

World Vision

Today

SPRING 2003

Monsoon Fury

page 14

**Healing
Afghanistan**

page 18

wonder
trees

*Science leads
to success*



contents



6



18



26

features

6 on the cover

Wonder Trees

Science yields success for farmers fighting a drought.

14 Rain of Terror

Monsoon season—fighting nature's yearly, deadly deluge.

18 Afghanistan: Putting People First

Using creativity to overcome a cultural Catch-22.

departments

22 Seattle & Tacoma: More Than a Backpack

An entire elementary school learns lessons in love.

24 Where Are They Now?

She didn't let polio get the best of her.

26 Amazing Staff: Sneak Attack

World Vision's Ken Casey was prepared for battle—just not like this.

31 Guest Essay: Merold Stern

What does it mean to be rich in faith?

in every issue

3 From the President

4 Glad You Asked

5 Letters

28 News

30 Reader Services

World Vision Today

VOL. 6, NUMBER 3

President Richard Stearns
Sr. Vice President Atul Tandon
Editor Shelly Ngo
Managing Editor Diane J. McDougall
Senior Editors Jane Sutton-Redner
Kari Costanza
Photo Editor Jon Warren
Production Coordinator Virginia Kolano
Design & Production Journey Group, Inc.

On the cover

A native leguminous tree, *Tephrosia vogelii*, is boosting farmers' crops in rural Zambia. Photograph by Jon Warren

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

We welcome your comments and feedback. Letters to the editor must include the writer's full name, home address, and daytime telephone number, and should be sent to: The Editor, **World Vision Today**, P.O. Box 9716, Federal Way, Washington 98063-9716, e-mailed to WVToday@worldvision.org or faxed to (253) 815-3340. Letters may be edited for space and clarity. Submitted photos will not be returned.

Please send address changes at least 30 days before moving and enclose the address label clipped from a current copy or return envelope.

All Bible references are from the New International Version unless indicated otherwise.



Charter Member, Evangelical Council
for Financial Accountability
Member, Evangelical Press Association

Copyright © 2003 by World Vision Inc.
E-mail address: WVToday@worldvision.org
For employment opportunities at World Vision,
visit our Web site at www.worldvision.org

World Vision

From the President | Richard E. Stearns

A Glimpse of Heaven

Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account. —HEBREWS 4:13

ON AUGUST 16TH LAST YEAR, MY FAMILY AND

I had one of the most unforgettable experiences of our lives. When I joined World Vision five years ago, I promised my family that one day we would all take a trip together to see World Vision's work. Finally, in August 2002, my wife and five children (ages 10 to 23) departed from Seattle for two weeks in China and Mongolia.

While we saw remarkable sights and visited numerous World Vision projects, we were all taken by surprise one night in a remote region of Mongolia. We were staying in traditional *ger* tents some eight hours west of the capital, Ulaanbaatar. "Remote" is an understatement for a place that far to the north, bordering Siberia, 400 miles from the nearest city. Perhaps you've heard the expression, "It's not the end of the world—but you can see it from here"? Well, that's exactly how it felt to us.

Just before we went to sleep that night, we walked outside our tents and looked toward the heavens. What we saw was breathtaking! Without city pollution obscuring the view, we were able to see the heavens as they might have been seen in biblical times. The Milky Way cut a bright swath across the sky, and the sheer number of visible stars was staggering. We could clearly understand that night why almost every ancient civilization was obsessed with astronomy and stargazing. The skies that most of us see in America are a dim approximation of the true glory of God's creation.

Then something even more amazing happened. We saw a shooting star—and then another and another. Recalling my grade-school astronomy, I realized that a meteor shower called the Perseid shower occurs during the middle of August. This was exactly the right night! For the next hour or so, we stood under God's firmament, just taking in the fireworks.

The Perseid meteor shower occurs every year, but we had never seen it before because it is drowned out in the brightness of city lights. As I thought about this, I realized that so many things in our world can be drowned out by the noise and busyness around us.

The next day, we visited Mongolian families struggling to live off the land. They sleep in tents as winter temperatures fall to minus 40 degrees Fahrenheit. Their animals sometimes freeze to death still standing

on their feet. Mongolian diets are severely lacking in vegetables, with the result that the children are often stunted and crippled by rickets—a bone-twisting condition caused by vitamin deficiency.

Year after year, Mongolians endure these hardships anonymously, thousands of miles from you and me in the United States. We don't see them or hear about them because we are distracted and busy with so many competing priorities.

Poverty in our world is often like this, for those of us in more fortunate circumstances: out of sight and out of mind. Millions of children go to bed sick and hungry every night. Thirteen million kids have lost parents to AIDS. More than 1 billion people don't even have clean water to drink.

Like the Perseid meteor shower, their cries for help are often drowned out by the noise of other things. One of our jobs at World Vision is to help people see the things in our world that break God's heart. These are things not easily noticed in the course of busy lives. But they are things God wants us to see.

Since that night in August, I have thought about how the world's needy children are like shooting stars, crying out to be noticed, hoping that just maybe—in the midst of our busyness—we'll glance their way and see them as God sees them, with love and compassion. When we do—and when we respond—God blesses us with yet another small glimpse of heaven. ■



SUE BRYAN/WORLD VISION

World Vision has worked in Mongolia since 1991. We provide nutritional supplements for children, teach vegetable gardening, help with restocking herds, and offer shelter and education for street children.

Richard E. Stearns

Can I make my sponsorship gift automatically, through electronic payments

YES! WORLD VISION STRIVES

to lower administrative costs so that more money can benefit needy children and families. Each sponsorship gift made by credit card or electronic funds transfer saves World Vision at least one dollar a month.



Mosquito nets cost little, and save lives.

That doesn't seem like very much money, but it matters. Twelve dollars per donor per year could result in more than \$3 million if 300,000 World Vision sponsors switched to World Vision's Automatic Giving Plan.

World Vision works in eight of the 10 countries listed as the least developed nations: Rwanda, Mali, Chad, Mozambique, Burundi, Ethiopia, Niger, and Sierra Leone. Millions of people in these countries live on less than a dollar a day. The \$12 savings realized through just one sponsor's electronic

payments could help to provide such things as food, seeds, emergency supplies, mosquito nets, medicine, or even a warm blanket for a child living in one of those countries.

World Vision's Automatic Giving Plan means convenience for you. When you sign up for the plan, you no longer have to write a check or buy a stamp and mail an envelope. Your sponsorship gift is automatically billed to your credit card or transferred from your bank account to World Vision on a specified day each month. By signing up for electronic giving, you enable more of your money to help World Vision assist those in need.

SIGN UP HERE

Your sponsorship gift can be given by credit card, debit card, or electronic funds deduction.

Complete this form and place it in the envelope between pages 16 and 17 of this magazine, then return it to World Vision. Call toll-free (888) 511-6555 to speak with a World Vision donor representative for more information or assistance. Or, you can enroll online. Visit our web site at www.worldvision.org/automaticgiving

YES, I want my sponsorship gift to go even further!

I. Personal information (please print)

Name _____

My WorldVision account number (see the numbers above your name on the back of this magazine) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone number _____ E-mail address _____

Signature (required for automatic giving) _____ Date _____

2. Giving options (Check either Automatic Bank Withdrawal or Debit/Credit Card, then complete the corresponding section.)

Automatic Bank Withdrawal

I authorize my bank to debit my account \$_____ each month and send it to World Vision. Please make the deductions on the ___5th or the ___20th day of each month. (Mark your choice with an "x" and please send a check marked "VOID" or a deposit slip from your bank account.)

Debit/Credit Card

Charge my monthly sponsorship gifts to my credit or debit card:

Card number _____ Expiration date _____

3. Please sign and detach this form, then return it using the envelope provided in the center of this magazine.

HELPFUL GUIDELINES

We have been World Vision supporters and have sponsored three children over the past 12 years. We have always adhered to the guidelines that are constantly repeated by World Vision, such as not to send money directly to children and to avoid sending extravagant gifts.

In your Winter issue, you restate these same guidelines. But imagine our dismay when we read on page 15 that Arman's sponsor "sent him extra money that helped him to buy a camera." And then on page 19, we read that Tran's sponsors send her many gifts as well.

Our hearts sank. How do you think this makes the sponsors who adhere to the rules feel? Will we all start sending extra money, clothes, dolls, and other extravagances? Will the World Vision workers on bicycle and foot be burdened with the heavy loads of gifts they will now be carrying? Will there be hurt feelings and rifts in communities when one child's sponsor lavishes her/him with gifts and money but the others do not?

Thanks for prayerfully considering these comments.

—Marie and Bill Swift, Leawood, Kan.



