

WorldVision

SPRING 2005

eyes of
sorrow
arms of
comfort

PROVIDING REFUGE IN THE
WAKE OF THE TSUNAMIS Page 12

CHILDREN IN CRISIS | Page 20 HOW CHILDREN SUFFER | Page 28

God gives the purpose.
We supply the opportunity.

You make
it happen.

You've experienced the joy of sponsoring a boy or girl living in poverty. Imagine your sense of fulfillment from helping even more children who are waiting for a sponsor. This is possible by simply giving your church friends the opportunity to become child sponsors.

Through *A Child is Waiting* you'll receive all the tools you need to share child sponsorship with your church. Getting your new ministry started is easy! Just send in the coupon below.



WHO WE ARE

World Vision is a Christian relief and development organization dedicated to children and their communities worldwide. We reach their full potential by tackling the root causes of poverty.

WHO WE SERVE

Motivated by our faith in Jesus, we serve the poor—regardless of a person's religion, ethnicity, or gender—as a demonstration of God's unconditional love for all people.

WHY WE SERVE

Our passion is for the world's poorest children whose suffering breaks the heart of God. We help secure a better future for each child by focusing on lasting, community-based transformation. We partner with individuals and communities to empower them to develop sustainable solutions for clean water, food supplies, health care, education, and economic opportunities.

HOW WE SERVE

Since 1950, World Vision has helped millions of children and families by providing emergency assistance to those affected by natural disasters and civil conflict, developing long-term solutions within communities to alleviate poverty, and advocating for justice on behalf of the poor.

YOU CAN HELP

Partnering with World Vision provides many ways to honor God and put faith into action. By working together, we can make a lasting difference in the lives of children and families who are struggling to overcome poverty. Find out how you can help, see page 4, return the envelope found between pages 20 and 21, or visit www.worldvision.org.

YES! I want to make a difference by sharing sponsorship with my church!

- Please send me the **FREE** *A Child is Waiting* brochure so I can learn more about this opportunity.

You can also request more information by visiting www.worldvision.org/ACHildisWaiting. Return the completed coupon in the postage-paid envelope in the center of this magazine. Or mail coupon to: World Vision, P.O. Box 9716, MS 220, Federal Way, WA 98063-0716. Or call 1.866.332.4453.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

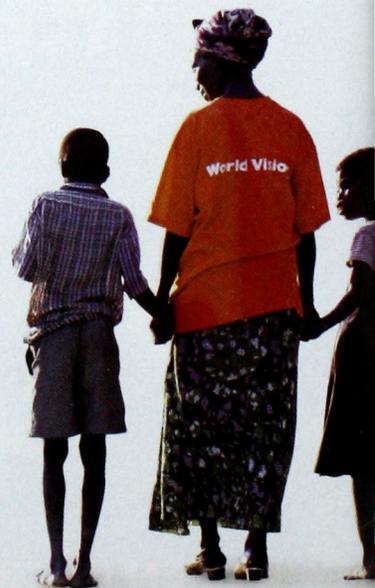
Phone _____ E-mail _____

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

SOURCE: 1024371



Building a better world for children



President Richard E. Stearns
Executive Editor Shelly Ngo

Editor-in-chief Milana McLead
Senior Editor Jane Sutton-Redner
Contributing Editor Kari Costanza
Photo Editor Jon Warren
Design & Production Journey Group, Inc.

ON THE COVER

Mathirvan, 5, timidly waits for a World Vision-administered measles shot. His family survived the tsunami in India, but they lost their home and all their possessions. 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 5 cents a copy to print and mail.

