

# WorldVision

SPRING 2004

IN THE ERA OF HIV/AIDS  
SOMETHING  
TO LIVE  
FOR



# we're philanthropists

No, we're not

financial geniuses or

independently wealthy.

We've simply

discovered how we

can do more.

We were already committed to helping the poor through World Vision, doing what we felt we could to make a difference. We never realized we could do even more to bring hope to children in need and at the same time receive benefits ourselves.

World Vision's Gift Planning team opened the door to enormous possibilities. They showed us tax-wise ways to plan our estate and charitable giving to make a bigger impact than we ever imagined. Ways that benefit ourselves, our loved ones, AND poor children and families around the world.

Discover your possibilities. Start by contacting World Vision's Gift Planning team today:

call: 1.866.332.4453

e-mail: [giftplanning@worldvision.org](mailto:giftplanning@worldvision.org)

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



## WorldVision

VOLUME 7, NUMBER 3

**President** Richard E. 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

**Children of Olipa** (see page 18) play in the day's waning light in Nthondo, Malawi.

Photograph by Jon Warren

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

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

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

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

 COPYRIGHT © 2004 BY WORLD VISION INC. 866-332-4453

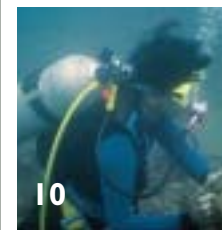
For employment opportunities at World Vision, visit our Web site at [www.worldvision.org](http://www.worldvision.org)

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

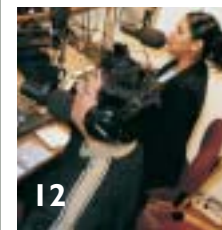


14

Malawi



10



12



24



18

## Features

### 14 On the Cover Something to Live For

As the darkness of denial lifts in HIV/AIDS-ravaged Malawi, communities are finding reasons to hope.

### 24 Operation Seasweep

Does our giving really make a difference? Twenty-five years later, we find out.

## Your World Vision

### 6 News From the Field

Rebuilding Iraq; healthy highways in Asia.

### 8 Glad You Asked

Why does a HopeChild need special care?

### 10 In the Spotlight

A grandmother restores damaged coastline.

### 12 U.S. Scene

Helping Hispanic leaders fulfill their visions.

## In Every Issue

### 5 From the President

Loving somebody else's child.

### 28 Where Are They Now?

Translating sponsors' love.

### 30 Inspiration

The gift of meeting Alejandro.

### 31 Reflections

Reaching the people of Quiquijana.

# [reader services]

## 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 (866) 332-4453, or visit [www.worldvision.org](http://www.worldvision.org).

### Share World Vision with your family

- 1 FAMILY SPONSORSHIP** This 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 SHARE THE JOY** Show your church family how they can make a difference through child sponsorship.
- 4 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](http://www.30hourfamine.org)

### 5 EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE GUIDE

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

### 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.

### 8 ONE LIFE REVOLUTION

Give your youth group a tangible way to combat the HIV/AIDS pandemic by providing practical, life-sustaining items through this catalog.

### Expand your world vision

- 9 E-MAIL UPDATES** Receive the latest news on World Vision's work throughout the world. *Must provide e-mail address to receive these updates.*

**10 WOMEN OF VISION** Join a volunteer ministry that serves the poor, learning from and advocating for women in developing countries. [www.womenofvision.org](http://www.womenofvision.org)

**11 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.

**12 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](http://www.worldvision.org/globalissues).

### Show World Vision to your company

- 13 MATCHING GIFTS** Learn how your employer may match your contribution to World Vision.
- 14 CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS** Your company can benefit by supporting World Vision.

### Share your resources with World Vision

- 15 GIFT PLANNING** Establish a legacy of hope by including World Vision in your will or learn about other estate-planning options.
- 16 KEY CONTRIBUTORS** Donate your car, boat, real estate, or recreational vehicle to World Vision and receive a tax deduction for your contribution.
- 17 SCHOOLTOOLS** Practical ways your group can provide essential school supplies to children around the world.

### Volunteer through World Vision

**18 ARTIST ASSOCIATES** Help Christian artists promote child sponsorship by volunteering at a local concert.

### Know World Vision's reason for hope

**19 WHAT IT MEANS TO FOLLOW CHRIST** Simple steps to a personal and lifelong relationship with Jesus Christ.

## From the President

# Somebody Else's Child

WORLD VISION IS BASED ON THE PREMISE that we should all care about somebody else's kids. Of course, we all care a great deal about our own children and grandchildren. We pray for them and we pay for them throughout their lives. After becoming parents, our lives are never the same.

But the children World Vision helps are somebody else's, not ours, and likely we will never meet them. Caring about somebody else's kids is not easy for many of us. In addition, it is difficult to muster deep emotions for children living tragic lives in places geographically and culturally remote.

If we read in the newspaper about children starving to death in an African famine, we might pause with sadness, but we would probably turn the page and forget what we had read. But what if we discovered one of these very children dying on our doorstep? Wouldn't we stop everything and rush her to the emergency room, offering to pay whatever it might cost to save her?

When tragedy becomes personal, it becomes real.

When Bob Pierce started World Vision in 1950, he was compelled by something other than a lifelong desire to help the poor. He had a dramatic and profound experience that changed his life forever. And it involved somebody else's child.



Bob Pierce embraced the world's children as his own.

He looked her in the eye and said, "I will!" Later he wrote White Jade's name in his Bible as an indelible record of his commitment.

From that experience, World Vision was born in Bob Pierce's heart. And child sponsorship began because one man was forced to answer the question: *What are you going to do about it?* Bob Pierce was changed by somebody else's child.

This issue shows what can happen when people answer that call to action. A courageous woman in Malawi mobilizes her community to help orphans and vulnerable children and to fight HIV/AIDS (see page 18). And a young woman in California owes her life to the bold decision of another former president, Stan Mooneyham, to help rescue southeast Asian refugees in the 1970s (see page 24).

When you make a commitment to sponsor a child or give a gift to lessen the suffering of children, you follow in Bob Pierce's footsteps. You are seeing children as God sees them—as you'd see your own children. Thank you for putting your faith into action on behalf of somebody else's child. ■

*This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. — 1 JOHN 5:2*

In 1947, Bob was in China on a long evangelistic campaign. Just one day before he was scheduled to fly home, he preached to children at a missionary school, exhorting them to give their lives to Christ. One little girl named White Jade did so, and when she went home that night and told her parents, they beat her and cast her out of the house. The next morning, she was found huddled at the gate of the missionary school.

When Bob heard what had happened, he went to the woman who ran the school, Tina Hoelkeboer, a feisty Dutch Reformed missionary. He asked her to take White Jade in and care for her. But Tina picked up the little girl and handed her to Bob, saying angrily, "This child responded to your message and because of that she is now homeless. I am already sharing my food with six other children who have no homes, and I cannot take in even one more."

"You created this problem—now what are you going to do about it?"

Bob was leaving for home the next day. What could he possibly do to help? Flustered, he reached into his pocket, pulled out all he had—about \$5—and gave it to Tina. She told him she would use the money for White Jade's basic needs. "But that's just the beginning, Bob Pierce," she said. "You will send me \$5 every month to take care of her."

## WORLD VISION READER SERVICES

Clip and return in envelope between pages 16 and 17.

### 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     8

#### Expand my world vision

- 9     10     11  
 12

#### Show World Vision to my company

- 13     14

#### Share my resources with World Vision

- 15     16     17

#### Volunteer through World Vision

- 18

#### Know World Vision's reason for hope

- 19

FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_ LAST NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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

1103290

## News From the Field

**Iran** > After a powerful earthquake in December 2003, World Vision rushed to help grief-stricken survivors in and around the ancient, southeastern city of Bam. The magnitude 6.7 quake killed more than 35,000 people and left tens of thousands homeless in the freezing weather. Staff responded with \$600,000 worth of emergency supplies, including blankets, tents, soap, and water containers. World Vision worked with the Iranian Red Crescent Society to distribute the goods, usually at night when families were gathered in one place. The Ghazanfari family

received a tent after spending more than a week in the bitter cold. "This is the first day we have a roof over our heads," said Khazam Ghazanfari, 57. "Before, we would simply wrap the children in blankets and huddle as close as we could around an open fire." Thirty World Vision tents also served as a temporary school so that classes could resume.