Editors Note: We regret that the article did not clarify that gifts themselves were not mailed to Arman's family. Rather, his sponsor sent a gift of money, to be used as needed. We do appreciate that you follow our guidelines, and we hope other sponsors will do the same. It is costly to World Vision national offices to have to pay duty on these gifts as they come through customs.

World Vision staff have to pick them up or it becomes a problem with the government. And, yes, it is an issue when a national worker has to transport gifts and he or she doesn't have an appropriate vehicle. For most countries, sponsors are welcome to send nonmonetary gifts—those that will fit in a small manila envelope—directly to the national office. Also, in most countries, a sponsor can send an extra monetary gift (minimum of \$75) to the U.S. office to be used only for child and family needs. This is what Arman's sponsors did. With the extra gift, Arman got his camera. His family received a sack of flour, oil, condensed milk, beans, rice, clothes, and shoes for Arman as well.

GIRLS' GIVING PROVIDES BLESSING

We had our 9-year-old granddaughter for a week this summer and at her request took her to Vacation Bible School at our church. Addie and her friend Christina, also 9, were inspired by the missions portion and decided to have a lemonade stand and give all of the proceeds to needy children. Many lessons were learned. Addie made a business plan, did all of the shopping for supplies, spent one full day in my art studio painting signs and cards, baked six dozen cookies, squeezed 120 fresh lemons, and journeyed throughout our home for the perfect donation jar, table cloth, pitcher, and baskets. The girls had 52 customers and earned \$126.29 that day. They decided to use the entire amount to purchase a goat and seedlings and tools from the World Vision Gift Catalog. Blessings on World Vision and all of the children in our world who teach us lessons!

—Denise Adams, Roxbury, Conn.

Questions or comments about World Vision Today? Send your letters to:
World Vision Today
PO Box 9716
Federal Way, WA 98063-9716

or e-mail us at: WVToday@worldvision.org

Women of Vision 2003 National Conference

A Child Is Waiting...

Come make a difference in a child's life!

Join Women of Vision from around the world for our sixth conference.

The 2003 conference, focusing on child and family sponsorship, will be a time of inspiration at World Vision United States headquarters with Rich Stearns, president, his wife, Renee, and other World Vision staff.

Mary Robinson, former United Nations human rights chair, will keynote the Saturday evening session. You will witness the power of God in testimonies from sponsored children.



... Plant the Seed of Hope!

Date: October 9-12, 2003

Location: **The Seattle Marriott Waterfront**

Seattle's highly acclaimed, newest waterfront hotel

Conference Cost: \$250; hotel not included, though group discount will apply

w o m e n o f v i s i o n

We are women called to invest our time, intellect, compassion, and resources to make a difference in the lives of impoverished women and children.

Call 1.877.WOV.4WOV
(1.877.968.4968)

the w **O**nder trees

In drought-plagued Zambia, World Vision's introduction of a scientific breakthrough is helping farming families survive—and thrive.

By James Addis | PHOTOGRAPHS BY JON WARREN

The room is buzzing with exuberant farmers; the smiles are broad. A flamboyantly dressed woman leads a meet-and-greet session in a dusty schoolroom. Her hips sway; her hands clap. She sings a traditional folk song as the rest of the party provides a harmonious rejoinder. Occasionally there is spontaneous whooping and hollering. It feels good to be alive. ¶ But hang on a minute. This is southern Africa. For months, the media have been raising alarms about dire food shortages and drought. What's going on? ¶ These farmers attending a workshop near Chipata, eastern Zambia, have discovered an important secret—an answer to their many woes. And for once the answer is simple, cheap, effective, and sustainable.

Too good to be true? Not according to Dr. Cassim Masi, project manager for World Vision Zambia's Integrated Agroforestry Project. The answer, he says, boils down to the planting of certain quick-maturing leguminous trees. To the untrained eye, these trees look like unattractive, over-grown shrubs. But to Cassim—and thousands of Zambian farmers—they are “wonder trees.”

A CRUCIAL CLUE

For years, farmers in eastern Zambia toiled with miserable soils that yielded little. The only solution seemed to be expensive chemical fertilizers. Even this proved to be crude and increasingly ineffective. Sometimes fertilization was subject to a process known as leaching, where nutrients are washed deep into the ground, out of reach of hungry crops.



Education helps lead to celebration: World Vision trains Zambian farmers in new agricultural methods (top left) that they will then share with others. And the results lead to celebration, such as this group (above) who dance to express their joy, before joining in the next training session.

More commonly, as farmers dumped additional fertilizer on the topsoil, the land became more acidic and unproductive. In their desperation, farmers clear-cut forests for planting crops, leaving soil without vegetation. The little rain that did fall ran off the land and washed the topsoil away.

In the mid-1980s, scientists at the International Center for Research into Agroforestry (ICRAF) worked feverishly in eastern Zambia to crack the problem. They were encouraged by farmers' testimony that seemed to back one of their hunches: Crops planted near certain native trees seemed to do a little better than the rest. It was an important clue.



An explosion of growth: Thanks to the leguminous tree, Leonard and Eunice Sakala (left and below) can better provide for their sons, including 4-year-old Martin, on his mother's back. Despite a drought that affected even the famed Victoria Falls (lower left), the Sakalas raised and sold enough vegetables to buy 49 cattle. Fertilizer from the wonder trees helped make it possible.

“Farmers had a conviction that these trees were planted by God,” Dr. Cassim Masi says. “They were aware that they were helpful but had not yet made the imaginative leap to plant them themselves.” ICRAF set about subjecting the folklore to some robust scientific research.

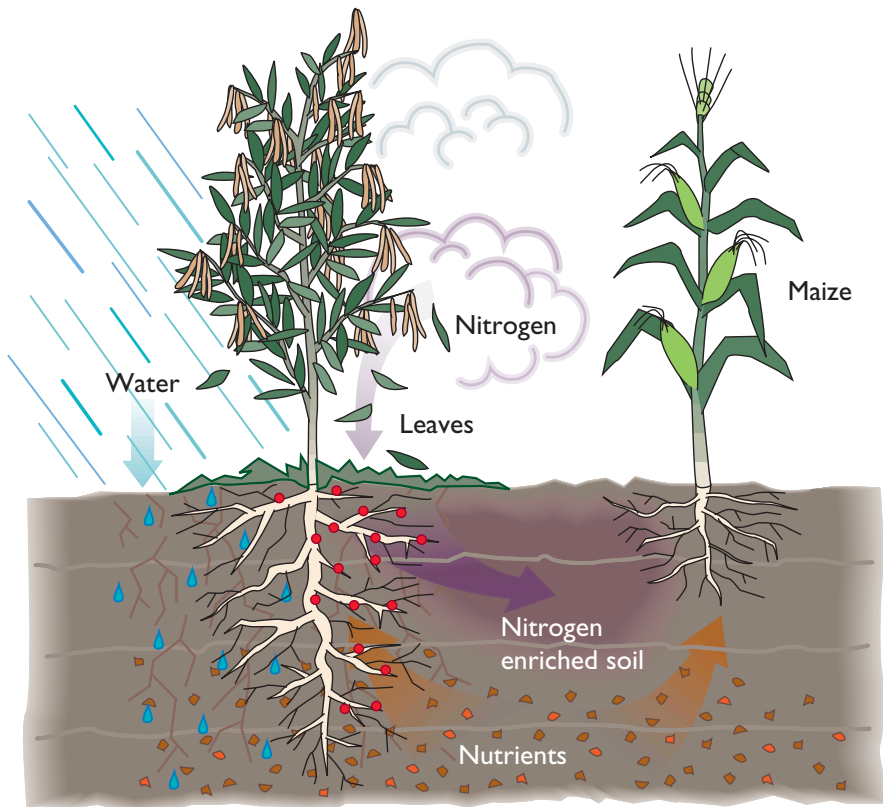
By the end of the 1990s, ICRAF's laboratory and field trials showed spectacular results with a number of leguminous trees that transformed the fortunes of farmers who experimented with them.

ICRAF researchers found that if fallow land was planted with wonder trees, the exhausted fields could be reinvigorated and reused within two years. Formerly it would take such fields up to eight years to recover. Furthermore, farmers can elect to inter-crop—plant maize alongside the trees—and enjoy good results immediately.

SPREADING THE WORD

One problem remained: How to get information and training about the breakthrough to farmers? ICRAF





HOW THE TREES WORK:

1. Their vigorous root systems break up compacted soils. Rainfall has a chance to percolate into the soil rather than simply running off, taking precious topsoil with it. The broken-up soil helps crop root systems spread out and find sustenance.
2. They pull nitrogen from the air and infuse it into the soil through their roots, and store the nitrogen in their leaves and branches. When those leaves and young branches are incorporated into the soil during land cultivation, or are left on the soil as mulch, they decompose, enriching the soil with their nitrogen stock.
3. They act as natural pumps. Their root systems extend up to 26 feet under the earth. Any nutrients buried that deep through leaching are soaked up and delivered back to the topsoil in the form of falling leaves. This litter also aids water retention and soil permeability.
4. Like all plants, the trees aid the battle against global warming by capturing and neutralizing harmful carbon dioxide from the atmosphere in a process called carbon sequestration.

turned to World Vision, an organization with the ability to enthuse communities about the benefits of the wonder trees and the capacity to mobilize farmers to spread the word.