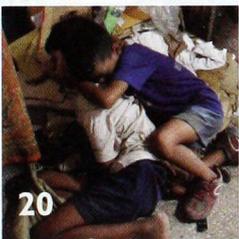
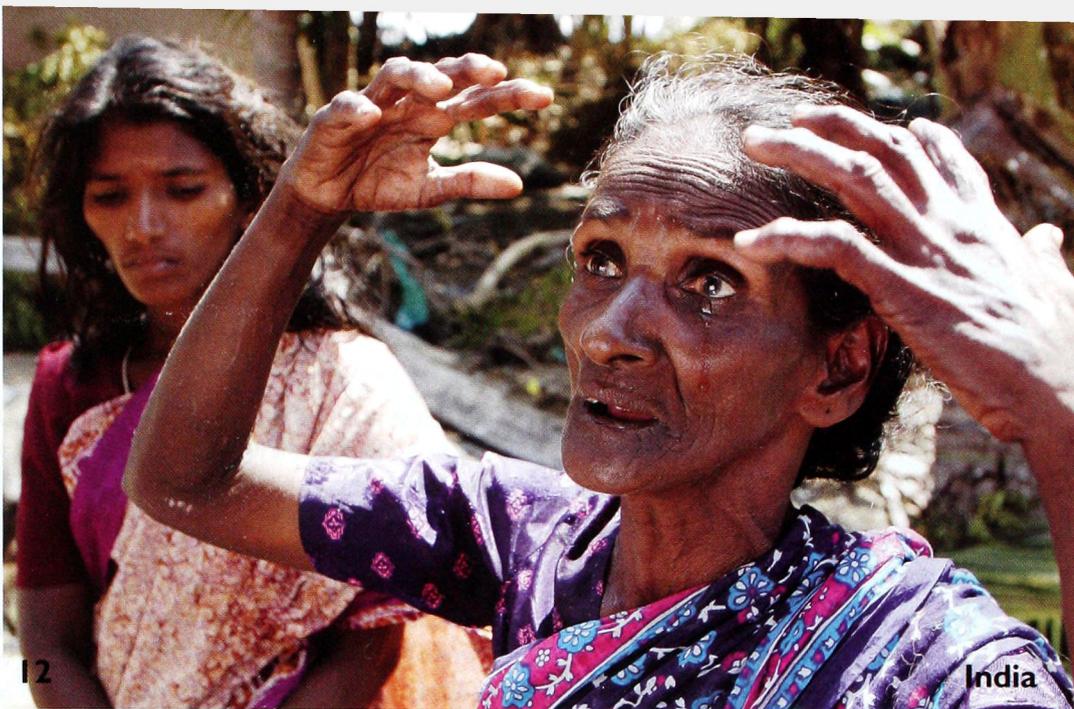
We welcome your comments and/or address changes. Send them to: The Editor, World Vision magazine, P.O. Box 9716, Federal Way, WA 98063-9716 or e-mail us: wvmagazine@worldvision.org.

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

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

 COPYRIGHT © 2005 BY WORLD VISION INC. 866-332-4453

For employment opportunities at World Vision, visit our Web site at www.worldvision.org.



→ Features

12 On the Cover: Southern Asia Disaster

The earthquake-triggered tsunamis shattered millions of lives. Learn how and where World Vision is responding.

20 Cambodia: Children in Crisis

Children living on the street and those forced into the sex trade in Phnom Penh live in a waking nightmare. For some, World Vision programs offer hope.

→ Your World Vision

6 News From the Field

Updates on typhoons in the Philippines and locust infestation in Niger; World Vision's report on the northern Uganda crisis; how a U.S. teen turned her life around; news about HIV/AIDS efforts.

10 In the Spotlight

A World Vision worker in Ghana uses humor to ensure the welfare of sponsored children and their families.

→ In Every Issue

5 From the President

Responding to crises such as the tsunami requires perseverance and a kind of tough faith.

36 Where Are They Now?

Brought back from the brink of famine, this former sponsored child now educates new generations in Ethiopia.

38 Inspiration

World Vision answers Scripture's call—and Jesus' personal example—to care for children in crisis.

39 Reflections

Therapy and loving attention lead to success for a disabled child in Armenia.

[reader services]



Find out how you can get involved with World Vision

Share World Vision with your family

- 1 FAMILY SPONSORSHIP** Break the cycle of poverty by sponsoring an entire family in Ghana, Romania, Sri Lanka, or El Salvador.
- 2 GIFT CATALOG** On behalf of your loved ones, give gifts such as goats, bicycles, or medical supplies to those in need.