**Bolivia** > World Vision helped hundreds of stranded people during riots in October 2003. Violence had virtually shut down

the main city, La Paz, as people demanded the ouster of President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada over economic problems and his decision to export natural gas. During the crisis, World Vision staff delivered food, blankets, and medicine to nearly 300 people trapped in a bus station and helped transport the wounded to hospitals.

**Iraq** > Al Rutba residents thanked World Vision for helping the western town rebuild schools. Community representatives—including two imams, the director of education, teachers, and daily workers—expressed their gratitude in a two-page letter to World Vision's program

manager, John Salibi. "You have restored schools, which are considered the lighthouse of knowledge," they wrote. "You also restored the kindergarten, which will remain a memorial to you in this country and in the minds of the new generation." In addition to physical rehabilitation, World Vision also helped schools with teacher training.

**Sri Lanka** > After two decades of hostilities, Sinhalese and Tamil children sponsored by World Vision are coming together in unprecedented visits. World Vision organized a tour for Sinhalese children from central and southern provinces to visit Eravur, a Tamil district in the east, where Tamil families hosted the visitors for five days. "This is the first time that the Tamil people in the east have welcomed Sinhalese people into their village," says Arul Nasan, World Vision team leader. "The east people did not know what the people of the south were like. Now the fear is gone, and it seems as if they were long-lost friends." Since new Prime Minister Wickramasinghe proposed peace negotiations, World Vision has organized several such exchange programs among sponsored children.

Among the renovations World Vision made to Al Rutba Primary School in Iraq: new water taps, toilets, and drinking fountains.



KEVIN COOK/WORLD VISION

**Liberia** > World Vision is distributing more food to hungry Liberians than any other agency—and in the most difficult camps where uprooted citizens have taken refuge. In partnership with the World Food Programme, World Vision has distributed food to 300,000 people since July 2003. Staff give the food to groups comprising heads of families, who then share it equally among their households. This new system ensures that the food benefits its intended recipients: children and other vulnerable people. "We involve women as much as possible," says Elie Gasagara, World Vision commodity manager. "Food handed to women is rarely sold and would most likely reach the house." The distribution strategy also confers trust and a degree of control to the Liberians. ■

Some families walked for days to reach camps where World Vision provided food and care.



AMY TURNER/WORLD VISION

**fyi** *The Honduran government*

*recently honored World Vision's reconstruction efforts in the wake of Hurricane Mitch.*

*Immediately after the 1988 disaster, World Vision provided food, medicine, clothing, and temporary housing for more than 50,000 people. Since then, staff have built 2,600 homes, repaired 92 schools and five health centers, distributed 7,000 metric tons of food, and established micro-loans for 4,020 families.*

## Hope Update

**World Vision makes inroads through HIV/AIDS programs in Asia.**

**Healthy Highways** > Asian countries are building an international highway network—but with the advantages of trade comes the risk of a rapid increase in the spread of HIV/AIDS along the new corridors. World Vision is at the forefront of proactive planning against the virus' spread. "Where there are crowds, there will be trade, gambling, the sex trade—good and bad things," says Dr. Wai-lp Ho, health adviser for World Vision China. "Some of these changes are directly related to the spread of HIV/AIDS."

Working with the United Nations Development Programme, World Vision staff met with state health and transport officials from nations including China, Laos, and Vietnam. They drafted plans to slow the spread of HIV into new areas or from one country to another via the highways, and encouraged officials to spend 1 percent of construction budgets on HIV/AIDS awareness.

**Gandhi Honor** > The All India Christian Council awarded World Vision India the Mahatma Gandhi Award for Social Justice. The honor acknowledges World Vision's work in HIV/AIDS care and prevention, child care, and disaster relief in Mumbai over the past decade. "I felt good that after working in Mumbai, the Christian community has recognized our work," says Bob Jacob, World Vision's program manager.



**Departure** > Neeta\*, 29, the Indian woman featured in the Autumn 2003 issue of this magazine, recently succumbed to AIDS-related illness. Volunteers from World Vision's home-care program and from a local church visited her regularly during an extended hospital stay that preceded her death. Caleb Mpamei, the World Vision photographer who took Neeta's picture for the magazine story, presented the photos to Neeta's mother, Meera, who cherishes them as a reminder of her daughter. In addition to Meera, Neeta is survived by a healthy son, Kaustubh, 3, who lives with relatives. ■

\*Name changed to protect identity

## → Glad You Asked

*What is a HopeChild, and why do these boys and girls need special care?*



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

**Umbula Mwembiya, 5, a Zambian orphan, tries to keep warm on a chilly winter morning.**

HopeChild sponsorship is designed to specifically care for children and families whose lives are overturned by HIV/AIDS. Consider this:

In the next 30 seconds, another two children will become orphans, adding to the staggering number of boys and girls around the world who have lost one or both parents to HIV/AIDS.

When AIDS enters a community, it begins tearing down the

traditional support structures that families rely on to weather crises such as droughts, famines, floods, and other natural disasters. AIDS attacks the most productive members of a society: its farmers, its teachers, its breadwinners. It also takes away children's primary caregivers—their mothers.

AIDS is creating a generation of orphans and rendering all children vulnerable.

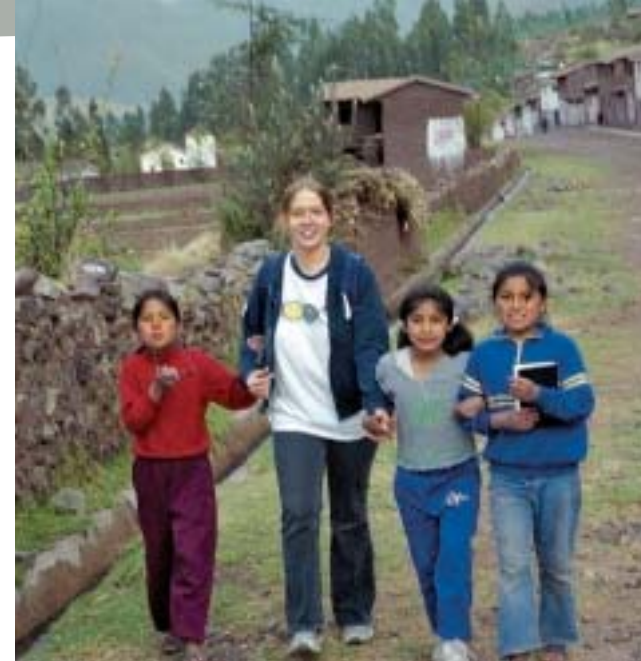
James 1:27 is our compelling mandate: "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress."

When you become a HopeChild sponsor, you provide a child in one of these devastated communities with what he or she needs most:

- > Trained volunteers, who monitor the child's emotional, physical, and spiritual care and help care for sick or dying parents.
- > Age-appropriate, biblically based education and practical life-skills training.
- > Nutritious food, health care, and clean water.
- > School fees and supplies, so the child can stay in school.
- > Vocational training for older orphans.

In addition, by sponsoring a HopeChild, you show that you care for the future of orphans and children made vulnerable by this terrible disease. ■

**Prayer Point** > *According to U.N. estimates, 20 million children in sub-Saharan Africa will have lost one or both parents to HIV/AIDS by 2010. Pray for loving, practical intervention in the face of enormous need.*



MIYON KAUTZ/WORLD VISION

## → In the Media

**From The Hartford (Conn.) Courant, Sept. 22, 2003**

> Before her trip to backcountry Peru, Anna Nehring of Berlin (Conn.) thought nothing of slipping a dollar into a vending machine for a candy bar.

That's no longer the case, after the few weeks she and a Berlin pastor spent with people whose daily meals often are watery broth flavored with a few dried beans.

The journey gave insights into poverty, hardship and spiritual strength to Nehring, 16, a freshman at Central Connecticut State University, and Becky Poor, youth pastor at Bethany Covenant Church.

The trip "gave us new eyes," said Poor, a former high school guidance counselor. The two were guests of World Vision, a Washington-based Christian relief agency active in 96 countries.

The two were among 20 people across the nation who went to Peru to see how World Vision helps Inca Indians with critical projects, including creating small reservoirs for cleaner water and better irrigation. The women visited families whose children are sponsored by Americans.