In 1998, ICRAF and World Vision clinched a deal for World Vision to roll out the innovations to desperate farming communities. USAID put up \$3.9 million to kick-start the project, and World Vision donors in the United States chipped in another \$335,500. Five districts in Zambia's eastern province, near ICRAF's research station in Chipata, became the forerunners of the revolution.

Was it tough to convince weary farmers of the benefits? Cassim laughs: "Well, we had our 'doubting Thomases.' But the truth is, enthusiasm among farmers was great. Our problem has always been fulfilling demand for training and seed."

World Vision started spreading the word with the gusto of a military operation, organizing field days and workshops. A key tactic: mobilize farmers to teach one another. Promising "lead" farmers—men and women—attend training sessions and pass on their knowledge.

Margaret Phiri, 37, has seen gender stereotypes crumble in her role as lead

farmer. After proving her worth during field trials for planting and testing nitrogen-fixing trees, she won the job by popular vote. Now she bikes around her district, advertising meetings and offering help and advice on every conceivable agricultural problem to 300 farmers in her community. Men who weren't thrilled about taking direction from a woman were soon silenced by the runaway success of the methods she promotes.

Also, talented farmers with the gift of gab are encouraged to share their wisdom through local radio. A twice-weekly Q&A program is making stars of farmers who share their knowledge and experiences on the air. Ackson Mthethwa had never before stepped into a studio, but the smooth talker proved as adept at performing on the radio as at absorbing new agricultural techniques. His favorite topic is touting the use of nitrogen-fixing trees. "I enjoy the show," he says. "It's the highlight of my week."

As more farmers are trained, more share their knowledge, and the number of enlightened farmers increases exponentially. Already more than 22,000 have received formal training and thousands more learn the new techniques informally. To keep up with the demand for seed, World Vision is establishing community seed banks containing seeds from the trees as well as improved varieties of maize, bean, and peanut seeds. Farmers borrow from the bank and later replenish the seeds, with interest.

HUGE POTENTIAL

Pick a farmer at random and the theme is one of optimism—tinged with a shudder at the memory of past deprivations.

Leonard Sakala, 42, knows what it's like to see his children go hungry. But he has plenty of ambition and drive, so when World Vision offered to provide the means to help his family (in addition to sponsorship assistance for two of his boys, Robert, 9, and Martin, 4), Leonard jumped at the chance.

World Vision staff encouraged him and other farmers to try growing some vegetables never before attempted in the region, and provided the seeds and know-how to get them started. Next, Leonard received insecticides, learned



In a successful farming community, everyone wins: Here, crop bins overflow with produce, and beans become a key protein source—all of which leads to healthy, happy children and their families.



(Right) World Vision establishes community seed banks to ensure a lasting supply of seeds.



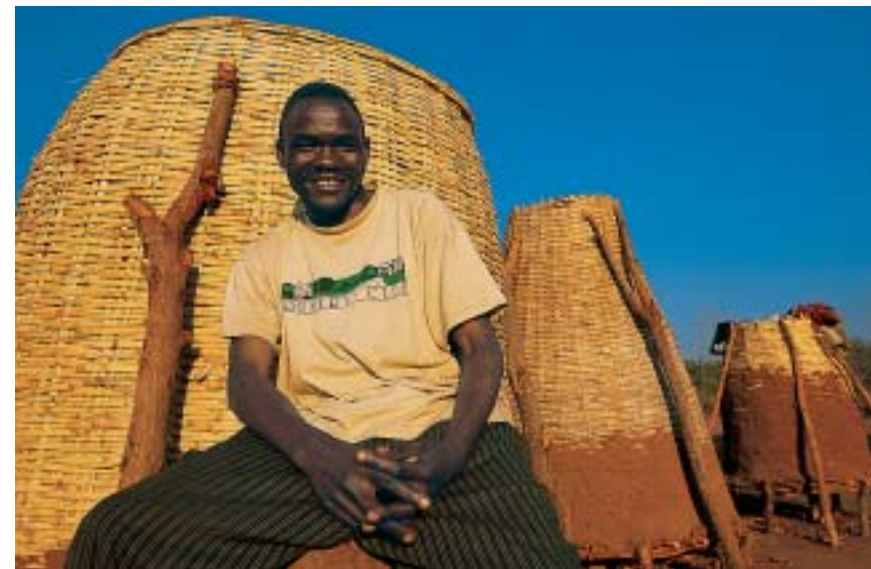
the wOnder trees

how to fertilize using wonder trees, and even got a loan to purchase treadle pumps for irrigating his fields.

Leonard says the results have been spectacular. Instead of relying on maize, he and his peers can now look forward to plentiful supplies of cabbage, onion, green peppers, and tomatoes. The bounty enriches their children's diet and gives farmers the opportunity to make money by selling surplus at the local market.

Nowadays Leonard has 49 cattle, purchased through the sale of vegetables, and an annual income approaching that of a junior civil servant. It's a modest sum by Western standards, but for a former subsistence farmer, it represents a phenomenal improvement.

"Now we grow more vegetables than we can eat," marvels Leonard, whose smile indicates that the thrill of



Community farmers: Abibi Tembo (top photo, at center) mixes leaves from the leguminous trees into her soil for fast-acting fertilizer. Farmer Ackson Mthethwa (above) has become a local star on a World Vision radio program, helping educate other farmers in his community.

this novelty has yet to wear off.

If Leonard is smiling, Cassim—who already has his mind on future opportunities—is positively euphoric.

"Farmers are now growing enough to eat. Any surplus land can be put to use growing high value cash crops. There's huge potential," he says, slapping his knee in triumph. "They're all going to be millionaires!"

Before that happens, farmers have time to get used to the small fortunes that are already coming their way. They're now able to sell a portion of their fruit and vegetables to local supermarket chains—a favorable deal for owners who used to import nearly all



From the fields, to the community and the marketplace: Women like Abibi Tembo (left) find leadership roles in training other farmers. And with World Vision seeds and farming techniques, both cabbages and peanuts improve their yield, bringing better prices at market. Eunice Tembo (below left) displays some of World Vision's bean seeds.

their produce from South Africa.

Johnson Tembo, a World Vision development specialist, remembers the day he brought his most promising agroforestry farmer, Maguna Davies, to the local Shoprite store. It was the first time the farmer had seen the inside of a supermarket. When the store manager paid him 84,000 kwacha, about \$20, for his prize crop of 105 cabbages, Maguna almost fainted.

"He had never seen so much money before," says Johnson. "When he came back, he couldn't stop telling stories about the trip."

Across eastern Zambia, farmers can't stop talking about how those unattractive legumes—once just the subject of folk wisdom—contribute to their bumper crops. But the wonder trees have done more than improve farmers' harvests; they've become a catalyst for changing attitudes and for breaking the mood of despondency afflicting the region. Now nothing, not even a crippling drought, can keep these farmers from facing the future with confidence. ■





JAMES EAST/WORLD VISION

MONSOON

RAIN OF TERROR

Weathering
the rains of life
and loss

SIMILAR SIGHTS AROUND THE WORLD: Flooded fields are common in Bangladesh (top), one of the most flood-prone countries in the world. In Vietnam (right), World Vision's country director, David Purnell, visits families living on platforms in An Giang province. World Vision distributed supplies there to help families face endless months of living in a flood zone. Before the rains arrive in India (below), training is an integral part of World Vision's work. In this simulation, villagers learn to treat flood victims.



SHAYMOL HUBERT COSTA/WORLD VISION



TRAN THU HUYNH/WORLD VISION

Last year, monsoon flooding wreaked havoc on more than 120 million Asians. Many lost their homes and livelihoods. Many perished.

The annual downpours that fall between June and September are crucial to the cycle of life for millions in South and Southeast Asia and China. Crucial, but frighteningly unpredictable.

All too often, the rains come late or fail altogether, and crops die. Yet in hours, they can also dump enough water to turn rivers and streams into torrents that sweep through villages, gush down mountainsides, and fill floodplains.

The scale of such disasters is mind-boggling. And they recur year after year after year.

Responding to such massive needs is a huge challenge, but World Vision community and relief operations are equipped to respond effectively—and quickly—and to teach villagers new ways to deal with their annual struggle with nature.

