

WHAT THE BODY NEEDS

Many cases of malnutrition result from micro-nutrient deficiencies. Micro-nutrients are substances that the body cannot make itself but needs in tiny amounts. Their absence can have long-term detrimental effects, especially in mothers and growing children.

In many developing countries, World Vision helps families include these precious nutrients in their diets through agricultural training and nutrition classes.

NUTRIENT:	FOUND IN:	DEFICIENCY CAUSES:	DID YOU KNOW ...?
Iron	Shellfish, beef, broccoli, spinach	Iron-deficient anemia	Nearly 2 billion people worldwide are estimated to be anemic.
Vitamin A	Meats, leafy green, red, and yellow vegetables, fruits	Anemia, blindness, night blindness, immunity problems, abnormal bone and teeth development	About 100 million young children worldwide suffer from Vitamin A deficiency.
Vitamin C	Citrus fruits, mangoes, apricots	Scurvy, blood capillary maintenance problems, reduced immune response capability, collagen synthesis problems	Scurvy is probably the first disease linked to nutrition deficiencies when it was diagnosed among sailors at sea without a fruit supply on board.
Iodine	Seafood, seaweed, iodized table salt	Goiter, pregnancy and childbirth problems	Anemia caused by iodine deficiency is a factor in pregnancy and childbirth complications that kill 585,000 women annually.
Zinc	Breast milk, whole-grain cereals, meat, legumes, wheat bran	Childbirth complications; susceptibility to disease	In one study zinc supplements helped to blunt one-third of malaria cases among children under age 5.
Folate (a B vitamin)	Liver, kidney, fish, green leafy vegetables, beans	Birth defects, anemia, decreased DNA synthesis	Folate deficiency contributes to spinal bifida in newborns.



Tity Senessie, 7, holds cassava, a staple for families in Sierra Leone. Nutritious food is crucial for children's physical and mental development.

and many Latin American countries combat blindness by fortifying sugar with Vitamin A. But more education needs to be done at the village and family level to help families understand how to feed their children healthy diets. In communities where World Vision works, staff monitor children's health and weight, targeting the parents of vulnerable children with nutrition training.

"We have to start by teaching the mothers about the nutritional value of all the foods in the village," explained Lizzie. "Then we physically show them how to enrich traditional maize porridge with locally available foods such as peanuts or coconut oil for fats, green leafy vegetables for vitamins and iron, and beans, fish, or eggs for protein."

Other useful lessons disseminated by staff and volunteer health promoters include how to use simple salt solutions to treat diarrhea, which accounts for 19 percent of deaths among children under 5; how to prepare vegetables to retain their nutrients; and, for mothers of newborns, why breastfeeding is so beneficial to

babies up to age 2.

"I learned from the death of my two babies that hygiene and good nutrition are important," one Morrumbala mother said sadly. As principles for healthy eating take hold in poor communities, such lessons won't need to be learned the hard way.

The World Bank estimates countries lose productivity lost to food deficiency in billions of dollars. But there's no value for what people gain by knowing where the next meals are coming from—peace of mind that sustains their faith, family relationships, and contribution to society.

"I feel wonderful," said Musu Nyaque, a Sierra Leonean mother who planted cassava with seeds and tools from World Vision, recently reaping her first harvest since rebels attacked her village two years ago. "I have a sense of dignity that I can provide for my children. I feel human again." ■

With reports from Claudius Davies, Simon Peter Esaku, Lorgia Garcia, Philip Mabe, Dana Palade, Somluck Pornprapisudh, Margaret Spencer, Jon Warren.

Famine First-Hand

Blair Underwood's visit to a World Vision feeding center in drought-ravaged Ethiopia gave the actor and father a crash course in malnutrition's devastating effects on children.

What Blair Underwood saw at a World Vision's Sodo feeding center in Damota, southern Ethiopia, was heartbreaking. Listless toddlers with puffy faces and enormous, solemn eyes. A little girl with sweat glistening on her brow, yet trembling while she slept. Mothers cradling emaciated children, frowning with worry.

Blair, an actor on the TV drama "City of Angels," has two children himself. "That's one of the reasons why I wanted to come here," he said. "I needed to see this first-hand."

He arrived in southern Ethiopia in July 2000 during a "green famine." Recent rains had turned the landscape green and seemingly fertile, but it was not enough to turn back the damage done by years of drought. Starvation stalked some 10 million people—many of them vulnerable children.