Bring World Vision to your church

- 3 A CHILD IS WAITING** 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
- 5 LOVE LOAF** Help your congregation learn more about world poverty as they collect offerings for your church and World Vision.
- 6 REACH OUT TO THE POOR** A World Vision staff person will contact you with ways World Vision can help your church reach out to the poor.
- 7 ONE LIFE REVOLUTION** Give your youth group a tangible way to combat the HIV/AIDS pandemic by providing practical, life-sustaining items. www.oneliferevolution.org

Expand your world vision

- 8 E-MAIL UPDATES** Receive the latest news on World Vision's work throughout the world. *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 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 ADVOCACY** Expand your vision for justice, speak on behalf of the poor and powerless. www.seekjustice.org
- 12 WORLD VISION REPORT** Listen to World Vision's weekly newsmagazine on the radio or online. www.worldvisionradio.org

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

- 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.
- 18 GET A KICK OUT OF SHARING** Donate new or gently used soccer balls for children in need.

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 READER SERVICES

Please check the boxes below to learn more about partnering with World Vision to care for the poor. Clip this coupon and return it in the envelope found between pages 20 and 21 or mail to World Vision, P. O. Box 9716, MS 321, Federal Way, WA 98063-9716. Thank you.

- 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
- 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

FIRST NAME

LAST NAME

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP

PHONE

E-MAIL

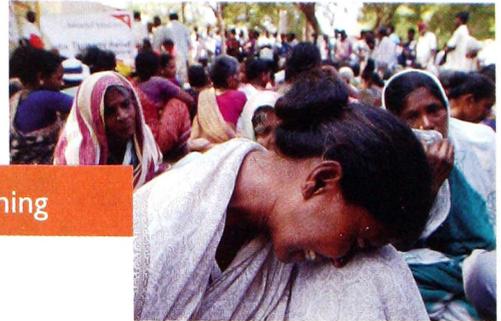
1024371

PHOTO: JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

Marathon, Not a Sprint

WHY DO PEOPLE TRAIN for marathons? Why do they suffer

gift planning



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

you can do the impossible!

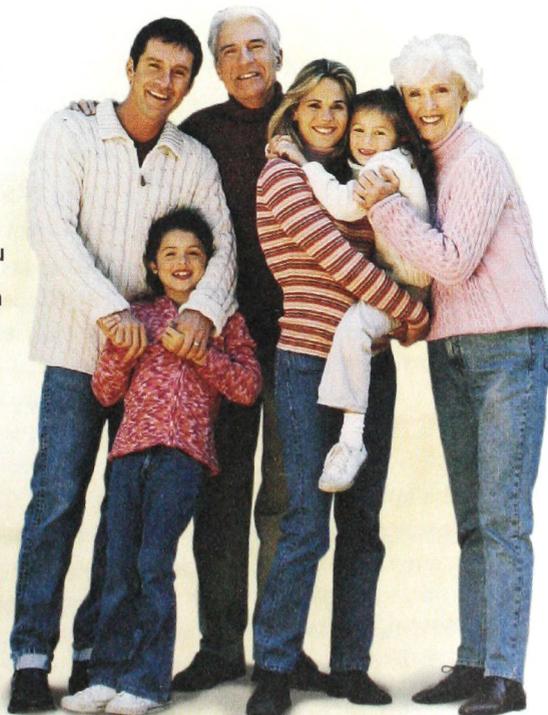
Make the difference of a lifetime

As a sponsor, you already know the joy of making a difference for one or more special children. Faithful donors like you often tell us they wish they could transform even more lives by giving a significant gift—the gift of a lifetime—but feel their dream is out of reach ...

With God all things are possible."
MATTHEW 19:26 (NIV)

Anyone can be a philanthropist

You don't need to be a financial genius or be independently wealthy to be able to give a gift of significant impact. Generous friends just like you are discovering ways to do more than they ever thought possible with the help of World Vision's Gift Planning team. We can show you several meaningful and practical ways to make that significant gift you've always dreamed of giving.



Some children need help over time to heal.

World Vision strives to be the one to provide immediate assistance; and, last but not least, to rebuild tomorrow. We are running a long race.