VIETNAM

Life in a flood zone By David Purnell

It is the vastness of the flooding that strikes you. As I set out in a boat one day last fall, to a village in An Giang province in Vietnam's Mekong Delta, all I could see was endless water. At times I could make out half-submerged trees, half-flooded houses and the tops of waterlogged dikes. But this lush, rice-growing area had been reduced to what looked like an inland sea.

Incredibly, people continue to live in this watery landscape during these annual months of flooding. They live perched in their flooded houses, undertaking the routines of life: cooking,

cleaning, washing, mending, talking, eating, sleeping, waiting.

The government has encouraged the people to learn to live with the floods. I was intrigued to see a hairdresser on a small boat giving a man his "short back and sides." He moves from house to house seeking business.

A vegetable seller was doing the same. Around another bend, a 10-year-old boy was spread across the small boat that was now his family home, doing his math.

Sadly, there were many children sitting, watching, swimming in the brown, brackish water, unable to reach flooded schools. Everywhere lay lines of fishing nets suspended by empty plastic bottles in the flooded fields, catching small fish and shrimp.

Amid the industry, families stared out from impossibly small temporary shelters with glum expressions and forlorn eyes. Mr. Huynh Van Nghia and his wife were living with their four children (ages 3 to 12) on a platform the size of a large double bed, with a makeshift roof. This was their sleeping quarters, kitchen, living room, and play area for a period likely to stretch to four months. A few thread-bare clothes hung against the walls.

They remember well the day in September when their permanent house was swept away. Along with precious school notebooks and other possessions, they lost their ceramic water jar, so now their drinking, washing, cooking, and cleaning water come from the same source: the endless brown lake.

The family suffered with many illnesses. The children's eyes were red from infection. Without money, and unable to reach a government health clinic, they bought medicines off the floating drug shop, using credit. "Just repay when the floods recede and you can find work again," the druggist told them.



DAVID PURNELL/WORLD VISION

The Nghia family is only one of many in Vietnam's An Giang province who live on a platform during the floods. A family's biggest fear: losing a child in the swirling, muddy water.

They bought rice on the same terms. Still, they were eating only two small meals a day of rice and fish sauce, along with the occasional fish they could catch from their small, broken boat. By the end of this flood, Huynh Van Nghia's first months of day-labor work will be promised to moneylenders, who exact a high interest.

And yet this family is better off than many. They lost none of their four children in the flooding and storms. Elsewhere in the Mekong Delta, 129 families are grieving such a loss. Elsewhere, 129 families are asking "what if?" questions and "why me?" questions and are battling the water, the lack of food, the loss of possessions, and the uncertainty, alongside the anguish of a precious one lost in the brown, murky water.

As I look at Huynh and his wife and their young children, I fear this could well be his next knife in the heart: small children on an open platform and water, water, water.

World Vision is seeking funding from donors to help Huynh's family and many others like him. With a donation from the U.S. government, World Vision is providing buckets, water purification tablets, boats, and fishing nets. World Vision is also providing help to community day-care centers, established to provide refuge for young children from the flood water. Yet, so much more assistance is needed. Huynh's family is only one of 161,000 families in the Mekong Delta who lost their houses. His children join some 243,000 others who cannot attend school because of the floods.

As I pull away from the makeshift shelter in a small power boat, I watch the children sitting listlessly, watching. Maybe it is global warming melting the snows in Tibet that feed the great Mekong. Maybe it is deforestation. Maybe it is the man-made dikes and roads diverting the waters of this magnificent floodplain.

The cause seems immaterial for this family. Water is everywhere. I cannot begin to contemplate a life lived in such fragile circumstances.

—David Purnell is World Vision Vietnam's country director.

Hemolota Teye stares at the aftermath of India's heaviest rains in 400 years. Flash floods washed away her family's home, as well as crops and animals.

WHAT IS A MONSOON?

Many people think that "monsoon" means rain. Derived from the Arabic word *mausin* (season of winds), it's actually a seasonal shift in wind direction causing drastic changes in weather patterns. A monsoon's rains are created when the hot air rising from the Indian sub-continent is replaced by cooler, moister air from the Indian Ocean and the Bay of Bengal.

Much of the resulting rain falls on the Himalayas in northern India and Nepal and rushes downriver into the plains, particularly in northeast India and Bangladesh, causing flooding.

Parts of India and Asia will receive 400 inches of rain annually—about four times what the wettest parts of the continental United States receive.

Nearly half the world's population is affected by these seasonal rains, especially in India, Bangladesh, and China.



INDIA

How monsoons affect sponsored children

By James East

Research by Kitkumar Shangpliang and Jayanth Vincent in India

In the fragile world of 8-year-old Hemolota Teye, a World Vision-sponsored child in India, the annual monsoon rains either bring life to the family's meager rice crop or havoc and destruction.

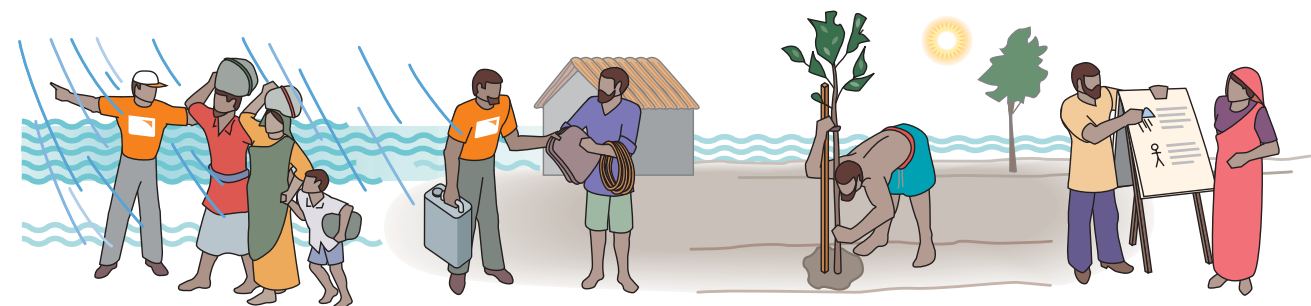
In 2002, the floods were the worst in 400 years. And fatally fast.

Hemolota's father, Sesen, says he has never seen anything like it in their village of Kulajan, in the Himalayan foothills of northeast India. Hemolota and more than 840 other World Vision-sponsored children and their families fled for their lives. "I can swim," she says, "but not in that water."



KITKUMAR SHANGPLIANG/WORLD VISION

EMERGENCY RESPONSE IN ACTION



WorldVision's emergency operations center was tested last summer, when heavy rainfall in India caused flash floods in Bangladesh. In Durgapur, the disaster response team went to work:

- evacuating families to high ground and emergency centers set up in schools, and **issuing relief cards** that flood victims can trade for aid from WorldVision.

- **distributing supplies**, including baby clothes, plastic sheeting, blankets, rope, candles, jerry cans, and matches—stockpiled earlier in WorldVision warehouses to avoid the price hikes that accompany floods. The warehouses are equipped to supply 10,000 people.

- **rebuilding schools and clinics** to be better protected from future floods; **building roads** to better survive flooding;

planting trees along roads and embankments to help prevent river erosion and slow flash floodwaters.

- **training local volunteers and government officers**, so that the preparation and relief work eventually becomes their own; encouraging their ideas to limit future flood damage and loss of life, to create evacuation plans, and to create early warning systems.

ILLUSTRATION BY JEFFREY WEST DESIGN

Some terrified villagers did not have time to collect their belongings as they struggled to outrun the rising water. "Our field crops disappeared and our animals were washed away," Sesen says. *How will I provide for my kids?* he wondered.

His family of seven took what they could: some rice, two goats, two pigs, a few cooking implements, and a mosquito net. Hemolota lost her treasured white-and-blue school uniform but grabbed her school books before fleeing to a relief camp. Two thousand people crammed inside the camp, one of 22 camps housing 33,000 people in the area.

The family's situation would have been even more desperate without World Vision's assistance. During the seven-day relief operation, staff worked overtime to sink tube wells and build temporary toilets, helping limit contaminated water and the spread of water-borne diseases.

They also distributed 1,500 tarpaulins and provided to government doctors the medicines needed to fight water-borne infections—antibiotics, eye drops, cough syrup, and vitamin B pills.

When the floods subsided, relief teams set out on foot to survey the needs of 8,000 families, walking as far as nine miles to reach villages.

Much of the distribution work was handled by village committees set up earlier by World Vision. World Vision staff worked with village leaders to distribute relief goods. In all, World Vision reached some 30,000 people left homeless by the floods, including Hemolota's family.

Two weeks after the floods, Hemolota's family moved home. Their three-bedroom bamboo-and-thatch house was damaged, their one-acre plot of rice, potato, and maize destroyed.