The children in the feeding center were suffering not just from malnutrition but also illnesses and infections that their fragile bodies could not fight. Ethiopian physician Yemisrach Hailu and her team fed the children high-calorie milk formula and treated their ailments with appropriate drugs provided by World Vision or the government.

As Blair visited with some of the young patients, Dr. Hailu pointed out the signs of malnutrition each child exhibited. Many had swollen faces, bellies, or feet, a condition known as kwashiorkor. "Most people think of starvation as lack of fat, so swelling is the opposite effect," Blair observed.

"It's deceiving because the child may appear somewhat fat," agreed Dr. Hailu, "but the child is not healthy. The swelling happens when there is an acute shortage of food, especially proteins. Proteins in our body keep the water inside our blood vessels, so when we have a small amount of proteins in our blood, the water just seeps out and accumulates in our soft tissues."

Another more obvious sign of malnutrition was the emaciated condition known as marasmus. Prolonged food shortage had also left some children stunted, seeming years younger than they were.

In one room Blair met Genet Gelatu, a 6-year-old girl who was about the same size as Blair's 3-year-old son. Genet's brother had recently died of starvation, so her mother brought the three remaining children to the center to ensure that they would live.

Dr. Hailu gently revealed the girl's distended stomach, a stark contrast to her stick-like arms. "She has the long-term consequences of being malnourished," Dr. Hailu said. "She's stunted and she's underweight. And probably she will have problems with low performance when she goes to school."

This hit home for Blair, whose daughter is 1 year old. "All the research you do as a new parent, you come to understand how important the development of the brain is in the first few years," he said. "It's critical that these babies have food."

In addition to feeding and caring for the worst-affected children, World Vision staff visit other communities in the district, screening children for nutrient deficiencies and problems such as stomach worms. These programs, supported by U.S. donors, have already saved many lives.

Impressed by the improvements he'd seen in other communities infused with sponsorship funds, Blair decided to



CATHERINE BAUKNIGHT/WORLD VISION

"I was overcome by emotion—I was disturbed, angry, helpless," said Blair Underwood after seeing malnourished Ethiopian children. But Genet (pictured above) stole his heart, and he became her sponsor.

sponsor Genet. "Through child sponsorship, parents are learning to grow nutritious, drought-resistant crops. Sponsorship means schools, health clinics, clean water, and Christian education. It attacks the root causes of poverty and hunger and helps build a community that can stand strong even in times like these," he said.

As a Christian, Blair was also inspired by the faith of the Ethiopian people. "I met a family with three children, and I asked the mother if she believed in God. She said, 'Very much,' and her eyes lit up," he said. "After all she's been through, there's still such a strong devotion to God." ■

join the battle

YOUR DONATIONS TO WORLD VISION MAKE POSITIVE CHANGES FOR THE WORLD'S POOR. But there's another resource World Vision can use to promote justice for dispossessed families: your voice.

As Christians, we are called to "speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves for the rights of all who are destitute" (Proverbs 31:8). True justice comes from addressing the root causes of a problem, not just its effects. World Vision works to influence national and global policies affecting the poor through advocacy efforts. Faith-based groups play a key role in raising public awareness about poverty and justice issues.

"When people of faith take the lead in the cause for justice, the leaders will often follow."

BY **S**ER **G**E **D**U **S** and mobilizing Christians to add their voices to the debate. Citizen action is a powerful tool for change—and a necessary one in battles that pit greed against human lives.

Advocacy works. Here are two recent, significant examples:

DEBT FORGIVENESS

Last year in Uganda, where World Vision has been working for more than 20 years, school attendance doubled when families no longer were required to pay for each child's education. World Vision was partly responsible, but not through funding school costs. World Vision and hundreds of other faith-based organizations and their citizen supporters in North America, Europe, and Asia pressed their governments to cancel billions of dollars of debt among the world's poorest countries. Uganda used much of the \$45 million it saved to pay for education and basic health care for its people.

This year, more of the poorest countries in Africa, Latin America, and Asia—places where people live on less than \$1 a day—have an opportunity to follow Uganda's example. In 2000, the United States contributed \$435 million toward global debt relief. The U.S. share leverages about \$28 billion among other creditor nations and international financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund.

But the U.S. decision, made in the waning days of Congress last November

or justice

ould not have happened without a long and arduous advocacy campaign. When congressional leaders in both parties finally agreed to support debt relief legislation, it was the result of a sustained effort over several years by World Vision and many other faith-based organizations and churches. Staff attended briefings in Washington, D.C., helped citizens write letters to congressional members, and held personal meetings with elected officials throughout the country. Bread for the World, a nationwide Christian citizens' movement seeking justice for the poor, alone generated more than a quarter million letters to Congress. Not since the Civil Rights movement have people of faith at the grassroots level been so clearly responsible for raising a justice issue and winning change.