Nehring said she now re-thinks absolutely everything — how she spends, why she is doing it, and where that precious dollar might be better spent.

"It sounds trite, but we don't appreciate what we have," Nehring said. "If we're hungry, we eat. If we're sick, we go to the doctor and get a prescription. In Peru, in these regions, you don't have much you can do.... I guess after coming back, I realize how much useless stuff I buy, and I'm really trying to cut back on unnecessary things. When I see something, I ask myself if I really need it or if I'm just going to buy it and not care about it in 10 minutes."

Nehring, who completed her secondary education two years early after being almost completely home-schooled, has helped raise more than \$2,500 as a volunteer for World Vision in recent years.

With others at Bethany Covenant, she has taken part in several World Vision "30-hour famines," fasts whose participants earn money from sponsors to fight world hunger. ■

—Amy Ash Nixon, staff writer, The Hartford Courant

Copyright 2003 The Hartford Courant. Reprinted with permission.

## → On the Radio

### World Vision Launches Weekly Radio News Program

> Former ABC News religion correspondent Peggy Wehmeyer can now be heard on hundreds of stations across the nation on World Vision Report. The weekly, half-hour newsmagazine features the work of numerous international relief organizations as well as individuals who are bringing hope to those in need.

"We are excited to be offering Christian radio stations a high-quality, in-depth news program reported by world-class

journalists," says Rich Stearns, World Vision president. "Our hope is to give the listening audience insight into the human drama behind the global issues and events that affect the world's poorest children and families."



World Vision Report is committed to honest reporting, compelling interviews, and thought-provoking stories as it shines light on the plight of the poor and oppressed—a population largely ignored by the mainstream media.

To learn more about World Vision Report, or to find out where it is being aired in your city, please visit the Web at [www.worldvisionradio.org](http://www.worldvisionradio.org). ■



### 30 Hour Famine: Time to Get Fed Up!

> Last year, more than 600,000 teens across the United States raised more than \$8 million as they went without food for 30 hours.

Worldwide, similar Famine efforts raised a total of \$22 million to fight hunger through World Vision projects.

This year's Famine weekend is Feb. 27-28, but you can do it anytime. To receive materials, free of charge, call (866) 332-4453 or go to the 30 Hour Famine Web site: [www.30hourfamine.org](http://www.30hourfamine.org). ■

## ➔ In the Spotlight



JONATHANIEL APURADO/WORLD VISION

Nora goes where few other women venture (let alone other grandmothers): the ocean depths along Cebu's coastline.

**Scuba Granny** > There's something about Nora Solamo that sets her apart from other grandmothers in Cebu, a province in the Philippines.

There's her job: plunging into the sea to create artificial reefs and plant mangroves that will increase the fishing yield of local families. Before World Vision started this project, she explains, "The sea beds were barren and utterly destroyed. The fishermen would fish for days at the sea, uncertain if they [would] go home with a catch."

Now, confirms a local councilman, a small fisherman can bring in as much as 30 pounds of fish in a half-day's work.

There's her commitment to her work: Nora, 46, commonly rises at 4 a.m. to rouse the other workers before laboring herself for 12 hours straight, staying until she's sure that everything is in place.

She's buoyed by the results: bountiful corals sprouting along seabeds once devastated by large-scale fishing operations. She also succeeded in winning the hearts of fishermen and earning her colleagues' respect.

Before working on the coastal management project, Nora served in a World Vision sponsorship project, first as a volunteer conducting baseline studies, then as a staff member dealing with such difficult community issues as child abuse and domestic violence. When she transitioned to a full-time salary, her daughter Sherry was dropped from sponsorship.

But Nora understood this perfectly, explaining to Sherry, "It means that we have been elevated above our indigent status, and the project can help another child. My work is more than enough blessing."

Then there's Nora's faith. She has seen how God provided for her, even during years of poverty and through the loss of her husband in 2001. "Prayers are my secret weapon wherever I am," she says.

"Only Jesus, only he can satisfy," goes a song Nora loves. "Every burden becomes a blessing." What's special about Nora is her ability to see burdens through to blessings. As Cebu's damaged coastline blossomed to life, so did she. ■

—Cecil Laguardia,  
communications officer, World Vision Philippines

**fyi** In 2003, World Vision donors in the United States sponsored 733,268 children around the world.



## ➔ Timely Help

### Grants Combat Child Labor and AIDS

> In November 2003, World Vision President Rich Stearns met with U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao (pictured above) to accept a \$5 million grant to reduce child labor in the Philippines and increase access to education for more than 44,000 Filipino children. At the same meeting, World Vision received \$1 million for HIV/AIDS work in Uganda. ■



## ➔ In the Name of Love

**Songs That Save** > "In The Name Of Love: Artists United for Africa" joins 13 of today's most popular Christian artists in a celebration of creative conviction. Bringing fresh interpretation to hits previously made popular by U2, these musicians include Delirious?, Nichole Nordeman, Toby Mac, and World Vision artist associate Jars of Clay. A portion of the proceeds will go to World Vision's HIV/AIDS work in Africa. For more information, visit [www.inthenameoflovecd.com](http://www.inthenameoflovecd.com). ■

## ➔ In Memory

**Mike Yaconelli** > World Vision lost a valued partner; youth pastors lost an invaluable mentor; and teens around the world lost a true friend when Mike Yaconelli died on Oct. 30, 2003. Mike was killed in a one-vehicle accident in northern California.

Mike, 61, co-founded and owned Youth Specialties, a Christian ministry that trains and provides resources to youth workers around the world. He was also an author, the editor and founder of *The Door* magazine, and a partner with World Vision to create One Life Revolution. Through One Life Revolution, young people are connecting in meaningful ways with HIV/AIDS orphans and vulnerable children in Zambia.

"Young people today are hungry for a calling—for something that comes along and captures their attention and captures their whole being," Mike said in one of his last interviews, with World Vision Report's Peggy Wehmeyer.

"The youth of the world lost one of their great champions," says Atul Tandon, World Vision senior vice president for marketing and communications. "Mike lived life to its fullest, fulfilling Jesus' promise from John 10:10. He changed the world for his Savior. He's in the middle of a great homecoming party right now."

Mike's family has asked that bequests be given to the Mike Yaconelli Memorial Fund through One Life Revolution. Donations will build a school in Zambia that will continue Mike's dream of educating and mentoring young people. For more information, please go to [www.worldvision.org/yaconelli](http://www.worldvision.org/yaconelli).

Mike leaves behind his wife, Karla, five children, and five grandchildren. ■



COURTESY: YOUTH SPECIALTIES

## ➔ U.S. Scene

### Where Dreams Meet Reality

In Seattle, World Vision helps Hispanic leaders turn great ideas into effective ministries.

Throughout the night, a modest house near Seattle's Sea-Tac Airport hums with activity. A Christian Spanish radio station, KXPA, beams out of the basement, with local youth helping to run the music and educational programming, and manning the phones for the station's 40-line call center. Up to 36 volunteers crowd into the low-ceilinged area from 10 p.m. until dawn, sustained by adrenaline and percolating coffee.

KXPA is just one aspect of *Vispera del Fin*, a Hispanic-owned and operated ministry in Seattle. In just 10 years, founders Pastor Jose Infante and his wife, Violeta, originally from the Dominican Republic, have done much to help the Hispanic community here.

In addition to the radio station, they started a community center, English as a Second Language classes, a food bank, and vocational training for youth in skills such as TV production, computers, and fashion design.

Along the way, the Infantes never lacked ideas, enthusiasm, or faith. But they needed business guidance and professional training. World Vision offered both. With the organization's help, what started out as a collection of simple yet effective church activities grew into a comprehensive, nonprofit community organization. "World Vision has been instrumental," Jose says, "in helping us expand our vision."

At the heart of the Infantes' vision is community transformation. Shortly after arriving in Seattle in 1993, they focused on White Center—a culturally diverse community of nearly 21,000 in which one in three families earns less than \$34,100 a year.

"Youth were falling by the wayside," Violeta says. "There was gang

violence, drugs. We wanted to show them how to get away from that environment and follow God."

The couple first started *Vispera del Fin* Church, offering Spanish services. Today, the church has 450 committed members representing 16 countries.