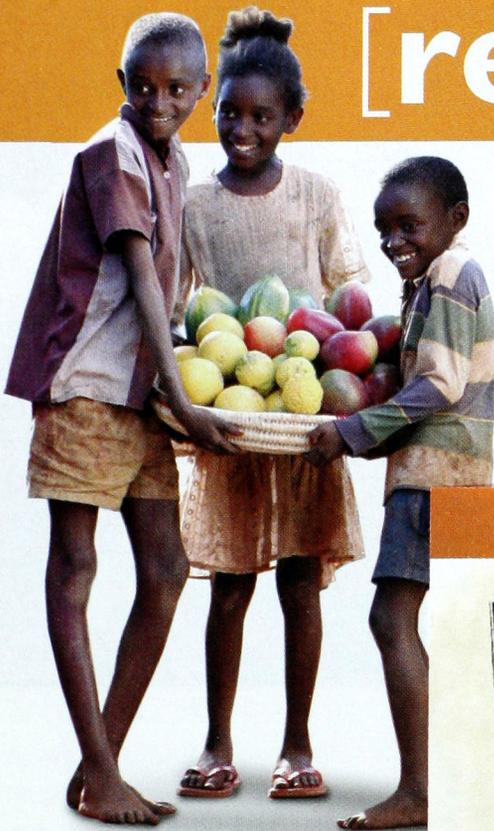
While no one in their right mind would try to diminish the suffering in the world, in Asia, it's important to remember that these victims are no less precious in the eyes of God than the AIDS orphan in Africa. Or the shivering poor in deepest India. Or the kidnapped child in

India, forced into the sex trade. With the hands and feet of Jesus, we are reaching for them all. Your generous donations to World Vision provide immediate relief to people facing life's greatest struggles—whether or not their plight makes headlines—and it ensures we stay until the job is complete.

Let us run with perseverance the race set out for us," Paul wrote. "Consider that we have endured such opposition ... so you will not grow weary and lose heart" (Hebrews 12:1-3).

I advised the Hebrews to gird their loins for the long road ahead. The Lord told them, would not go to the end, would go to the enduring, to those who build a kind of tough faith through the trials who endured everything for us. ■

See reverse for more details. Then complete the card between pages 36 and 37 to start doing the impossible!



Find out how you can get involved with World Vision

4 30 HOUR FAMINE Get your youth group or school involved in the fight against world hunger by participating in World Vision's

U.S. children through tutoring programs, inner-city youth initiatives, and other domestic ministries.

Share World Vision with your family

- 1 FAMILY SPONSORSHIP** Break the cycle of poverty by sponsoring an entire family in Ghana, Romania, Sri Lanka, or El Salvador.
- 2 GIFT CATALOG** On behalf of your family members, give gifts such as goats, bicycles, medical supplies to those in need.

Bring World Vision to your church

- 3 A CHILD IS WAITING** Show your church family how they can make a difference through child sponsorship.



Imagine your possibilities

Imagine making the impact of a lifetime. Saving hundreds of children from the grip of poverty, restoring families' health and hope, demonstrating God's love to entire communities around the world—it's all within your reach!

Let us show you how you *can* do more than you ever thought possible.

Start doing the impossible today

There's no reason to wait. Powerful gift planning tools can help you realize your giving dream. Here are just a few possibilities:

- Name World Vision in your Will or Trust.
- Name World Vision as a beneficiary of your retirement assets or life insurance policy.
- Give assets you no longer need, such as stocks, bonds, land, a boat, or jewelry.
(World Vision must first review and approve the transfer of all assets.)
- Donate your home now and continue to live in it for life.

Your dream, your gift

At World Vision, we love to help donors and friends realize the impossible. To learn how our Gift Planning team can help you discover and plan a gift that meets your unique needs and goals, please call us at **1.866.332.4453** or e-mail giftplanning@worldvision.org.

Complete the card between pages 36 and 37 today!

WORLD VISION

Please check the boxes below to let us know how you want to care for the poor. Clip this coupon between pages 20 and 21 or mail to World Vision, Federal Way, WA 98063-9716. Thank you!

- 1 2 3 4 5
 11 12 13 14 15

FIRST NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE _____

SPRING 05

World Vision

Building a better world for children

Nothing contained herein is intended to provide legal advice or services. It is recommended that you consult with independent legal and tax professionals to address your individual needs.

Marathon, Not a Sprint

WHY DO PEOPLE TRAIN for marathons? Why do they suffer all that daily agony in order to run an even longer race that's even more painful to complete?