CONFLICT DIAMONDS

During the Cold War, foreign Super Powers funded African wars for their own self-interest. But by the 1990s, that funding began to dry up. African governments and rebel groups in resource-rich but desperately poor countries began to sell raw diamonds to multinational corporations to pay for arms. They initiated conflicts to profit from the diamond trade. Many corporations bought the diamonds and turned a blind eye to the human carnage it caused.

Last year, World Vision joined other North American and European non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in an intense advocacy campaign to alert the world to the \$50 billion diamond trade funding rebel armies in Angola, Sierra Leone, and Liberia. In the last eight years, Sierra Leone rebels earned \$200 million from diamonds to wage a conflict that has cost the lives of more than 150,000 innocent civilians, many of them women and children.

The advocacy campaign finally caught the attention of the diamond industry when Rep. Tony Hall (D-Ohio), a longtime advocate for the world's poor, proposed legislation in Congress that promised to monitor raw diamond sales in the United States if the industry continued buying "blood diamonds" from Africa. American consumers buy 65 percent of the world's polished diamonds.

In July, World Vision's Africa policy specialist Rory Anderson was among six people representing 68 North American and European NGOs and religious denominations who addressed the World Diamond Congress in Brussels. The message was simple and clear: The practice of selling diamonds to purchase armaments and prolong conflicts must stop. Since then, NGOs have pushed the diamond industry to develop a comprehensive global plan for creating a "clean stream" of diamonds. Much work still must be done, but at least corporations recognize the problem, and public pressure has mobilized the industry to implement changes.

When people of faith take the lead in the cause for justice, the leaders will often follow. You can join us in these efforts. To get involved in citizen advocacy with World Vision on international aid and public policy issues affecting the poor, contact the Office of Public Policy and Government Relations at (202) 608-1840, or visit www.worldvision.org/globalissues. ■

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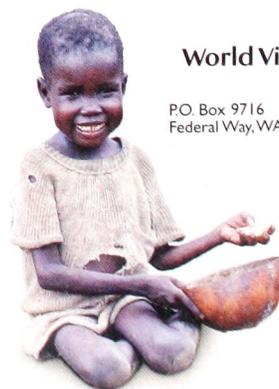
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News

▶ A recent study analyzing charitable giving by state found that six of the top 10 states are among those with the lowest income. Mississippi, second-to-last in average income, ranked first in giving with an average charitable deduction of \$4,070. (Urban National Center for Charitable Statistics)

You Can Help

Assist Earthquake Victims

World Vision has deployed thousands of Family Survival Kits to sustain families left homeless by India's earthquake. Each family receives items such as blankets, a tarp, a stove and pan for cooking, a lantern with matches, and enough potable water to last a week. In addition, World Vision is providing food packages containing high-energy biscuits, wheat, lentils, cooking oil, and sugar—a week's worth of food for one family. \$100 will supply these emergency items for a family in India.

The needs of earthquake survivors in India and El Salvador are immense. To purchase a Family Survival Kit for an Indian family, donate funds to help El Salvador's relief efforts, or contribute to long-term recovery programs in both countries, please use the business reply envelope on page 16.



CRISIS UPDATES: EARTHQUAKE

INDIA

"I have lost my wife, my children. Please give me these plastic sheets so that I can shelter," a desperate survivor pleaded to World Vision staff as they distributed relief supplies days after a strong earthquake devastated parts of Gujarat state in western India. While international rescue efforts focused on sections of Bhuj, the city nearest the quake center where thousands of people were buried by collapsed highrises, surrounding villages did not receive aid. The Gujarat government asked World Vision to serve 15,000 families in rural areas with readily available relief supplies such as emergency food, water, and temporary shelter materials.

The quake, which registered 7.9 on the Richter scale, will prolong the suffering of Gujarat residents already weakened by a two-year drought that slowed food production. World Vision staff observed, "Hundreds of thousands are pacing dusty roads in the sinking towns of Gujarat, their minds unable to comprehend the utter tragedy they have gone through." World Vision, which operates seven childcare projects in Gujarat, will conduct recovery and reconstruction programs in the shattered communities.