But valuable relief supplies allowed Sesen to focus on removing sand and silt from his paddy fields, plant World Vision-provided seeds, repair his house, and begin saving to buy his daughter what she desired most: a new school uniform. Because

even in the face of annual disaster, children have dreams. "I want to be a school teacher when I grow up," Hemolota says.

The years between now and the fruition of Hemolota's dream will be filled with floods, but because World Vision is active in her community, that dream has a good chance of coming true.

BANGLADESH

WorldVision at work By James East

Research by John Gomes and Raphael Palma in Bangladesh

Preparation is essential in Bangladesh—whether for the frequent monsoons or for other disasters. In 2000, World Vision won a five-year, \$80-million contract from USAID—then its biggest ever—to reduce the impact of disasters and make lives more secure in and around 16 communities in Bangladesh where World Vision-sponsored children live.

The investment of that money into a disaster-preparedness plan proved to be nothing short of lifesaving.

An early warning system center at World Vision's headquarters in the capital, Dhaka, and three other key locations uses loudspeakers to warn families of bad weather. In some coastal at-risk areas, villagers have enough time to rush, with livestock, to 12 disaster shelters that house thousands.

If a large-scale disaster looks imminent, an emergency operations center—equipped with maps, computers, radios, and stand-by vehicles—is set up at the headquarters, coordinating a response within 72 hours (see illustration above).

The only constant to monsoon season is that it comes every year. How it will affect World Vision-sponsored children and their communities is always unpredictable. But with expert assistance and training from World Vision staff, families have a fighting chance to survive—and pick up the pieces when the storm is over. ■



putting

*Meeting the challenge
of caring in Afghanistan*

BY JANET RICE

Photographs by Sanjay Sojwal



HEALTH AND HOPE FOR THE FORGOTTEN

people first



THE SMALL, WEATHERED WOMAN AFFECTIONATELY CLUTCHES THE HAND OF HER GUEST. She leads her into her tiny, dark mud home, bids her to sit on the faded, woolen carpet, and offers tea and words of welcome in Dari—"A salaam alequm!" Amid deep crinkles, the woman's eyes dance. Her smile is broad and unflagging.

Sabry doesn't know this visitor, but she knows she comes from World Vision, and that delights her.

She gazes at the toddler playing near her feet—her son Faqil Ahmad, 2. The little boy was saved from starvation at a World Vision therapeutic feeding center. Both he and Sabry are getting help from a World Vision nutrition program for women and children under age 5.

"I am so happy," she tells her guest. "My boy will grow to be a young man."

But things might have turned out differently if not for the cultural sensitivity and creativity of World Vision staff.

A WORLD OF NEED

When it comes to the nutritional status of Afghanistan's women and children, statistics reveal a world of need.

A UNICEF and Centers for Disease Control survey reveals that nearly 60 percent of 12- to 23-month-old children in Badghis province, where most World Vision programs are based, are chronically malnourished. Sixteen percent are severely malnourished.

Sabry, like 17 percent of Badghis women, was chronically malnourished herself. The frustrated mother could hardly breastfeed her baby. Faqil Ahmad, then 16 months old, weighed a shocking 7 and a half pounds.

"I was doing everything I could for him," Sabry recalls solemnly.

But her meager milk and the scraps of bread she could spare just weren't enough. Sabry and husband, Abdul, had five other children and less than \$1 a day for food. In the predominantly farming society, three years of drought meant few were working. Even fewer were eating daily.

"Every night, I was crying," Sabry remembers. "I was so scared. I thought my child would die."

CLEARING THE HURDLES TO HELPING

In Afghanistan, meeting such desperate need has been challenging and complicated.

While Sabry was struggling, World Vision was setting up a therapeutic feeding center at the nearby regional hospital to

Drought has reduced Afghanistan's rivers to trickles and brought the reality of starvation. Sabry and her son Faqil, above left, were aided by World Vision's relief efforts. Another parent and child (above right) visit the Qala-I-Now hospital, where World Vision runs a feeding center.

save starving children like Faqil Ahmad, and designing a nutrition program to help malnourished children, pregnant women, and nursing mothers.

But how to reach these suffering people? Many Badghis families live up to three days away from the hospital by donkey—the most common local transport in Badghis's rough, forbidding mountains. Sabry's family didn't even own a donkey. Like many other Afghan families, they were forced to sell their animals to buy food.

The solution, according to Eleanor Cupit, World Vision Afghanistan's health program manager, was straightforward. "If the beneficiaries couldn't come to us," she says simply, "then we had to find them."

The search began. For weeks, World Vision nutrition workers combed the western valleys of Badghis province, knocking on doors and doing assessments.

When they reached Kokchail, Sabry's village, they discovered Faqil Ahmad lying

listlessly on a carpet, barely conscious.

“The family could see that the baby needed to come to our feeding center,” recalls Roselida Awando, World Vision nurse nutritionist. “But in this society, it’s so hard. Families won’t separate. Husbands won’t leave their wives.”

Gently, Roselida and her colleagues encouraged Sabry and Abdul. In the end, the entire family came to the feeding center and stayed 44 days. “We were lucky,” says the 10-year World Vision veteran. “Many families wouldn’t have come.”

“We prayed a lot about it,” Roselida adds. “I’m sure they did too.”

Six months later, Faqil Ahmad had doubled his weight to about 15 pounds. Because he is still underweight for his height and age, World Vision staff visit monthly to check his and Sabry’s progress and to give them food.

In all, World Vision Afghanistan’s nutrition program has served more than 12,389 children under 5. The therapeutic feeding center has saved 65 little lives.



Zaman is one of the few female nurses at Qala-I-Now hospital. Many Afghan women avoid medical care because they don’t want to be examined by a man.

A CULTURAL CATCH-22

Helping malnourished women like Sabry has been even more challenging. Afghan culture dictates that women may only be physically examined by other women but, at the same time, strongly discourages women from working—even in the medical profession, even post-Taliban.

Another factor is trust. Afghan women have long been isolated. To force foreigners, even foreign women, on them could frighten them away from

World Vision staff train man-woman health teams (below, left and center) to reach all needy Afghans. World Vision’s Eleanor Cupit (below right) consults with female health workers before they make their rounds.

seeking attention.

World Vision needed to hire Afghan women to conduct its nutrition programs successfully. But how to conquer the Afghan society’s Catch-22 about women and working?

“We had to be creative,” says Eleanor Cupit. “The women we were interested in wouldn’t go against the wishes of their husbands, who won’t allow them to go out without them or a *mahram* (close male relative).

“Then we thought: *What if the men could go to work with the women?* Not as chaperones—we can’t justify paying someone for no work. But what if they could work too?”

The answer came last fall, when the first of World Vision Afghanistan’s Afghan woman-man nutrition teams rolled into

the countryside of Badghis province.

Five Afghan women were trained to examine pregnant and nursing women for signs of malnutrition and to confirm and assess pregnancies. The men learned to measure and deliver food. Working together, World Vision Afghanistan nutrition teams have helped 27,150 women and 12,389 children in need.

“Having these teams doesn’t just meet the women’s needs,” Eleanor says, “it meets the approval of their society. That’s very important here. We need and want the cooperation and confidence of the people.”

Through creative, culturally sensitive approaches that put people first, World Vision is helping vulnerable Afghan women and children recover good nutrition denied during the long years of strife. ■



how do you put a big smile on a small face?

For a child born into suffering and hardship, there is often little to smile about. But through World Vision’s child sponsorship, the faces of needy children light up with joy as they discover they are special and cared for.

World Vision has been helping children and sponsors form lasting, life-changing relationships for over 50 years. People like you currently sponsor more than 1 million children around the globe through World Vision.

You can help give a child a new life and realize his or her God-given potential. You’ll help provide things like clean water, good health, and new schools to help your child’s family and community overcome poverty.

For less than \$1 a day—\$26 a month—you can put a smile on a child’s face and change his or her life forever.




World Vision Child Sponsorship

World Vision Child Sponsorship brings big smiles to small faces. Become a sponsor today.

To personally select a child who needs a sponsor, go to www.worldvision.org

Yes, I want to make a child smile!

I prefer to sponsor a boy girl living in Africa Asia Latin America Middle East where the need is greatest.

I prefer a child of the following age: 3-5 6-8 9-12 any age.

Here is my first monthly gift of \$26 to help improve the quality of life for my child and the entire community.

Bill my monthly sponsorship payment to my credit card: VISA MASTERCARD AMERICAN EXPRESS DISCOVER

Card No. --- Exp. Date /

Signature _____


My check is enclosed (payable to World Vision) Please bill me later

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone _____

Mail today to: **World Vision Child Sponsorship**, P.O. Box 4466, Federal Way, WA 98063-4466



MORE THAN A BACKPACK

By Kari Costanza



Steven Ouk models his new backpack. "It made me feel good," he says, "that someone would send it to me."

Concord Elementary students are learning life's most important lesson.