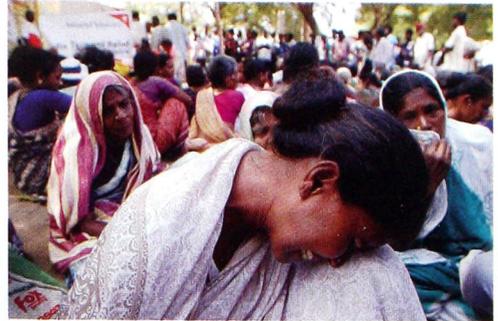
Ask runners, and they'll tell you the race itself is not pleasant. They run because there's a personal reward that comes from perseverance.

In the same way, our spiritual lives are rewarded by perseverance. We develop a kind of "tough faith" that refuses to falter in the face of adversity. I saw this most clearly during the recent disaster in southern Asia.

The world gazed in transfixed horror at images of death and destruction from the earthquake and tsunamis. But while many organizations were just beginning to grasp the breadth and depth of the crisis, World Vision was already on the ground, helping the hurting.

With nearly 4,000 workers in the five worst-affected countries, World Vision was uniquely positioned to respond. Our staff, many of whom are nationals, have specific skills and resources developed over decades of work in these areas. Not only do they speak the language and understand the culture, they're able to make immediate damage assessments and signal our global relief team about what aid supplies are necessary to help the wounded thousands.

In Indonesia, World Vision established "Child-friendly Spaces" where traumatized children received physical and psychological support. Within days two cargo ships headed to the devastated region



JOHN WARREN/WORLD VISION

Disaster victims need help over time to heal.

open hearts. World Vision strives to be the first in, to provide immediate assistance; and the last out, to rebuild tomorrow. We know we are running a long race.

And while no one in their right mind would try to diminish the suffering in southern Asia, it's important to remember that those victims are no less precious in the eyes of God than the AIDS orphan in Africa. Or the shivering poor in deepest Armenia. Or the kidnapped child in Cambodia, forced into the sex trade.

As the hands and feet of Jesus, we are to serve them all. Your generous donations to World Vision provide immediate comfort to people facing life's greatest hurdles—whether or not their plight makes headlines—and it ensures we stay until the job is complete.

"Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us," Paul wrote. "Consider him who endured such opposition ... so that you will not grow weary and lose heart" (Hebrews 12:1-3).

Paul advised the Hebrews to gird themselves for the long road ahead. The race, he told them, would not go to the swift. It would go to the enduring, to those souls who build a kind of tough faith through the One who endured everything for us. ■

of Aceh, carrying tarps, kitchen utensils, clothing, and buckets supplied by World Vision. In India, we provided immediate relief for more than 3,000 families and assisted another 35,000 in Chennai and the coastal districts. Through coordinated efforts with doctors and local churches, World Vision provided vital aid such as medicine, food, water, blankets, and clothing.

The story continues in Sri Lanka, Thailand and Myanmar. We're working on everything from building water tanks and latrines to distributing lanterns and helping to rebuild schools, homes, and businesses.

Behind it all is tough faith. This tragedy, which killed more than 200,000 and affected more than 1 million, could shatter a heart of stone.

For 55 years, World Vision's work around the globe has revealed the power of transformation. In the midst of the greatest devastation, we've witnessed how lives are renewed through open hands and

"...let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."

—Hebrews 12:1

➔ News From the Field



Philippines

Typhoon victims evacuate to safety.

Philippines > With the help of concerned volunteers, World Vision responded to a series of typhoons and storms that struck the country in December 2004. Typhoon Yoyong left more than 1,000 people dead or missing as it hurtled along the path left by Typhoon Violeta. In the aftermath, students and church members joined World Vision staff in Manila to pack sacks of rice for victims. "We saw their suffering on television. This is our humble way to help them," said Jeffrey Daria, a student who received a text message about the volunteer opportunity. World Vision provided 21,500 relief packs containing food and mineral water to affected families.



Sudan

Sudan > By making clay stoves, women in relief camps in southern Darfur are helping to protect themselves. The search for firewood takes women beyond the security of camp borders—subjecting them to robbery, rape, or violence from *janjaweed* militia. With World Vision's training to build fuel-efficient stoves—which are easy to make and reduce firewood

consumption by 40 percent—women minimize their trips outside the camps. The training sessions also include cooking lessons that emphasize saving time and fuel. Graduates then train others.