PHILIP MAHER/WORLD VISION

EL SALVADOR

Within hours of El Salvador's 7.6 magnitude quake on Jan. 13, World Vision activated its Global Pre-Positioning Emergency Distribution system (see page 26). In days, water purification systems, tablets, and collapsible water jugs were en route from the Denver, Colorado, warehouse to World Vision's rapid response teams waiting on the ground in the hardest-hit areas. Microsoft joined World Vision's relief efforts by committing \$30,000 to purchase, transport, and distribute goods such as medical supplies, food, and temporary shelter materials.

The earthquake and its aftershocks, the worst in 20 years, devastated 90 percent of the country's infrastructure and damaged 2,400 homes of World Vision-assisted families. No World Vision staff or sponsored children were killed.

World Vision, which has worked in El Salvador for 25 years, will assist Salvadoran families by supplying housing construction materials, tents, food, medicines, and clothing. In addition, well-trained counselors are providing spiritual and psychological counseling for traumatized adults and children.

World Vision Remains Committed to Sudan

World Vision continues to care for suffering families in southern Sudan, where a 16-year civil war continues unabated between the northern Khartoum government and southern rebel groups. Working in the conflict-ridden south poses difficult dilemmas, but World Vision, which has invested \$62 million in the region since 1989, strives to protect its operations, staff, and equipment from government or military manipulation. Currently, staff are targeting 25,000 people, especially children, in the Upper Nile state for health and food programs. World Vision will soon

expand its programs to new areas.

In addition to humanitarian aid, Sudan desperately needs a political solution. World Vision and many other organizations are pressing the Sudanese government to help negotiate an end to the war. Only when a political solution is found will Sudan's ills—persecution, slavery, famine, and mass displacement of people—begin to dissipate.

Visit World Vision's Web site at www.worldvision.org for more information on Sudan.

The global online community reaches 26 percent of all people in the United States but fewer than 1 percent of the population in all developing regions.

United Nations Development Programme, Human Development Report 2000)

▶ The number of polio cases globally has dropped by 95 percent, from an estimated 350,000 in 1988 to 7,094 reported in 1999. (World Health Organization)

▶ More than 300,000 children under the age of 18 are taking part in hostilities around the world, more than 120,000 of them in African conflicts. (Amnesty International)

S P O N S O R S H I P

Heart Operation Helps El Salvador Boy

Five-year-old sponsored child Erick Geovani Cruz Ramírez of Canton San Lucas, El Salvador, has a healthy heart, thanks to a life-saving surgery in the United States funded in part by World Vision. Erick was born with congenital cardiopathy, a heart malformation that prevents proper oxygenation of the blood. It could only be corrected through open-heart surgery, costing 100,000—an impossible price tag for Erick's low-income, single-parent family. But Maria Alicia, Erick's mother, was not discour-



aged. "I knew that a miracle was to happen in my child's life."

In May 2000, World Vision and Gift of Life, an organization that helps children with heart diseases to get specialized medical care, covered expenses for Erick's eight-hour operation at San Christopher Hospital in Philadelphia, Penn.

"I am happy because my chest does not hurt anymore, and I am not tired when walking," said Erick, back home in El Salvador. "Now I can play soccer with my classmates."

World Vision is able to assist sponsored children with emergency medical needs like Erick's through the Childcare Ministry Fund, made possible through sponsors' donations over and above their monthly pledges.

LOW-INCOME FOOD-DEFICIT COUNTRIES

At present, 86 nations are defined as Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries (LIFDCs)—43 in Africa, 24 in Asia, 9 in Latin America and the Caribbean, 7 in Oceania and 3 in Europe. These countries are home to the vast majority of the world's 826 million chronically undernourished people. Many LIFDCs do not grow enough food to meet all of their needs and lack sufficient foreign exchange to fill the gap by purchasing food on the international market.



As of February 1998
Source: UN Food and Agriculture Organization

Resources on the Global Food Crisis

- ▶ *Grace at the Table* by David Beckmann and Arthur Simon, InterVarsity Press, 1999
- ▶ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Web site: www.fao.org
- ▶ UNICEF's *State of the World's Children 1998*

At a Moment's Notice | The

Operating in nearly 90 countries, World Vision is uniquely positioned to respond with life-saving help and Christ-like compassion to every major world disaster. Here's how.