The Infantes' work caught the attention of World Vision's Tito Hinojos. Tito, a former pastor, works with Hispanic churches and organizations throughout the Northwest, providing support as they serve the poor in their own communities and overseas.

Tito saw potential in the dynamic yet soft-spoken pastor and his capable, outgoing wife. He encouraged them to create a ministry separate from the church and apply for nonprofit 501(c)3 status, which enables organizations to access public funds.

But Tito had even more to offer the Infantes than good advice. World Vision's Hispanic Capacity Project\* connects *Vispera del Fin* and 27 other Hispanic organizations in the Northwest with skills, resources, and funding to increase their community impact.

The program provides leadership training plus everything from marketing and fundraising help to computer training and tips for securing government grants.

"We help organizations be proactive rather than reactive," Tito says. "We open their minds to do fund raising for tomorrow, not just today."

In November 2003 Jose and Violeta opened their community center—the first Hispanic-owned one in the south Puget Sound region. The 3,300-square-foot facility (called *Mahanaim*, Hebrew for "camp of angels") houses a food bank and provides a wide range of vocational training classes for young people.

But the Infantes won't stop there. In the next five years, with World Vision's support,



they hope to offer even more social programs at *Mahanaim*. And by expanding KXPA's airtime to 24 hours, they hope to reach thousands more with messages of community pride and God's grace.

With the local Hispanic community growing, leaders like the Infantes are dreaming bigger dreams. World Vision's support helps close the distance between vision and reality. ■

\*The Hispanic Capacity Project launched in 2003 in partnership with *Nueva Esperanza*. It benefits from the *Compassion Capital Fund* that Congress appropriated to the Department of Health and Human Services in 2002 to help faith- and community-based organizations.

Tito Hinojos (standing at left) admires what Jose and Violeta Infante are doing for Seattle's Hispanic community.

**fyi** In 1994, World Vision assisted flooding victims in Albany, Ga., by helping local organizations distribute emergency supplies and build affordable housing. A decade later, that relief response has grown into a long-term relationship. World Vision serves 16,000 Albany residents each year through training community leaders, distributing goods, promoting racial reconciliation, and working with high-risk children and youth.

## ➔ Get Involved

### Build a Dream Home in Honduras

> Hurricane Mitch dealt Honduras a powerful blow in 1998, one from which many poor communities are still recovering. More than 700,000 homes need repair or replacement. Families live in one-room structures with dilapidated roofs and dirt floors. Wood stoves used for cooking fill the tiny houses—and children's lungs—with smoke and ash. Thatch roofs contain bugs that transmit the life-threatening *chagas* disease.

You can provide hands-on help through **Vision Villages**, World Vision's new program that invites you to buy a home for a Honduran family—and help build it. Spend a week on a short-term missions trip with families of the Lenca tribe, an indigenous people group living in remote mountain communities with scant access to basic health care, education, and income opportunities. Interact and pray with them while learning firsthand about their efforts to move from poverty to full potential, assisted by World Vision.

The trips began in February and will continue twice a month through July. Teams of 10 people follow a schedule balancing hands-on construction work, fellowship with community members, free time, and reflection. Each participant contributes at least \$2,500 toward the cost of the homes, plus \$900 for in-country expenses and airfare. Children under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult. No construction experience is required, and World Vision provides the necessary tools. Just bring an open heart.

For scheduling and in-depth information, including itineraries, call toll-free (866) 332-4453, or go to [www.worldvision.org/visionvillages](http://www.worldvision.org/visionvillages). ■

## ➔ Annual Report Video



> Your gifts are making a difference! Travel the world with us via our 2003 annual report video, and see for yourself what donations to World Vision have accomplished. To order your copy of the video, complete the form between pages 16 and 17 and return it in the envelope provided. ■

Spanish Christian radio station KXPA-AM (1540) beams music and hopeful messages all night long.



TODD BARTEL/WORLD VISION (2)



IN THE ERA OF HIV/AIDS  
SOMETHING TO  
LIVE FOR

*As the darkness of denial lifts in HIV/AIDS-ravaged Malawi,  
communities come together and people see reasons to hope.*



# return to Senzani

*Grim reality gives way to glimmers of hope during a second visit to an HIV/AIDS-ravaged community.*

BY NIGEL MARSH  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY JON WARREN



Today, Lucia Moto, 10, and her cousin Brenda Kanjedza, 13, read Bibles from World Vision. Lucia (also pictured above, in 2002) is now sponsored and lives with Brenda's father, Vincent Friday (below). "It has been a hard year for us," Vincent says of the death of two of his children, including infant son, Davis (shown below with Vincent, in 2002).



Vincent and Celina Friday. Now the Fridays are both ill, too, and worried about the future for their older daughter Brenda, 13, and two orphans for whom they care.

Teacher Jean Kamanga, who acknowledged she had AIDS when we first saw her, is still alive. She is the only person we could find in a population of 22,000 who is taking anti-retroviral medication.\* Her teaching income helps make that possible, plus her inclusion on a government-approved list for receiving the drugs. Still, the monthly cost is nearly too much for her.

Another teacher, Johns Ngoleka, died after our visit. We found his widow, Flora, desperately ill, living with her two children in her mother's kitchen after being evicted from her home by uncaring in-laws.

Children we had met in several families are now orphans. A few suffered additional loss when their guardians then died.

Clinics and schools are at breaking point. We saw class sizes in the hundreds, revealing the dearth of teachers as the adult population succumbs to AIDS.

Our return wasn't all negative. People are much more

open to talking about HIV/AIDS than before in this conservative part of central Malawi. Such conversation is the first step toward openness about prevention as well. There is even hearsay evidence that young people are changing their sexual behavior as they watch adults dying painful deaths.

Best of all, the community has become more active, with churches and voluntary groups taking a lead. Getting healthy people mobilized alongside those living positively with HIV is a vital step in resolving the problem.

World Vision's HIV-focused work in Senzani was barely a year old in 2002: coordinating teams of community

volunteers, providing care and support for the sick, looking after vulnerable children and orphans, and advocating for change. Already, beneficiaries and leaders alike credit this work with transforming lives.

The outstanding question: Can the world help hard-hit communities like Senzani—and do enough, quickly enough, to change the course of this pandemic before it so crushes the African spirit that a rebound becomes impossible?

To see what even one person can do to snatch victory from disaster, we traveled a little farther north in Malawi to meet a young woman who lives with courage and purpose against all odds. See her story (next page). ■

\*World Vision is researching opportunities to access anti-retroviral drugs, working with other partner organizations to provide them for people in need.



Sabina is a bright, 16-year-old schoolgirl whose natural tendency toward cheerful enthusiasm has been seriously assaulted in the last two years. She lost both parents and several relatives to AIDS and now lives with her impoverished and weak 63-year-old grandmother in Senzani, Malawi. Her dream of being a secretary seems further away than ever.

I first met Sabina when I visited World Vision's project in Senzani to take a detailed look at how HIV affects a typical African community (told in the Summer 2002 edition of this magazine). In 2002, Sabina's uncle had just died; her parents had passed away months before. A year later, when photographer Jon Warren and I returned to Senzani, we called on Sabina's family on another inauspicious day. Her aunt, half-mad with pain and gasping on the dirt floor of her house, died of AIDS within hours of our visit.

Senzani remains a sobering and accurate reflection of what is happening across Africa.

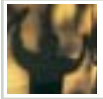
Out of more than two dozen people we'd met who were sick in 2002, only two were still alive on our return visit. Among those who died were Davis and Pirirani, the two young children of



Sabina



Sponsored child Memory, 8 (now—at far left—and in 2002), still has her caring yet sick grandmother, Rebekah.



# the game of her life

*Olipa won't be beat by HIV—and her courage is changing her community.*



Olipa's energetic display on the netball field (she's dressed in blue) leaves no doubt that she is healthy. At right, Olipa cradles her HIV-positive daughter, Miriam.

Olipa Chimangeni loves netball, a woman's game similar to basketball. She enjoys its physicality—running, jumping, and throwing—and the strategy it requires. She knows that sometimes it is the player in the most unexpected position who can lead the team to victory.

It's the same off the playing field, where her position seems unpromising. This farmer's daughter in rural central Malawi was unable to finish school, and she lives under what many consider a death sentence. Olipa, 24, has HIV.