"IT WAS LIKE CHRISTMAS MORNING," SAYS TEACHER

Kate Ayers, of the day World Vision's Operation Backpack arrived at Seattle's Concord Elementary. "The kids knew something big was happening."

Something big *was* happening. Every student at Concord was getting a brand-new backpack filled with school supplies to start the year. Waiting in the cafeteria were World Vision staff and volunteers, the tables in front of them piled high.

"The backpacks were stuffed," says Keith Neroutsos of World Vision. "The kindergarteners could barely hold the weight as we put them on their backs and showed them how to tighten the straps. The kids were adorable—fresh, joyful, and fidgety."

And equipped to learn.

Like the other teachers at Concord, Kate Ayers usually buys school items for her fifth-grade students. "When I send parents the school-supplies lists every September," she says, "I always make sure it's less than \$5 worth. But I only get three or four kids who are able to bring those in."

"I scrounge everywhere I can," she adds. "I'm sure I spend \$500 to \$600 of my own money each year. We have a classroom budget for supplies of \$250 a year. That's spent before Sept. 1."

Concord Elementary has been part of Seattle's South Park neighborhood since 1914. The neighborhood is a mix of families who have lived there for generations and migrant workers drawn to the cheaper housing costs. Nearly 90 percent of its students receive free or reduced-cost lunches. "That means some children are really hungry when they arrive Monday morning for school," says Barbara Cooper, the school's volunteer coordinator.

And if parents are having trouble putting food on the table, there is certainly no extra money for school supplies. "South Park is a pretty poor community," says Carmen Maymi-O'Reilly, the family support worker at Concord. "It doesn't have a food bank. There is no clothing bank. We have to help the children with clothing, winter coats, and school supplies."

Carmen works with parents who have lost jobs or who struggle with temporary employment. "Our children don't have access to things that enrich their lives," she adds. "They've never been on a ferry. They've never been on a hike, to the Pacific Science Center, or the Seattle Aquarium."

And Concord's state test scores—while showing recent improvement—have been low. "Standardized testing does not reflect the talented kids we have," Kate says. "They have survival and coping skills that most kids don't. Half are bilingual. We have children who understand math concepts but struggle with the language. They are translating the answers in their head



Dana Jackson, of Puget Sound Women of Vision, helped match backpacks to new owners, such as third-grader Miguel Martinez.

before they write them down."

Despite their own challenges, parents at Concord Elementary are committed to their children's education. "They volunteer to do anything they possibly can," says Barbara Cooper, the volunteer coordinator.

"This is truly a community school," Carmen says. And Carmen helps make it that way—translating and interpreting for families at appointments with health-care providers, helping find jobs. And now Carmen wants to put a food bank right in the school. She worries about the children on Christmas, winter, and spring breaks—not getting enough to eat.

World Vision's involvement at Concord Elementary provides an extra boost for the children. "We were thrilled when World Vision picked us," Carmen says. "We could hardly believe what we were hearing."

The first point of contact came just days after school began, with Operation Backpack. "The backpacks were beautiful, such a nice quality," Kate says. "They opened them up and saw this huge amount of school supplies, and their eyes just popped open."

Northwest residents brought school supplies to Luis Palau's Puget Sound Festival in August 2002. "In the past, the Puget Sound Festival had asked people to bring food to donate to local food banks," says World Vision's John Kelly.

Puget Sound Women of Vision and Concord Elementary

Women of Vision chapters select international and domestic projects as part of their ministry. The Puget Sound group supports health and education programs for women and children in Nicaragua. The group chose Concord Elementary in order to have an impact on local children.

This year, festival organizers worked with World Vision and Bartell's drug stores to collect the much-needed pens, pencils, crayons, binders, and more.

In all, 2,500 school supply packets—each with \$10 to \$13 dollars worth of supplies—were brought to the festival and local Bartell's. They were then shipped to World Vision's Kids in Need warehouse in Renton, Wash., where Boeing's volunteer group, the Bluebills, combined them with supplies from The School, Home and Office Supply Association Foundation for Educational Excellence, and from other donors.

The Puget Sound Women of Vision—World Vision's women's volunteer ministry—packed brand-new backpacks supplied by World Vision donors. The women then organized the distribution to the eager students.

Steven Ouk, 11, picked a sturdy black backpack. "I chose a black one because it won't show the dirt marks," he says. Steven's two younger brothers got backpacks as well.

Steven, whose parents are Cambodian, speaks two languages. "He's a cool kid who everybody likes," Kate says. "He works as hard as he can—he's a teacher's dream. His parents are determined he be bilingual. Education is a priority for Steven's parents, and I'm sure getting the school supplies and backpack was a sigh of relief for them."

Steven sat down and wrote a note to the Women of Vision volunteer who packed his new backpack: *Thank you for the backpack and the school supplies. I hope you never quit this job.*

"I keep thinking of the faces I saw on backpack day," says Barbara Cooper. "They are so trusting and grateful just to have people look them in the eye and talk to them. The more adults in a child's life, the more chance that child will be successful."

And success is what Concord Elementary is all about—creating a place where children learn life's most important lesson: that they are loved. ■



PATTY DALRYMPLE/WORLD VISION

NO HINDRANCE TO DREAMS

By Maria Cecil B. Laguardia



DAVID LIBAN JR./WORLD VISION

World Vision helped Gina to aim high, despite the challenges holding her back.



ONE OF LEGUINA JAYME'S PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS was graduating with a silver medal from her college in Manila, Philippines, in 1986. As the young woman moved across the stage on crutches—childhood polio had left her disabled—the audience stood with a deafening ovation. Her beloved grandmother, Lola Juanita Enecio, helped present her medal.

Today, 38-year-old Leguina—known to friends as Gina—works in a pharmaceutical company in Quezon City. She helps support her elderly parents and pays for a cousin to attend college. Armed with a winsome smile, Gina has a cheerful personality that radiates to everyone she meets. It seems that nothing is difficult for her.

But things might have turned out differently for Gina, one of the first World Vision-sponsored children in her area. “If not for World Vision,” she says, “I cannot imagine what my future would have been.”

Polio, which struck Gina in infancy, was not the only obstacle. Her parents, Arthur and Remedios, are both blind. During Gina’s childhood, they sold lottery tickets and gave body massages to earn a meager living—just enough to put food on the table for their five children.

Gina and her family lived in a one-room shack in a squatter area of Quezon City. The neighborhood was rowdy and crowded, but Gina describes the people as “*mababait at matulungin*”

(kind and helpful). Arthur and Remedios were God-fearing and industrious. They would often leave very early in the morning and work until night. During the day, Lola Juanita cared for Gina and her siblings.

Gina began to be sponsored by World Vision through the Sagip Children’s Project when she was in fourth grade at Teodora Alonso Elementary School. In addition to education support, she was given a daily food ration of milk, sugar, salt, rice, and other grocery goods. “We subsisted on the daily ration of food from World Vision when my parents did not have an income,” she says, “like when there were typhoons.”

The family enjoyed regular visits from a World Vision social worker, Ate Bency (*Ate* is a Filipino endearment and term of respect for older women). Gina remembers her closely checking their food ration to make sure it arrived on time and was complete. She also asked how the children were doing in school and whether they needed more school supplies.

Gina’s most treasured memories of being a sponsored child were the Sunday Bible studies. She learned about the Good Samaritan, doubting Thomas, and Jesus’ multiplication of bread and fish. These stories strengthened her relationship with God. They also enabled Gina to meet new friends and become open to new ideas. One poem that helped her in her struggles was about prayer as an answer to worrying about the future: *Why worry when you can pray? Just pray and trust Jesus for everything.*

Through prayer, Gina could face her obstacles. She saw how people with disabilities were discriminated against, taunted, and disregarded. “This challenged me even more to prove that a disability is never a hindrance,” Gina recalls. She became determined to finish her studies, earn an income, and achieve her dreams.

Thanks to her U.S. sponsor, Gina finished elementary school and high school. Then she pursued her college degree at the National College of Business Administration. Every step along the way was difficult—literally. In college, Gina had to climb four flights of stairs to get to class.

After graduation, Gina worked as a cashier and administrative assistant at Goodwill Philippines, a nonprofit organization catering to the educational needs of the disabled. In 1994, she was recommended to her current employer, Filadams Pharmaceutical, a drug distribution company, where she is an accounting clerk. She has done so well that she can afford to support her cousin, Regina, as she works on her bachelor’s degree in architecture at the Technological Institute of the Philippines.

Success has graced the whole family: Harvin, the eldest sibling, is a certified public accountant, while Gilbert, the youngest, graduated with a degree in marine engineering. Both brothers work at a pharmaceutical firm. Gina’s sister, Elenor, once a small-business owner, now cares for her children.