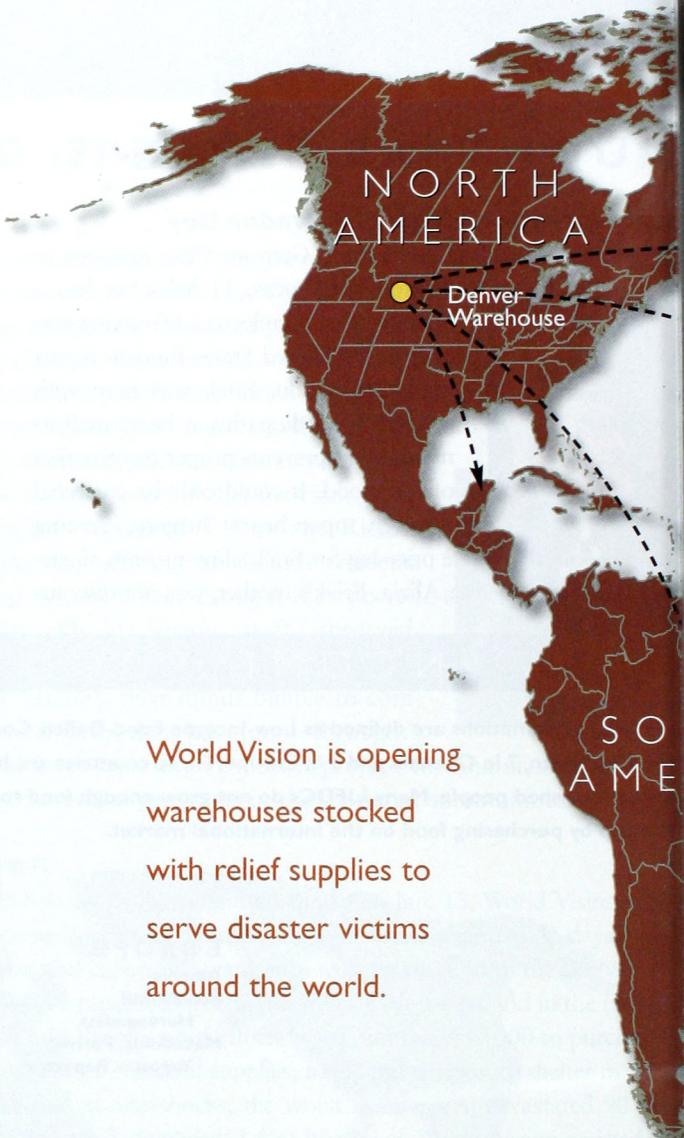
ON AVERAGE, WORLD VISION HAS MADE AN EMERGENCY RELIEF response every 25 days in the last two years. These responses have all been for major disasters affecting between 10,000 and 500,000 people.

Anticipating more humanitarian crises, and the need for increased speed of response, World Vision developed the Global Emergency Pre-Positioning Distribution system.

The system will deliver emergency goods, materials, and tools to relief teams within the first 24 to 72 hours of a disaster. These supplies are already waiting in a 27,000-square-foot warehouse in Denver, ready for air transport at a moment's notice. Soon World Vision will have two more warehouses in key locations, Europe and Asia. The emergency system also ensures that adequate cash and personnel resources are available to move forward boldly when disaster strikes.

This distribution system will enable World Vision to effectively and rapidly respond during the first wave of a large-scale emergency, focusing on a minimum of 2,000 people initially and expanding to 5,000 people or more within 30 days. The plan also allows for the long-term purchase of relief goods in the target country to both save money in transport costs and to help strengthen local disaster-affected economies.

B Y B R I A N S Y T S M A



World Vision is opening warehouses stocked with relief supplies to serve disaster victims around the world.

World Vision stocks two sets of pre-positioned relief items in Denver: Emergency Fly-Away Kits for the first phase of a relief response, and

EMERGENCY FLY-AWAY KITS

Sent in the first seven days of a crisis, these kits assist relief efforts and benefit thousands of people.



ure of Emergency Relief



assist communities in long-term recovery.

FAMILY SURVIVAL PACKS

the next 30 days to benefit 5,000 people each.



RISING TO THE CHALLENGE

During the 1990s, there were three times as many natural disasters as in the 1960s, and violent conflicts ripped apart countries and people groups in nearly every corner of the world. The year 2000 saw a staggering 30 million people living as refugees or displaced in their own countries. The outlook for this new decade points to more humanitarian crises. According to relief experts:

- People displacements will continue to grow.
- Weather trends and seismic activity foretell continued major disasters.
- The scope of international responses to disaster victims will continue to be shaped largely by media coverage.
- The responsibility of international disaster response will continue to shift from the United Nations and host governments to private humanitarian organizations like World Vision.

Where Are They Now?

MEDICAL MI

A young man from a poor El Salvador community achieves the career of his dreams through World Vision sponsorship.

“My children received a nutritious meal every day,” said Justiniana. “Our family also received milk, wheat, oil, and other items. We were given 10 hens and a rooster to start a chick farm. This was a great help for us because every day we had fresh eggs and poultry.”