She's not alone. Her community in Nthondo, in the beautiful but poor Ntchisi Mountains, sees several funerals every week, with AIDS the acknowledged or suspected cause of death. According to UNAIDS, 15 percent of the country's population is affected by the virus, giving it the eighth-highest HIV/AIDS incidence in the world.

BY NIGEL MARSH  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY JON WARREN



Culturally, Malawians avoid talking about illness and death, and they're much less likely to admit to having a virus that's predominantly transmitted by sex, because of the intense shame it carries. HIV brands its sufferers, isolating them from friends, neighbors, even health-care providers. Millions of Africans never get a blood test, even when it's available, preferring to pretend that their sicknesses are normal. In their denial, they miss the opportunity to take care of themselves and prolong their lives for the sake of their children.

Not Olipa. Rebounding from apparent defeat, she has turned everything around for herself and her community. She is leading others to fight back against debilitating denial and intense discrimination, to avoid the virus, and to show love to the sick.

Just as on the netball court, she knows that everyone is watching each move she makes toward her goal: a district where people with HIV can live free of stigma, contributing to the good of the community.

**Olipa (seated center, at right) meets weekly with the HIV-positive people she has inspired to join her in her work. Below, children affected by HIV/AIDS receive food and care at a community-based children's center in Nthondo.**

At last, Olipa is beginning to hear approval and applause. But the true prize is a sense of peace.

### WINNING ADVANTAGE

When Olipa was a teenager, an older man forced his attentions on her in school and left her pregnant with her firstborn son, Francis. The man returned to "apologize" five years later, only



**Olipa is at the forefront of a groundswell of community efforts against HIV/AIDS. Youth now use drama and music at public gatherings (right) to drive home messages about prevention. Below (Olipa is standing at left), she is inducted into the Women's Guild at her church—an unprecedented event for a congregation that had never before welcomed open acknowledgement of HIV/AIDS.**



to abuse and impregnate her again. That time he almost certainly gave Olipa HIV too. Francis, now 7, is HIV-negative; but 2-year-old Miriam is positive. In spite of Olipa's constant attentions, Miriam is repeatedly sick.

After Miriam's birth, Olipa took stock: She was sick with a deadly virus that her baby daughter had inherited. In all likelihood, her firstborn son would face life as an orphan. She lived in a place with virtually no health care or electricity, where water is a long walk away, and where you must be strong enough to grow what you eat.

Just how did this remarkable woman decide that she could turn all that into a winning advantage? Olipa cried out to God for help. She opened herself up to her parents—a godly, gentle couple—and accepted their love and a place back in their home.

Then the young woman who was twice a victim decided to take control. Olipa didn't choose to live *despite* HIV. She would live *with* it—and spend nearly every moment of her all-too-precious time on things that matter.

So she competes in netball tournaments, and as she does so she tells everyone how to avoid the virus that affects about a million Malawians. She harvests her maize with vigor, proving that the HIV-positive diagnosis does not stop her from looking after her needs. She attends church and challenges the congregation to choose between discrimination and compassion for HIV sufferers.

She walks miles to visit the sick, throwing down the gauntlet to healthier neighbors to do the same. She raises pigs donated by World Vision and gives part of the proceeds to others in need.

This girl who never graduated from high school speaks boldly in public gatherings to top community leaders, urging them to do more to prevent HIV transmission and to help people with the virus. And she calls attention to children like her own dear Francis who face an uncertain future as orphans.

She remains a vital player in this continental life-and-death match, approaching every aspect of her life with an appealing mix of focused energy and gentle, prophetic intensity. Olipa—smiling, laughing, listening—wants nothing less than to change her world before she leaves it.



### ASSEMBLING THE TEAM

Every player needs a good team around her. Olipa found that in World Vision. The organization is imaginatively expanding its development work here in Nthondo, as in so many parts of Africa, by harnessing the passion of people like Olipa.

It's not just a good idea—it's a vital necessity, says World Vision's vice president for Africa, Wilfred Mlay. "We've been stunned by the negative impact of AIDS on our work in the last decade," he says. "It was a simple choice: We either make HIV our No. 1 priority and fight it, or we let it destroy everything else we've done."

Partnering with beacons of hope like Olipa makes sense. "She knows her community and culture," Wilfred continues, "and she knows about the virus. We are proud to support people with such energy and knowledge."

Olipa asked local World Vision staff to train her and help her start a support group, Nthondo People Living With HIV. She encourages people to go for blood testing so that if they're infected, they can plan for the future. Many who complied tested positive for the virus, and many now stand beside her in the support group, sharing her unusual sense of optimism and camaraderie so at odds with the depression and despair that normally pervades areas with high HIV incidence.

Olipa leads the group's outreach work. She explains to anyone

who will listen—outside bars, in churches, in schools—about how real and serious HIV is, and how to avoid its spread. “We who are HIV-positive have more impact than others who try to spread the same message,” she explains, “because when people see us, they cannot deny the virus is real.”

“Our appeal to people to get tested has been so successful, the hospital is now congested with those who want to know their HIV status.”

Olipa urged her church, Chibazi Presbyterian, to join her team. Her induction to the church’s Women’s Guild turned into a challenge to her fellow believers. Guild leader Bertha Nambere dramatically welcomed her in front of the congregation as “the best way for us to demonstrate that we do not discriminate against people living with HIV.”

“In the past,” Olipa says “it was very difficult for churches to take part in HIV/AIDS activities. They said when you have AIDS, you were being punished for being promiscuous. Now they understand that not all who have HIV got it through promiscuity.”



“Olipa was the first person in our diocese to stand up and acknowledge her HIV status,” the Rev. Rebson Phiri recalls. “Even now there are only two who are so open. She has great courage and helps us to remember our role in showing the compassion of God.”

Chibazi Presbyterian had its problems accepting people with HIV, he admits, but changed its attitude after leading members went to an orientation organized by World Vision. With Olipa’s help, the congregation now provides home-based care to the sick, anti-HIV/AIDS groups for youth, and orphan care.

World Vision supports other able yet under-resourced groups and churches in Nthondo, providing practical and spiritual outreach to families. Village self-help associations, started by ordinary community women, are trying to ensure that all orphans and vulnerable children receive daily feeding and at least a minimum of education and clothing. And high-energy youth volunteers, working from a World Vision-supported clinic, take anti-AIDS messages to the villages via drums and drama.

Olipa doesn’t miss an opportunity to spread her own message. At the district’s annual football and netball tournament, she played in the baking Malawian sun, refereed another match, then gave a speech against HIV discrimination to a crowd of several hundred people.

Nthondo head chief Yobe Jerome Edwin Mpanang’ombe is impressed by Olipa’s energy and guts. “Others should be like her,” he says. “There is no cause to shun people with HIV.”

#### PURPOSE FOR THE HOME STRETCH

Olipa approaches her work with a champion’s drive, undiminished by the reality she sees every day when she visits people in the last stages of the disease.

Today, she and her team call on Gogo (Granny) Fulare, who cares for her orphaned grandson, Kelvin Mkuntha. Everything at Fulare’s home seems run-down and tired: the plaster, the paintwork, the thin gray soil, and Kelvin himself. He looks weak and smaller than his 14 years, his skin mottled, his hair lank and thin. Yet his voice remains even and measured, his eyes lively.

Kelvin is pleased by the chance for conversation, despite the pain, and he is

**HIV/AIDS has become everybody’s problem. Women contribute to the community’s fight against the disease by growing corn (left) using World Vision’s seeds and tools. Mothers then cook the corn into porridge (above) for local children who might not otherwise eat.**



**HIV-related sickness keeps Kelvin (above) from church, but visitors come to pray with him. Other children are learning about God’s care in the face of the reality of HIV/AIDS. In a Nthondo church (left), a pastor tells children, “We are not orphans when it comes to God’s understanding. He is with us all the time.”**

comfort. “Heaven is up there, a joyful place, where there is God and Jesus and life forever,” he says. “I’d like to see that. If I want to get there, I must die first, mustn’t I?”

The comment has poignancy for his visitors. Every member of Olipa’s team is conscious that they, too, will find themselves in Kelvin’s position one day. They find purpose in their work, seeing hope and joy in helping a charming young man through what could be his last months.

Olipa is no different. “When I go to see someone who is dying of AIDS,” she says, back home and caring for a feverish Miriam, “it does not make me worry more about my own status. In fact, it encourages me when I see others benefiting from our visits.