As is typical of an unmarried daughter, Gina lives with her parents in a modest but comfortable home near their former shack. Arthur and Remedios do not work anymore, thanks to their children’s support.



DAVID LIBAN JR./WORLD VISION

“World Vision helped me shape a positive outlook on life,” says Gina, shown here at work at Filadams Pharmaceutical.

Gina dreams of having her own family someday. She fervently prays that God will lead her to a God-fearing man, someone perfect for her—the way her parents met and fell in love in a school for the blind.

Looking back on the trials and triumphs of her life, Gina reflects that God has been good to her. He sent World Vision, Ate Bency, and her sponsors to give her confidence and guide her family out of poverty. Many other children in the Philippines still need such support, she says, and suggests: “If people will help, these children will have a better future like me. All we need to do is help each other.”

Gina knows how far a little help can go in a child’s life. It helped her tackle obstacles that hinder so many others with disabilities—enabling her to become a successful professional woman with many blessings to share. ■

Maria Cecil B. Laguardia is a communications specialist for World Vision Philippines.

sneak *attack*

It was January 2002. The day before a critical HIV/AIDS conference at a South African hotel next to a game preserve. In his new role directing the Hope Initiative—World Vision’s AIDS battle plan—Ken Casey would be bringing together



When asked to lead World Vision into battle against AIDS, Ken Casey knew that the task would be challenging. But he never expected this kind of warfare...

BY KARI COSTANZA

PHOTOGRAPHS BY NIGEL MARSH

World Vision staff from those African countries hardest hit by the crisis. His goal: to ask them to tackle the HIV/AIDS problem with the same energy that they worked to bring communities clean water, education, health care, food security, and economic development.

Ken knew he was asking much of hard-working staff in countries already busy with critical relief and development work. Yet he also knew that an effective battle against HIV/AIDS demands an urgent and long-term response. The next few days could be a turning point for World Vision.

On that January morning, Ken sat alone on a wooden terrace, studying his Bible. Below him flowed the beautiful Crocodile River. Above him—an incredible South African blue sky.

“All of sudden,” he remembers, “there were two strong claws on my shoulders and two on my side. My Bible and notebook went flying off my chair. My first thought was, *Is this some joke?* Then I saw the baboon’s head and thought, *No, this is no joke.*”

“Somehow, I got my right arm around his head in a ham-merlock. We started rolling around the deck. My hand was in his teeth, but he was never actually able to take a bite of me. His arms and feet were starting to scratch my back. I could tell he was hurting me badly.”

I never thought I would go this way, he thought.

The 52-year-old California native was not trained to wrestle 100-pound baboons. Ken, a married father of three, had developed business strategies for nine years at World Vision and in the previous 20 at Biola University and Price Waterhouse. And now, he was fighting for his life.

“The people in the hotel could not hear me scream,” he continued. “I had his head with its deadly canine teeth controlled, but I needed to let go and try something else. I thought he would kill me by scratching me until I bled to death. Somehow I shoved him away and grabbed a chair to fend him off. Instead of coming after me, he ran over a thatched-roofed hut and was gone.”

Ken staggered to the conference center. World Vision doctor



Ken Casey with Mary, 16, who cares for her HIV-positive mother and six siblings in Uganda. Mary wants to eventually become a nurse.

“If you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness and your night will become like the noonday.”

“I don’t know how God communicates to people, but I know there was a message to me about being diligent in prayer, strong, courageous, and willing to spend myself in my efforts for those who are oppressed by AIDS.”

Then Ken found out that God wanted even more.

Upon his return to World Vision’s offices in Federal Way, Wash., the next week, he slipped in late to the weekly chapel service. Of all the verses in the Scripture, just two passages were read that day by people who knew nothing of the details of the attack: Joshua 1:6-9 and Isaiah 58: 10-11—the same blood-splotted verses he’d tucked away in his Bible.

“A chill came through me,” he says. “And I realized that being diligent in prayer, strong, and courageous is not just a message for me. It’s not just a message for World Vision. It’s a message for the Church. He is calling us all to do this. Together.”

Hector Jalipa rushed over to Ken, knelt down, and said a prayer of protection. The thought still brings Ken to tears—he expected the doctor to attend to his physical needs first.

“Hector was in the back seat with me on the way to the hospital,” he remembers. “I was wrapped in towels. All of a sudden this grin just appeared on my face. *If what we are doing is this important that Satan would try to destroy it, I thought, and if God would go to this extent to protect it: Wow! What is it that we’re engaging in?*”

“I thought, *God is clearly in this.*”

The next morning, Ken was able to lead the conference with 135 stitches and 27 staples holding his back together.

“I saw it as a major turning point in the Hope Initiative,” he says. “We did everything we wanted to do [the week of that conference]. I think it was aided by the baboon attack, rather than hindered.”

God also sent some messages that Ken will never forget.

“In the battle with the baboon,” he says, “three pieces of paper fell from my Bible and became stained with blood.

“One was a nametag I had gotten in China. Our World Vision staff had used three Chinese characters to represent my name: person, prayer, and diligence. On a second piece of paper were some notes I had made on Joshua 1:6-9: ‘Be strong and courageous ... for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.’

“The other paper contained notes I’d made on Isaiah 58:10-11:

Ken knows that World Vision will face resistance in the war on AIDS. His experience with the baboon has convinced him. But he also knows that God is present in the battle—the message was clear. ■

HOPE WORTH FIGHTING FOR

More than 14 million children under age 15 have been orphaned due to AIDS, most of them in sub-Saharan Africa. World Vision’s Hope Initiative helps address the needs of these vulnerable orphans and children.

World Vision works hand-in-hand with local communities and churches to:

Care for orphans and other vulnerable children whose lives and future are at risk;

Prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS to the next generation, focusing on educating and counseling teens and children; and

Advocate with governments and policymakers to support effective programs that help children and families and save lives.

World Vision has a 52-year track record of success in helping transform the lives of children and families. We are committed to families affected by AIDS, motivated by our faith and the loving, compassionate example of Jesus Christ to reach out to the “least of these.”

News

► Fish currently accounts for about 7 percent of the world's food supply and is the primary source of protein for one-sixth of the world's 6 billion people. (WorldFish Center and the International Food Policy Research Institute)

► In a 1999 Gallup poll of more than 50,000 people in 60 countries, less than a third indicated that their countries were governed by the will of the people. (Human Development Report 2002)

► Churched adults in the United States are nearly twice as likely as those who don't go to church to volunteer time to assist organizations helping the needy. (Barna Research Group)

SPONSORSHIP

SPONSOR AMONG SNIPER VICTIMS

United States—Dean H. Meyers, 53, of Gaithersburg, Md., a longtime World Vision sponsor, fell victim to the snipers terrorizing the northeast United States in October 2002. Dean was killed when he stopped at a Virginia gas station on his way home from work.

Nephew Larry Meyers Jr. describes Dean as



PHOTO COURTESY MEYERS FAMILY

“a kind, caring, humble man of action.” He was a civil engineer and avid outdoorsman who served in Vietnam, earning four medals, including a Purple Heart. His wartime experiences helped crystallize his sense of what was important in life. “He gave a lot of his time, resources, and thoughtfulness to people around him,” Larry says. “He took the time to make a major impact in people's lives.”

A strong Christian, Dean contributed generously to World Vision and many other charities. He had sponsored children through World Vision since 1980. Dean had no children of his own, and his sponsored children were very dear to him. He encouraged co-workers and friends to help the world's children as well.

The Meyers family suggests honoring Dean's memory by sponsoring a child on his behalf. For details, please visit World Vision's Web site (www.worldvision.org/deanmeyers).

NEWS BRIEFS

HUNGER IS CLOSE IN AFAR

Ethiopia—“This is the worst drought here in history—worse than in 1984,” says Ali Mohammed, head of the government's disaster prevention and preparedness office, of the hard-hit Afar region. “But this time the aid agencies have started helping sooner.” World Vision has been working in Afar for just a year and already faces a potentially massive crisis. Staff assessments of children show alarmingly high malnutrition levels. Nearly 100 deaths have been linked to the drought. In response, World Vision is helping communities cope by sending in six water trucks daily, providing water for 32,000 people for drinking and farming.



LYDIA REYNOLDS/WORLD VISION

WORLD VISION NAMED LEAD AGENCY IN GRANT

United States—The U.S. government has released \$100 million to World Vision and two other humanitarian organizations to address the food shortages in southern Africa. World Vision, CARE, and Catholic Relief Services are using the grant to provide emergency and supplementary food distributions and agricultural support in Malawi, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, benefiting 2 million people a week. This unprecedented collaboration also seeks to address the HIV/AIDS pandemic, which has dramatically undermined traditional food aid approaches.