Dios es Amor helped local families construct homes, latrines and water faucets. Through adult vocational training, Justiniana became a successful seamstress. (David took tailoring classes, too, and today he still sews his own clothes.) Staff also offered Bible classes, which David credits with teaching him righteousness and honesty—principles in short supply in a country beset by civil war. “We will never forget the great support provided by Dios es Amor,” said Justiniana. “Through this project, we felt God’s love for us.”

David’s sponsors made a big impression as well. “I still have affection for them,” he said. “I remember so well their letters and words of encouragement. One sponsor, a woman original from El Salvador, came to the country on two occasions to meet me. Unfortunately, the political conflict at the time did not permit that to happen.”

AS A BOY, DAVID ONOTIEL WORKED ALONGSIDE HIS mother, cutting tobacco to help support the family. His body was in the fields but his mind was in a hospital, where he imagined himself as a doctor.

Today, David is a doctor. He examines about 50 patients daily at Nueva Guadalupe National Hospital, a public facility serving low-income patients in San Miguel, a city about 100 miles east of San Salvador. The setting isn’t glamorous, but for David, a former sponsored child, it’s still a dream come true.

A career in medicine seemed out of reach for a boy from Milagro de la Paz, a poor neighborhood in San Miguel. David’s father, Gabino, peddled car parts on the street to support David and three other children. Even with the tobacco profits brought in by David’s mother, Justiniana, the family’s monthly income came to only a few hundred dollars, barely enough for food and school expenses.

In 1978, World Vision began working in Milagro de la Paz. David, then 7, and his siblings were among the first children to be sponsored through *Dios es Amor* (God is Love), a local church program supported by World Vision.

Story and photograph by Cecilia Cerón



ICLE

While working part-time as a tailor, David maintained high scores in high school. Although sponsorship ends at age 16, World Vision recognized David's academic potential and granted him a special scholarship for medical school.

At David's graduation ceremonies in June 2000, Justiniana and Gabino proudly watched their son receive his gold-sealed diploma from the University of El Salvador. He was not only the first member of his family to attend university but was among a minority in El Salvador to do so. Fewer than 10 percent of all adults have finished high school, and only three percent obtain a university education, compared to 24 percent in the United States.

Today, as a physician, David enjoys his work immensely. "What gives me much satisfaction," he said, "is treating very sick patients and seeing them recover, or being able to save the life of an undernourished child who arrived at the clinic in shock or dying."

Practicing in this poor community is not without challenges. David's patients, who come seeking treatment for prevalent ailments such as cardiac problems, diabetes, and lung disease, can barely pay the hospital's small consultation fee. "If our hospital doesn't have medicine available or free, patients can't afford to buy it," he explained. "I refer them to other clinics that might have it. But not being able to help more causes me much sorrow."

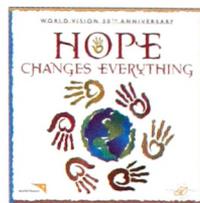
Although David could earn much more in private practice, he chooses to remain at Nueva Guadalupe. Eventually, he hopes to serve as a surgeon there.

"Years ago, it seemed that becoming a doctor was a difficult goal to achieve," said David. "I am very grateful for everything my sponsors and World Vision have given me since I was a child." ■

celebrate life!