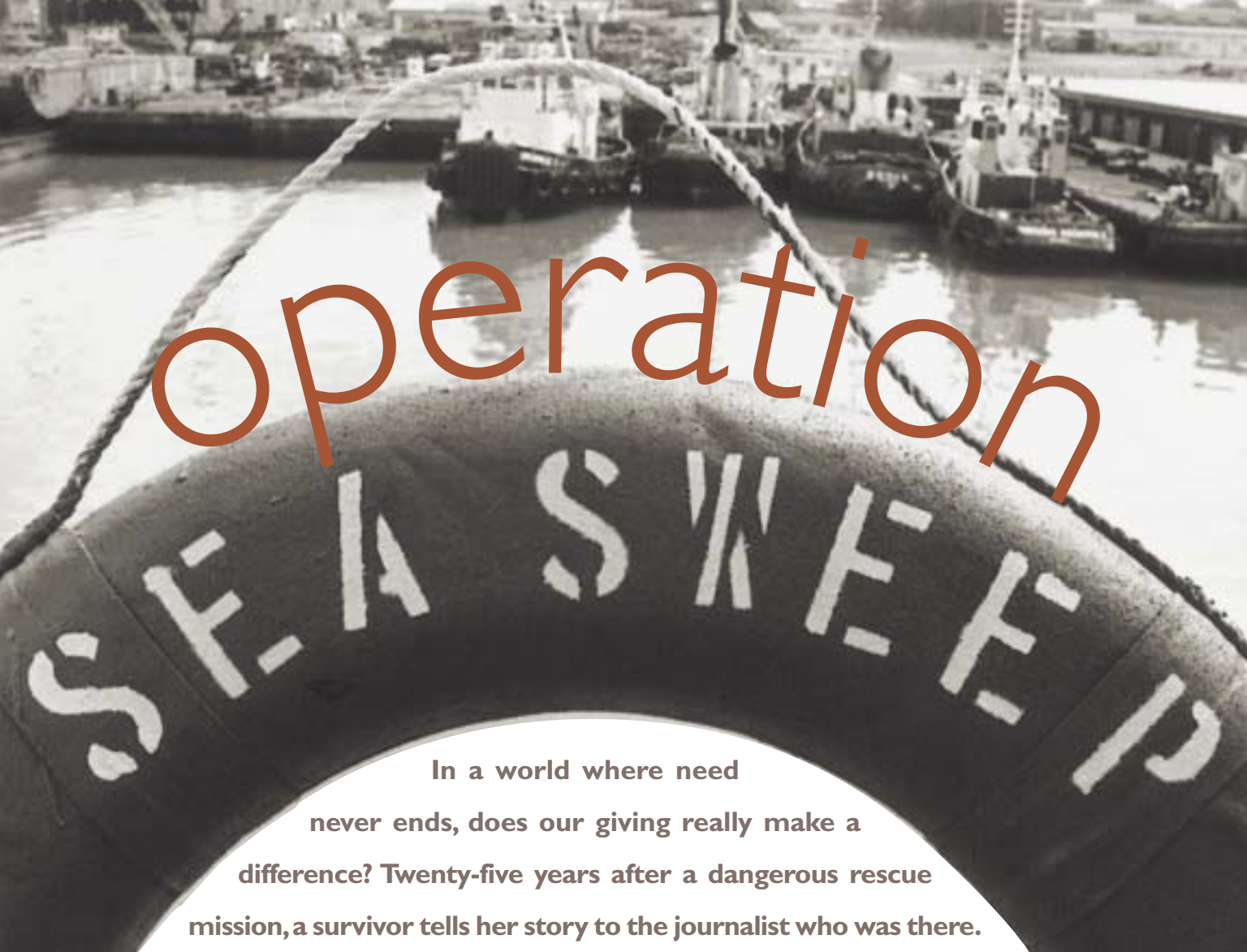
“There are so many people suffering alone out there,” she adds. “By assisting them, I am doing better work than simply being a farmer. And I have learned so much. Those who aren’t HIV-positive don’t have that privilege. I am happy with what I am doing now.”

Strengthened by World Vision’s support and her community’s growing acceptance, Olipa has turned obstacles into winning opportunities in this, the game of her life. ■

open about the fact he has AIDS, probably contracted as he nursed his sick mother before her death.

Olipa greets him and Fulare warmly. She asks after Kelvin’s health; Fulare inquires about Miriam. Clearly, this is a meeting of friends. Olipa suggests how Fulare can make Kelvin more comfortable, offers recipes for herbal remedies, quotes encouraging Bible verses, and prays for the family. Meanwhile, her colleagues busily chop wood, boil water, and clean around the compound.

Before dropping out of school, Kelvin was a good student. He also loved going to church. Recalling old sermons brings him



# operation

In a world where need never ends, does our giving really make a difference? Twenty-five years after a dangerous rescue mission, a survivor tells her story to the journalist who was there.

B Y K E N W A T E R S

**CHI KIM HUYNH, CALLED KIM,** did not understand why her life was so different from other girls in Southern California. “It was so hard,” Kim, now 25, says. “Other kids at our school went to movies and summer parties, and they played sports. My parents wouldn’t let us do any of that.”

Kim and her sister Lan, 27, couldn’t go home after school with friends. No one, girl or boy, was allowed to call them. Their parents were strict and pushed them hard in school. Communication was a struggle. Misunderstandings were common.

Then Kim found a family secret stored in her parents’ box of legal documents and family heirlooms. On five yellowed pages of an old *World Vision* magazine from August 1979, she learned about her parents’ journey from Vietnam to America. A half-page photo of her thin parents, holding two girls, riveted Kim’s attention.

Kim’s parents had fled Vietnam in a leaky boat, enduring great hardships to give their children a chance at a better life in America. That she knew. But her parents never said much about it; this was a piece of their history they wanted to forget. Kim wanted to know more.

In connecting the pieces of her past, she hoped to find understanding.

It was June 12, 1979, when Kim’s parents, Phong and Anh (then in their mid-20s), left Vietnam. Phong was a South Vietnamese Air Force mechanic stationed in southern Vietnam. When the war ended, he was made a prisoner—forced to build rice paddies under the watchful eyes of cruel guards. After his imprisonment ended, Phong continued to plant and harvest rice, allowed to keep only small portions for his wife and daughters. With travel from their village restricted and

their water and electricity shut off, Phong and Anh feared that life in a communist country would only get worse. They made a life-altering choice—to find someone with a boat who was willing to smuggle them out of the country. The couple wanted a better life for their children—in a place without hunger or fear. They would live free or die trying.

A few months later, under cover of darkness, they floated silently down the Mekong River with 300 others, on their way to the South China Sea. The journey cost every passenger his or her life savings. After two days at sea, pirates boarded and stole the refugees’ valuables, raping some of the women. Scenes of similar horror were being played out around the South China Sea. More than a quarter million refugees lost their lives—drowning in unseaworthy vessels, or dying from hunger, disease, or vicious pirate attacks.

The next day, the refugees landed on a Malaysian beach. For a week, United Nations staff provided rice, canned food, and water. The refugees slept on the sand. But on July 3, with U.N. personnel out of sight, Malaysian navy officers split up the refugees at gunpoint and loaded them into two small boats. Phong, Anh, and their children were crammed with 89 other people on a boat the size of a large family room.

After a few hours of towing the small refugee craft, the Malaysians cut the rope and set the boat adrift. The captain of Phong’s boat yelled out that they didn’t have fuel to get to shore. A bullet whistled over his head, and he shut up.

For six days, the boat drifted through summer storms, high winds, and searing heat. Hunger gnawed and water supplies dwindled. The refugees were so debilitated that they huddled together awaiting death. On that sixth day, in desperation, Phong, Anh, and other parents of young children agreed to the unthinkable: Rather than watch their babies die a slow death from starvation, they would wrap them in cloth, drop them over the side of the boat, and let them drown.

On July 9, 6-month-old Kim was to have been among the first babies to die. But that day, a miracle appeared—a freighter on the afternoon horizon. At first, none of the refugees dared to hope. But as the boat came alongside, waving a South Vietnamese flag, someone with a bullhorn yelled: “We’re friends. We’re here to help.”