MARIANNE ALBINA/WORLD VISION

SPONSORED CHILD KILLED IN GAZA

Middle East—Tha'er El Howt, 13, was killed on Oct. 9, 2002, when he was struck by Israeli tank fire in Rafah, south of the Gaza Strip. Earlier last year, World Vision had helped transport Tha'er, a sponsored child, to Egypt for surgery on a shrapnel wound. The boy had been injured while collecting money for local families affected by violence.

Q&A: MIKE YACONELLI

World Vision and Youth Specialties, a support ministry for Christian youth workers, have teamed up to mobilize teens in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Called One Life Revolution, the program encourages young people to get together and raise funds for practical, useful items benefiting children and families in Zambia affected by AIDS.

Mike Yaconelli, owner and co-founder of Youth Specialties, explains the motivation behind this new youth movement:



What is One Life Revolution?

It's a call to this generation of kids who are looking for something to give their lives to. It says to them, “Don't wait for the adults to get around to figuring [HIV/AIDS] out. By the time you wait for that, another 40 million people will have died.” One Life Revolution says to the student, “You can take your one life and make a difference in somebody's life in Zambia or in another place in the world.”



Why do kids need a cause?

We've become so secular. We've told our children that the purpose of education is to get a job so they can make more money. It's the Church's job to say to young people, “Listen to the voice of God. And when you discover

your calling, you will discover—as Jesus said—that part of it is to minister to the poor and the orphan, to the prisoner and to those in need.” It's not creating more noise and busyness; it's creating more silence and more solitude so that young people can hear the whisper of God in their lives.

Why World Vision for a partner?

World Vision is willing to go outside the lines, to take a chance on a little group of youth workers like us. I like that they are willing to step up to the plate and push people to extremes, to say that [the response to AIDS] is urgent and needed.

What's the mission you're presenting to kids?

It's more than just earning money to send someone a goat. It's saying, “Why would you send someone a goat? How does that help AIDS?” Well, because of the ravages of AIDS, children end up raising their brothers and sisters because mom and dad are dead. Having a goat gives them milk and nutrition so that they can survive a little bit longer. They can make it. And if we tell [American] kids that, we allow them to enter into some suffering. The goal isn't just to give money, although that's important. It's also important that kids suffer a little bit.

“Revolution” implies a deep and radical change. Is that what you're aiming for?

When you deal with suffering, suddenly all the categories you had nice and neatly organized in your mind get all mingled up, and they don't seem to matter any more. That's wisdom. That's growth. That's maturity, depth. When you get involved in other people's lives, and in serving others, you get in touch with the human dilemma. You get in touch with what really matters in life. And suddenly that alters everything else.

To find out how to get your youth group or family involved in One Life Revolution, go to www.oneliferevolution.org.

Get Connected to World Vision and the world at your desktop!

Free e-mail Subscriptions worldvision.org/email

World Vision eNews

Refresh your mind with stimulating global news. Awaken your heart through transforming stories concerning the poor.

Emergency & Disaster Updates

Alert your eyes—watch for crises and disasters.

Ways to Get Involved

Guide your feet—find the involvement steps for you.

AND...

Benefit the world's children—reduced expenses means we can help more kids!



Visit us today www.worldvision.org/email for your FREE e-connection

Find out how you can get involved with World Vision

We'd love to share more information with you about our programs and about partnering with World Vision to care for the poor. Check the boxes on the form below, and return it in the envelope provided between pages 16 and 17. For more information, call (888) 511-6518 or visit www.worldvision.org

Share World Vision with your family

1 FAMILY SPONSORSHIP

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

2 WORLD VISION GIFT CATALOG

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

Bring World Vision to your church

3 30 HOUR FAMINE

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

4 EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE GUIDE

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

5 LOVE INC

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

6 LOVE LOAF

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

7 REACHING OUT TO THE POOR

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

Expand your world vision

8 EMERGENCY RELIEF RESPONSE

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

9 WOMEN OF VISION

Join a volunteer ministry that serves the poor, learning from and advocating for women in developing countries. www.womenofvision.org

10 WORLD VISION'S PROGRAMS IN THE UNITED STATES

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

11 WORLD VISION ADVOCACY

Learn how to be an advocate for the poor and those in need around the world. Go to www.worldvision.org/globalissues.

Show World Vision to your company

12 MATCHING GIFTS

Learn how your employer may match your contribution to World Vision.

13 DONATE GIFTS-IN-KIND

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

14 DONATE SHIPPING DOLLARS

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

15 CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

Your company can benefit by supporting World Vision.

Share your resources with World Vision

16 GIFT PLANNING

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

17 KEY CONTRIBUTORS

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

18 LPGA PLAYING PARTNERS

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

Volunteer through World Vision

19 ARTIST ASSOCIATES

Help Christian artists promote child sponsorship by volunteering at a local concert.

Know World Vision's reason for hope

20 WHAT IT MEANS TO FOLLOW CHRIST

Simple steps to a personal and lifelong relationship with Jesus Christ.

WORLD VISION TODAY READER SERVICE

Clip and return in envelope provided in the center of the magazine.

Please tell me how I can:

Share World Vision with my family

1 2

Bring World Vision to my church

3 4 5
 6 7

Expand my world vision

8 9 10

Show World Vision to my company

12 13 14 15

Share my resources with World Vision

16 17 18

Volunteer through World Vision

19

Know World Vision's reason for hope

20

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

H2FT0C

Rich in Faith

Stretching ourselves to meet a need doesn't take wealth.

A FASHIONABLY SUITED GENTLEMAN, breathing all the urbane charm of a tycoon who had made it in the business world, was asked to make a pitch for missions at some small local church. He did it well.

"I was dirt-poor as a teenager," he said, "and some missionary was making an impassioned appeal for the heartbreaking need of some people group. All I had in the world was 50 cents, and I didn't want to part with it. But the need got to me, and after a brief struggle I decided to give *everything* I had and hold nothing back. It was a turning point in my life."

What our well-heeled tycoon hadn't bargained for was a forthright, elderly lady who spoke up suddenly: "I dare you to do that again, sir!"

Now, if I were a fundraiser, I'd probably be inclined to cozy up to the rich. The bees go where the nectar is, right? Yet Jesus seemed to be in quest of something else. "When the Son of Man comes, shall he find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:8). Yes, he had commended giving a cup of cold water in his name, but what moved him the most in human action and response was the key element of faith.

I was initially taken aback by the seeming rudeness of an Old Testament character who was instrumental in jump-starting faith in another (1 Kings 17). He just happened to be a man of God, too, which



Merold Stern is a retired pastor who lives in upstate New York.

somehow added insult to injury. He approached a widow with hardly a stick to her name and asked her to fix him a meal. I can only imagine her embarrassment. She commented that she was in the process of gathering the basics together for a last meal for herself and her son. After that, there would be nothing.

"Well, bake me a cake first," was the insensitive

response. What was the matter with the man? Had he ears of tin? Hadn't she made it clear that the specter of want was no longer merely knocking at her door, but squatting in the kitchen?

Things turned out well. She baked Mr. First-in-Line his cake. And doubtless he ate it. Then the destitute woman found that her flour stock did not expire, nor did the oil to mix it with dwindle for the duration of the hard times.

My first reaction to the man had been unfair. He was indeed a man of God who only spoke as he did because God had directed him to. Clearly God knew the test of faith would not be wasted on the widow. Would she ever get over the wonder of it? I doubt it. I imagine that test anchored her faith in a rock of confidence as nothing else could.

In contrast to that story of the "have-not" widow, how does one jump-start faith among the "haves"? The rich have it tough. Whether one's means are stout or slender, it is so easy to make a full purse the unconscious depository of one's confidence. The philanthropy that many of them practice out of kind and generous dispositions is often quite marvelous. Who can be indifferent to the difference a little extra can make, both in large enterprises and individual lives? World Vision's ministry is built on making that lifesaving difference.

Maybe our definitions about rich and poor are wrong—in the arena of faith. Would Christ say of me, as he once did of a prosperous church, "You say you are rich and increased with goods and don't need a thing, when in fact you're a poor and miserable lot without a stitch to your name"?

If I am not rich in faith, I am not rich. Period. The size of my bank account has nothing to do with it. I am poor until I have stretched myself to act in response to need where God is my only visible means of support.

It takes faith, of which there is nothing more precious to God. ■



new!
gifts of hope
 spring catalog | 2003

give a life-changing gift this spring

Celebrate Easter & Mother's Day!

You can bring new life to a child or family in need when you give on behalf of a loved one. Choose from more than 75 life-giving gifts!

We'll send a beautiful card as a reminder for your loved one of the joy your gift has given.

To place your order or to receive a free catalog, call **1.888.511.6511**, or visit:

www.worldvisiongifts.org



N23701

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:
 (888) 85-CHILD (24453)

Nonprofit Organization
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 World Vision