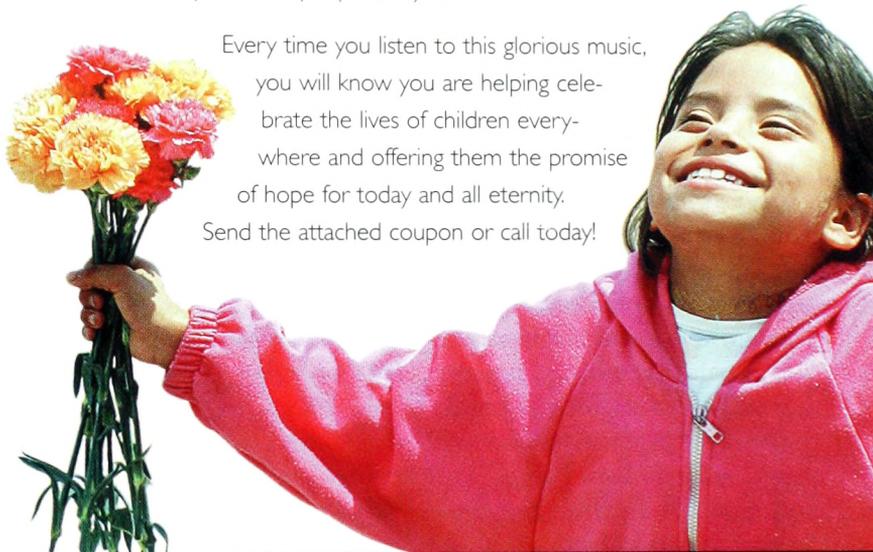
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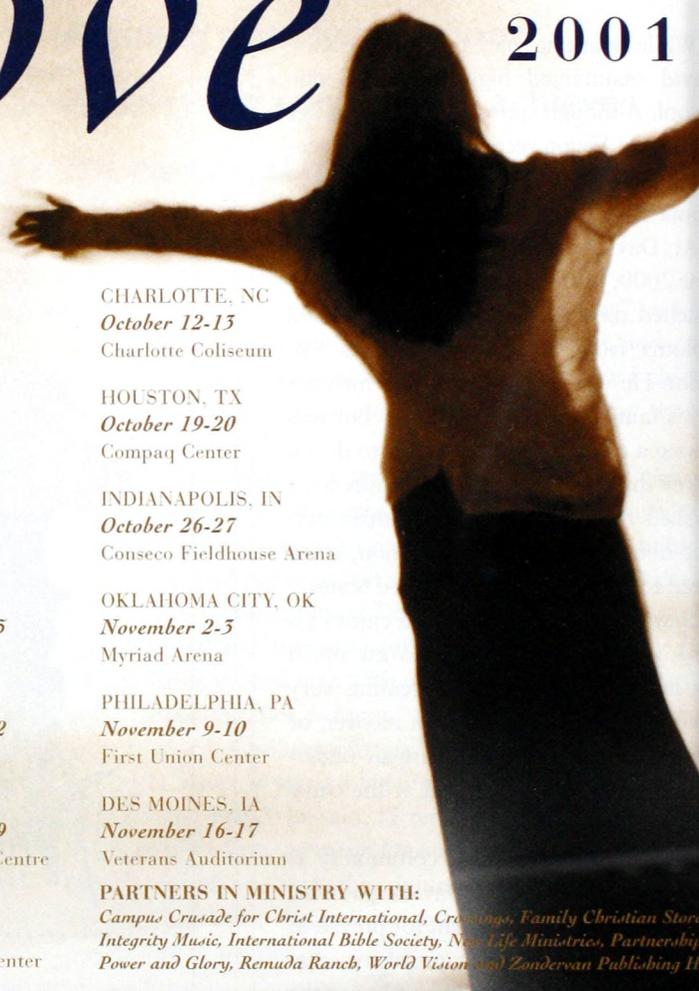
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A21SAS



boundless Love 2001



CHARLESTON, WV <i>February 23-24</i> Charleston Civic Center	WASHINGTON, DC <i>June 22-25</i> MCI Center	DALLAS, TX <i>August 17-18</i> Reunion Arena	CHARLOTTE, NC <i>October 12-15</i> Charlotte Coliseum
SACRAMENTO, CA <i>March 23-24</i> Arco Arena	NASHVILLE, TN <i>June 29-30</i> Gaylord Entertainment Center	DENVER, CO <i>August 24-25</i> Pepsi Center	HOUSTON, TX <i>October 19-20</i> Compaq Center
COLUMBUS, OH <i>April 27-28</i> Nationwide Arena	FT. LAUDERDALE, FL <i>July 13-14</i> National Car Rental Center	ANAHEIM, CA <i>September 7-8</i> Arrowhead Pond	INDIANAPOLIS, IN <i>October 26-27</i> Conseco Fieldhouse Arena
LAS VEGAS, NV <i>May 4-5</i> Thomas & Mack Center	CHICAGO, IL <i>July 20-21</i> United Center	SEATTLE, WA <i>September 14-15</i> Key Arena	OKLAHOMA CITY, OK <i>November 2-5</i> Myriad Arena
BILLINGS, MT <i>May 11-12</i> MetraPark	ST. LOUIS, MO <i>July 27-28</i> Savvis Center	LANSING, MI <i>September 21-22</i> Breslin Center	PHILADELPHIA, PA <i>November 9-10</i> First Union Center
OMAHA, NE <i>May 18-19</i> Omaha Civic Auditorium	ATLANTA, GA <i>August 3-4</i> Philips Arena	ORLANDO, FL <i>September 28-29</i> TD Waterhouse Centre	DES MOINES, IA <i>November 16-17</i> Veterans Auditorium
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The Fragrance of Love

The biblical vignette of a woman's act of love toward her Lord endures as a compelling challenge to Christians today.