Mexico > World Vision Mexico benefited from the auction of photographs by celebrated photographer Annie Leibovitz. The images of prominent celebrities were part of an American Express traveling exhibit, "Rewarding Lives," that arrived in Mexico City in October 2004. Autographed pictures of Robert DeNiro, Marc Anthony, and Tiger Woods were among 45 offered. The auction raised \$10,000 for World Vision's child-focused community development programs in Mexico.

Azerbaijan > Donated books are a boon to youth learning English. Prentice Hall, one of the leading educational publishers in the United States, donated 250,000 books to World Vision in November 2004. "Children have almost no access to English language materials," said



Azerbaijan

Leslie Harnish, children's program manager for World Vision Azerbaijan. "Students at universities are [asking] for classics and fiction in English. These books will be a great source for them."



JON SHADID/WORLD VISION

Niger > Locusts and drought have devastated crops and farmland, causing an exodus of rural families to the capital, Niamey, and to neighboring countries. Severe food deficits are likely for Niger, already the second poorest country in the world. "People usually resort to eating leaves in the lean season, but this year the locusts have already stripped the trees," said Jane Kwambah, World Vision Niger national director. Her team is responding by stocking cereal banks and launching work projects that pay participants in food.

Children in Uganda: Pawns of Politics

A recent World Vision report documents the impact of a long-overlooked crisis on children. "Pawns of Politics: Children, Conflict, and Peace in Northern Uganda" examines the 18-year war in which more than 20,000 children have been enslaved by a rebel group calling itself the Lord's Resistance Army. The report finds that HIV infection rates in the war-torn region are nearly double that of the rest of the country, and children's malnutrition rates are as high as 21 percent.

"Pawns of Politics" is part of World Vision's efforts to increase U.S. government action on the northern Uganda crisis. In October 2004, World Vision staff briefed the Human Rights Caucus in the U.S. Congress on the report. "When a superpower like the United States is concerned about the suffering of children, positive change can occur," said Rory E. Anderson, World Vision's senior policy advisor for Africa and the report's lead author. To obtain a copy, visit www.seekjustice.org. ■



CHARLES MANGI/WORLD VISION



Hope Update

News from World Vision's HIV/AIDS work around the globe

World AIDS Day: U.S. Roundup >

Students at four Christian colleges observed Dec. 1, 2004, with all-day events entitled, "Lives Are At Stake." They prayed, fasted, and held community events that raised awareness and funds for HIV/AIDS programs. ... More than 300



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

World Vision employees in Federal Way, Wash., put feet to their faith by participating in "6,000 Steps for 6,000 Orphans" — a step for every child who loses a parent to AIDS each day. Walking around a local mall, they raised \$55,000 for AIDS-affected children. One staff member vacationing in

China did her 6,000 steps on the Great Wall... An e-mail campaign enlisted 8,000 World Vision friends to write to their congressional representatives, urging them to support full funding for global AIDS in 2005 and dedicate 10 percent to orphan care.

Indian Christians Come Together on HIV/AIDS >

World Vision brought leaders of churches and Christian missions agencies together in India in October 2004, encouraging them to work against the AIDS pandemic. More than 85 Christian leaders participated in conferences in Chennai, where India's first HIV infection was detected in 1986, and Shillong, in the northeast region that is the second-most heavily affected area in the country. Through videos and presentations, participants learned about the suffering of people living with HIV. They discussed how Christians can respond to offer hope and raise resources for affected families. At the conclusion of both conferences, participants committed themselves and their churches to fight HIV/AIDS. ■

➔ News From the Field

Tanesha's Blessings

A girl from one of Chicago's forgotten communities grows into a leader with a passion for the world's poor. *by Cassandra Wyssbrod*



CASSANDRA WYSSBROD/WORLD VISION

Tanesha Manuel had been heading in the wrong direction academically, until she discovered a foundation of faith.

UNTIL RECENTLY, THE MAIN thing Tanesha Manuel knew about Africa was that the slave trade once started there. Then she learned about the continent's current troubles: that people could die of drinking contaminated water; that wives unknowingly contracted AIDS from their husbands and spread it to their children.

Even so, when the 18-year-old high school student had the chance to go to Zambia, she seized the opportunity. "I wanted to come as close as possible to Zambian reality," she explained, "so that I may come back to the United States and aggressively voice [people's] cries for aid."