The man with that bullhorn was then-World Vision President Dr. Stan Mooneyham. I stood by his side, there to write the story for *World Vision* magazine. We watched as a makeshift harness

25  
YEARS  
LATER

hoisted a baby toward the deck of Seasweep. After a few seconds, all we could see was her white knit cap swaying back and forth as she dangled 30 feet above the refugee boat, crying out in terror. It was Kim.

Twenty-five years later she contacted me to find out more about the rescue—trying to put together the pieces of her history. She brought her sisters and a brother along to meet me, and together we watched a British Broadcasting Corporation documentary about the Seasweep rescue operation. (Both the BBC and CBS, along with print reporters from several newspapers, had accompanied Seasweep on its 1979 voyage.)

A few minutes into the documentary, Kim watched transfixed



When they first met, Ken Waters was a young journalist with a thirst for adventure and Kim was a beleaguered infant. Today, the professor and graduate student are friends.

as the camera zoomed in on a small bobbing dot on the horizon. She listened as Dr. Mooneyham began describing the sight of human sardines crammed into a small fishing boat. Minutes later the camera panned the faces of delight as the refugees learned that our boat was friendly and they were safe.

As the sickest of the refugees climbed up a rope ladder or were hoisted up in a rope pulley, the camera zoomed in on a wailing child being hauled up for medical attention. “That’s you!” Kim’s sister exclaimed.

Kim stared at the screen, her lips trembling, eyes welling with tears. Here was visual evidence of her parents’ sacrifice and the



KEN WATERS/WORLD VISION



JON KUBELY/WORLD VISION

**“When people are dying, you don’t stop and count the cost,” Dr. Stan Mooneyham said. “You act.” Operation Seasweep was the first rescue boat of its kind on the South China Sea. Refugees on the Huynhs’ boat (above) responded with relief and joy when they realized the freighter brought help.**

including Washington and Geneva, to get their official advice—and, I hoped, their cooperation—to launch a private rescue operation. Privately, they agreed the loss of life was staggering and scandalous.”

But publicly, they would not support Dr. Mooneyham’s actions. From World Vision supporters, however, came an outpouring of compassion—and donations. “In the face of unrelenting threats, intimidation, and harassment,” he said, “[we] helped rescue and transport hundreds of refugees to safety and freedom.”

Operation Seasweep was the first mercy ship to rescue and provide medical care and food to the Vietnamese boat people—saving 700 lives between May 1978 and August 1979. At least 100,000 more people benefited from its cargo—lifesaving food and medical care delivered to refugee camps in Southeast Asia.

After the ship’s first sailing in 1978, other countries took active roles in rescuing and relocating the refugees. And in July 1978, President Jimmy Carter instructed all American ships in the area to do the same. “Christians can be agents of change,” Dr. Mooneyham said. “We proved it on the South China Sea.”

miracle of Seasweep’s presence. It was a life-changing moment—a beautiful, confident young woman, staring at small, wailing Kim.

That year, 1979, marked the apex of a desperate exodus by as many as 2 million Vietnamese, fleeing communism by boat after the Vietnam War. Dr. Mooneyham took the daring risk of buying an old freighter, re-christening it Seasweep, and sending it out on the South China Sea to assist refugees.

International opinion was not kind to World Vision, and Dr. Mooneyham was condemned by several Asian leaders for encouraging even more people to flee Vietnam. But he believed he had no choice.

“I couldn’t get the boat people out of my heart,” he said in a speech shortly before his death. “I went to seven world capitals,

And proved it in the lives of Kim’s family.

Phong and Anh moved to the United States after three months in a refugee camp in Singapore. At first they lived with Phong’s brother in northern San Diego County. By day they attended English school and received help adapting to the frantic pace and incredible wealth of their new country. Phong worked nights as a janitor, bristling at the insults from co-workers ridiculing his English.

After a few years, Phong found a job as a mechanic. Anh stayed home to raise Kim, Lan, and three more children. She now works for a computer manufacturer. The Huynhs live in the same apartment they moved to a short time after they arrived in the United States.

As the family settled into American life, Phong and Anh struggled to raise their oldest children, Lan and Kim, to respect their elders, value education, and speak impeccable English. Like most immigrant families, the Huynhs tried to negotiate the fine line between integrating into the new culture and preserving the strengths and traditions of their heritage.

In this process, misunderstandings became commonplace as the children learned to speak and think more and more like Americans, widening the cultural, language, and religious gap between them and their parents. By the time they reached middle school, Lan and Kim still understood Vietnamese but couldn’t speak it well. Their parents, meanwhile, had not mastered English well enough to catch the nuances and slang. The family couldn’t communicate.

Kim now notes wistfully, and thankfully, that her parents softened over the years. Her brother, Andy, a sophomore, and sister Ashley, a seventh grader, now stay overnight with friends and play sports. “My parents even let girls call Andy,” Kim says with a smile.

And family communication has improved. Kim said that as a result of our meeting in 2003, her parents began to share more details about their desperate voyage to freedom. Anh told of rubbing motor oil on her face and pulling a hat low over her head so she would look less appealing to the pirates. And how she knit the family valuables into the white cap Kim wore, figuring that not even the pirates would rip a hat off a baby nursing with an ugly old lady covered in motor oil.

“My parents could have stayed behind with their parents and brothers and sisters,” Kim says. “But they left because of Lan and me. They risked their lives for the chance to give us a better life.

“Even then, I came so close to being drowned. If it weren’t for Seasweep, I wouldn’t be here. Thank you for saving my life.”

Kim then showed her parents the BBC documentary. “My parents were very sad and happy to see it,” Kim says. “When my dad found out that my sister and I understood and forgave him

## 25 YEARS LATER

for being so strict on us during our childhood years, he cried.”

One aspect of the culture struggle Kim does not regret is her parent’s insistence that their children excel in school. She recently received her degree in criminal justice from California State University San Diego and is entering a master’s program in social work at Cal State Long Beach.

“I wasn’t sure what I wanted to major in when I started college,” she says. “I just knew I wanted to help kids.” In high school, Kim volunteered to help at-risk youth in San Diego through an organization called Higher Youth. Now she mentors a girl who she says is just like she was a decade ago.

“She lives in a two-bedroom apartment with six other



KEN WATERS/WORLD VISION

**On the day that baby Kim (shown in her mother’s arms) might have died, Operation Seasweep appeared on the horizon. Dr. Mooneyham (second from left) was there to greet the Huynh family.**

people,” Kim says. “Her family is struggling financially, and it takes a lot of encouragement to keep the girl in school. It’s rough and tough, but our friendship is very rewarding, and it is making a difference in her life.”

Dr. Mooneyham would be proud. He believed that in saving the lives of hard-working and decent people like the Huynhs, future generations would be deeply touched—both physically and spiritually—by the children and grandchildren of those whom Operation Seasweep rescued.

The fruit of Dr. Mooneyham’s daring rescue plan is already being realized, as Kim herself becomes an agent of change. ■

*Ken Waters has been a professor of journalism at Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif., since 1989. Before that he worked as an international journalist and public relations director for World Vision.*

## Language of Love

A former sponsored child fosters communication between children and their sponsors. *By John Schenk*

ON A BLAZING HOT DAY, Corine Al Hajj sits in World Vision's office in Beirut, Lebanon, leaning over a desk covered with papers and enormous, leather-bound dictionaries. The only sounds are the murmuring of the air conditioner, the scratching of her pen, and the occasional rustling of pages as she thumbs through the dictionary.

While 21-year-old Corine is normally an extrovert with a generous laugh and a smile for everyone, at the moment she is the consummate academic. She is putting the final touches on a translation of *The Velveteen Rabbit*, an English-speaking sponsor's gift to a Lebanese child.



Corine speaks Arabic, English, and French.

World Vision asked her to summarize in Arabic the story of a beloved toy becoming real, but Corine translated all of it.

"The message was so beautiful," she says. "I wanted the child to benefit from every word."

This work, part of her university internship, is a labor of love—

payback to those who cared for her when she was a sponsored child more than a decade ago. Week after week she works in the sponsorship office, translating letters between sponsors and their children.

The young woman gifted in languages knows the importance of communication in these cross-cultural relationships. Her three years of sponsorship—during the civil war that wracked Lebanon from 1975 to 1990—were brief but timely. Corine grew up in the chaos and became sponsored through her primary school when she was 7. "I was impressed that someone cared for me," she recalls. "It was so important to me when I was a child during the war."