THE SETTING: A DINNER PARTY AT WHICH A woman pours an entire container of imported perfume on Jesus' head. The story is Mark's (chapter 14), the oldest of the four Gospels, and one of the more powerful narratives in the Judeo-Christian tradition. Jesus is on his last journey to Jerusalem. The capital is crawling with people because it is Passover, the national celebration recalling the Jews' deliverance from Egypt. There is a plot going on against Jesus, involving the collusion of Judas.

In the middle of all of this we find the mini-story of a Jewish woman whose simple act stands in sharp contrast to all the scheming. We know little about her; even her name goes unrecorded.

Her alabaster vase is a fragile flask containing nard, a perfume with an intense aroma. Such perfume was imported from India and would cost a laborer an entire year's wages. Some of the guests are appalled by the perceived waste and declare that the perfume should have been sold, the money donated to the poor. Jesus' response is direct: "She has done a beautiful thing for me."



Canadian-born Betti Erb is an editor for *Evangel*, the newsletter of the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference. She lives with her husband, John, in Seattle, Wash.

Jesus is touched by the woman's seemingly wasteful action, because it is timely: He is going to die soon. "You will not always have me," says Jesus. Alone among the guests—including the disciples—this woman understands that the end of Jesus' ministry is near. She discerns that Jesus is the anointed one.

And so she gives what she can for the one who will offer up the ultimate gift—his very self—for all of humankind.

I am struck by the power of this woman's symbolic act. As a number of commentators on this passage suggest, those at the table see only see misuse. They cannot see the tribute the woman lavishes on Jesus. Jesus understands it, and accepts with delight her heart's devotion. By shattering the jar, the woman shares her priceless perfume with the whole world. We, too, share by faith in this pouring out, this generous decanting. St. Paul speaks on a number of occasions of this perfume of love and grace. In 2 Corinthians 2:14-15 he writes: "But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumph, and through us spreads the fragrance of knowledge of God everywhere. For we are the fragrance of Christ to those around..."

Many Christians are accustomed to giving regularly. Many of us understand that stewardship of our money and other resources is a commendable discipline. We need to recognize, however, the degree to which this unnamed woman's response to Jesus operates at a different level, beyond what we think of as generosity. Her unrehearsed, selfless act is hard to comprehend, either in the first century or now, in our globally fixated, consumer-crazy, bottom-line, dot-com world.

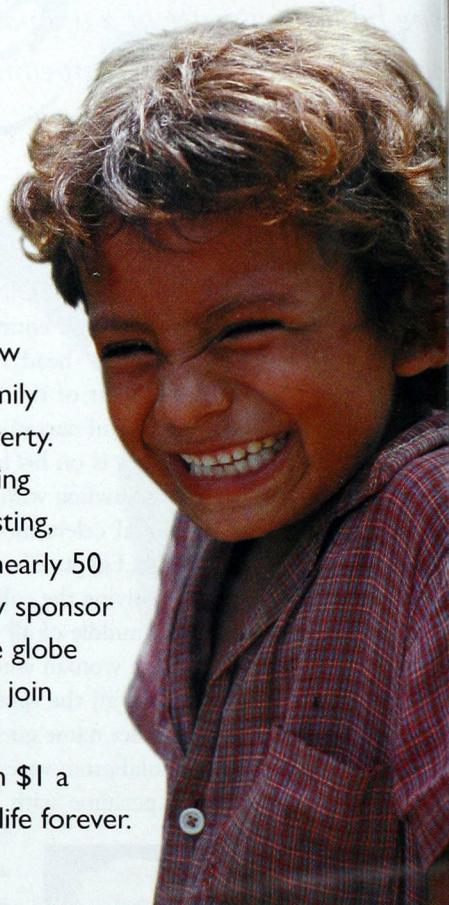
How do we, through our priorities and daily decisions, honor Christ? Are we like the dinner party guests, fussing about wasted perfume, or are we prepared to show our reverence in a similar act of generosity?

There is little question that we in North America are rich in blessings. Yet so many people who are surrounded by material things are running on empty. The woman with the alabaster jar reminds us of the beauty and goodness of an uncalculated love that does not run up a tab. She invites us also to demonstrate our love for Jesus in an extraordinary way.

As we approach the Easter season, it is good to remember the words of author Thomas Merton: The power to love others is the one thing that makes us mortals most like the God who fashioned us. To love others is an invitation back to our own humanity. ■

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