She remembers huddling in a bomb shelter with her parents and five siblings, trembling at the deep thud of ordnances landing nearby. Once, when a bomb struck their building, the roof of the parking garage collapsed onto the family car. For a year they were forced to travel on scarce public transportation in the shooting gallery that war-torn Beirut had become.

Corine's father, Jean Al Hajj, was an officer in internal security forces. "I used to go to work every day not knowing if I would ever return to my family," says Jean, now 52 and retired.

World Vision, which started working in Lebanon in 1975, cared for children throughout the war. Because it was dangerous for workers to move around, they provided sponsorship through schools, relying on the teachers and staff to monitor the children.

"The entire country was a shambles," says Jean Bouchebl, then national director of World Vision Lebanon. "Children who were coming



to these schools badly needed help."

At the Rosaire School, Corine became linked through sponsorship to a Swiss couple, Rolf and Ernesta Galfetti. She still cherishes a Polaroid of the smiling older couple and a piece of a letter from them dated 1990. "This couple was so very generous," she says. "They wrote me [that] they had 13 other sponsored children."

Sponsorship paid a portion of Corine's fees. "Whenever a notice arrived that the money had come to Corine's school, it seemed to be just at the right time," says Malack Al Hajj, Corine's mother. "We're a big family. Any reduction in what we paid in school fees was a help."

The close-knit family persevered until the war ended. Corine, who had always loved languages, discovered in her teens that she could study translation. After high school she entered Lebanese University, a government institution with low tuition but a demanding curriculum and competitive environment.

Corine has consistently ranked in the top five in her class. Her grueling schedule typically keeps her in class from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., and evenings are reserved for homework and research projects.

The serious student is motivated by her supportive family. Her older brother, soon to graduate in architecture, and her sister, a midwife, financially contribute to the family. Corine hopes to do the same when she starts working.

She's also motivated by another example of generosity: her former sponsors. "Our contact was short, but it was a very happy and special time for me," she says. "I still want to



War memories haunt Corine, even in now-peaceful Lebanon.

be like them. When I can afford it, I will become a sponsor."

Rolf and Ernesta Galfetti, now 77 and 81 respectively, delighted in hearing about Corine's progress when contacted by World Vision Switzerland. Rolf asked for Corine's address. Among other things, he wants to tell her that he and his wife have just started sponsoring a child from Nicaragua—continuing their legacy in another child's life. ■

*John Schenk is a World Vision communications resources manager stationed in the Middle East and Europe.*

## multiply your generosity

**Thank you** for your generous gifts of hope to children this year.

Do you know there's an easy way to multiply your generosity?

If your company matches gifts to World Vision, that match could multiply each dollar you give—or have given this year—to bring more hope to children.

A quick check with your human resources department, intranet, or [www.worldvision.org/matchinggifts](http://www.worldvision.org/matchinggifts), will help you discover if your company matches donations to World Vision. Multiply your generosity with a match!

**1.866.332.4453** or [www.worldvision.org/matchinggifts](http://www.worldvision.org/matchinggifts)



# Reflections of God

WORLD VISION HAS ALWAYS HAD a special place in our family. Our adopted daughter, Wendy, now 22, spent her first five years in a World Vision orphanage in Korea. We have always had a sponsored child's photo on our refrigerator and we knew that somewhere, once upon a time, our daughter's picture was on someone else's refrigerator. One day they probably got a letter saying that Eun Byul (now known as Wendy) had been adopted and would no longer require a sponsor.

We are forever grateful to the person who helped provide for our daughter during those years when we did not know her.

Now we are grandparents. We have three grandchildren ages 4, 7, and 9. We asked World Vision if they could find children with their same birth dates for us to sponsor. It would be a special way to honor our grandchildren and help them learn about sharing with a child who has far less.

We got a little boy in Chile, born the same day as our grandson Brandon; a little boy in Zimbabwe with Matthew's birthday; and a little girl in Kenya whose birthday matches Kaylee's.

When my husband, our youngest daughter, Julie, and I were planning a trip to Chile to visit friends, we asked World Vision if we could visit our sponsored child there.\* After much correspondence via e-mail and telephone, we were able to arrange the visit. We were now just a flight and an eight-hour bus ride away from the meeting.

We had come with two suitcases full of gifts and clothing for Alejandro and his siblings.

We were told that Alejandro's mother was embarrassed for us to see their home, so we would visit in the World Vision office several miles away.

Alejandro, his mother, and his 5-year-old sister, Ema, were waiting. They opened their gifts reluctantly at first, clearly overwhelmed at receiving so many nice toys and clothes all at once. Slowly we began to see some smiles as they became more relaxed and comfortable with us.

Their favorite gift was a hand mirror. They passed it around and looked at

their reflection in it and smiled. They had never before seen their own reflections.

Our family and Alejandro's were then invited to join the World Vision staff for lunch. They asked my husband, Dave, to give thanks. He speaks no Spanish, but they said he could pray in English. As we all sat there holding hands in this incredible circle of love and caring, Dave was so overcome with emotion that he could scarcely speak.

There are a few moments in each life that sort of freeze in time. This was such a moment. We sat with our heads bowed, holding hands with these marvelous servants and those who were served. Seldom have we broken bread in a more sacred communion.

After lunch, apparently the family felt more comfortable with us, and we were invited to their home, where we met the older children. We had brought them an American football, among other things, and my husband found that language was not necessary to play a game of football together.

As we spent the next four weeks traveling through South America, we often saw signs in small villages stating that World Vision worked there. We saw some incredible sights on our trip, but whenever anyone asks, "What did you like best?" the answer is simple: Meeting our sponsored child and seeing firsthand the dedication of the World Vision staff was an experience that even the majestic sight of Macchu Pichu could not surpass. ■

*\* The coordination of visits to sponsored children takes a lot of time and communication, so planning needs to begin several months in advance. National office rules for such visits might also include meeting in a central location such as a World Vision office.*

**Barbara McHuron** has sponsored World Vision children since she was in high school. She has five grown children, the two youngest having been adopted from Korea. She plans to sponsor a child for every grandchild that is added to their ever-growing family.

Two families come together in Chile.



COURTESY MCHURON FAMILY



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

## Reflections

P E R U

Elizabeth Churata, 6, carries her dolls on her back, her head covered by a traditional Quechuan montera. Elizabeth is a sponsored child in Quiquijana, a village southeast of Lima, Peru's capital. When work started here five years ago, World Vision staff had to walk four or more hours to reach the villagers, who live more than 12,000 feet above sea level. Thanks to money raised by Colonial Church in Edina, Minn., staff now have a vehicle. Through sponsorship, Elizabeth and 1,500 other children here receive school supplies and annual health checkups. World Vision staff also train village mothers in nutrition and health care, and work to make the water system safe and clean. They still have to walk the rugged road during Peru's rainy season, but with children like Elizabeth waiting at the end of the journey, they know that every step matters.



# a generation to save

*Help turn the tide  
against AIDS!*

In the 15 seconds it takes you to read this ad, another child will become an orphan, joining the 14 million children around the world who have lost one or both parents to HIV/AIDS. You can help turn the tide on this crisis by becoming a HopeChild sponsor.

For \$30 a month you'll be the arms of Christ that surround a hurting child. You'll meet urgent daily needs, and provide assistance like trained counselors to look after children and promote biblical values of abstinence and marital fidelity.



World Vision

## Yes, I want to sponsor a HopeChild!

Please send me information and a photo of a child affected by the HIV/AIDS crisis. My monthly gift of \$30 will improve the quality of life for my child and his or her entire community.

I want to sponsor a  boy  girl  either

Check enclosed for my first \$30 gift (payable to World Vision)

Bill my monthly sponsorship gift to my credit/debit card:

VISA  MasterCard  American Express  Discover

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

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

 Child Sponsorship  
P.O. Box 70150  
Tacoma, WA 98481-0050  
[www.worldvision.org/hope](http://www.worldvision.org/hope)

SOURCE 1 W1299

Founded in 1950, World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization serving the world's poorest children and families in nearly 100 countries.

To start your sponsorship, mail this coupon today or call 1.866.332.4453.

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

If you have questions, comments,  
or a change of address,  
you may call toll-free:  
(866) 332-4453

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
World Vision