Her desire became reality last year when she took her first-ever plane ride to Lusaka, Zambia—a long way from her native Chicago. It was an eye-opening trip for a girl who might have taken a much different path.

She met children living in poverty who had lost their parents. That resonated with Tanesha, whose dad died when she was 9. She

grew up poor in a South Side community where drugs, crime, violence, and death were common.

After her father's death, Tanesha's academic performance began to slip. Her smart mouth and anger started getting her in trouble. By the time she entered high school, she was headed in the wrong direction.

That changed when Tanesha's grandmother took her to church at the historic West Point Missionary Baptist Church, once part of the Underground Railroad. Tanesha had previously avoided God, but after several of her friends died as a result of violence, she started to wonder, *If I die, where am I going?*

At West Point, she found her Savior as well as someone to disciple her. Kenyatta Barry joined West Point as a youth pastor and a World Vision youth outreach worker. "I saw him become like a father to the other students—I realized I needed that in my life," she said. "Pastor Barry sees my potential and won't let me settle for less."

Kenyatta introduced his youth group to World Vision's 30 Hour Famine program as a way to educate them about needs beyond Chicago's borders. For 30 hours, participants go without food while raising funds to alleviate the effects of hunger worldwide. Funds raised in Chicago help orphans and vulnerable children in Zambia.

Tanesha participated in the 30 Hour Famine, then became a team leader in 2001 and helped World Vision plan a city-wide Famine event. She boldly encouraged



WORLD VISION ZAMBIA

Chicago-area 30 Hour Famine leaders, including Tanesha (front right), visited AIDS-affected communities in Zambia.

students to respond to the suffering of others despite their own difficult circumstances. She could speak from experience. “The fact that I live in a low-income household and may miss a meal or two a day doesn’t mean that the [funds] I do receive can’t be a blessing to someone else,” she explained.

When World Vision’s Chicago staff offered Famine participants the opportunity to go to Zambia, Tanesha was one of three students selected.

While traveling, she was touched by the Zambians’ appearance. “They looked like me—their noses were the same,” she said. “In church, I could not understand their words, but was I amazed at how they moved like me, how they worshipped like me.”

The experience helped Tanesha realize that although her childhood was poor by American standards, she had much to be grateful for. She thought back to the times when there was no heat in her home and how she kept warm by snuggling with her three older brothers. Tanesha met children who had no one to snuggle with—or to protect them.

Today, Tanesha is a powerful voice for those children and others living in poverty. She hopes to study film in college and make a positive impact in the media industry someday, devoting part of her salary to World Vision’s projects in Africa. She continues to lead West Point’s 30 Hour Famine effort, and on World Vision’s behalf, she speaks at youth conferences and churches.

She lives her message: No matter your circumstances, you can reach out to care for somebody less fortunate. ■

—Cassandra Wyssbrod is a marketing specialist for World Vision in Chicago.

» **FAST FACT** Last autumn, World Vision’s The Storehouse held back-to-school distributions in 12 U.S. cities. More than 17,800 children received backpacks filled with school supplies that had been donated by corporations.

➔ Get Involved

Put Hope in Motion > Naomi Overton hoped to climb Wyoming’s Grand Teton for her 40th birthday, but initially canceled her plans because the cost seemed too high. Later, her circumstances changed, and she says she “sensed God whispering to use my hiking passion for him.”

Naomi called World Vision and learned about its new program, “Put Hope in Motion,” that provided a way for her to use her climb to raise money for AIDS-affected children. All she had to do was set up a Web page



COURTESY NAOMI OVERTON

inviting family and friends to sponsor her. Suddenly the

trip’s significance went beyond her birthday.

“Since Natalie Joy, our youngest child’s twin, died, I’ve understood that God may be telling me to use the extra resources I have to serve other children,” she says. “This climb allowed me to do that and listen to ‘God-whispers.’ ”

Put Hope in Motion provides added value to any athletic goal or activity by connecting it to children—the 15 million children in the world orphaned by AIDS. Funds raised through participants’ sponsors go to World Vision’s Hope Initiative, a global campaign to help turn the tide against HIV/AIDS by providing aid to orphaned children and meeting the needs of families and communities devastated by the pandemic.

It starts with choosing a goal, either in a group or as an individual. World Vision can help participants create personal fund-raising Web pages.

“As I recognized how God was leading me up the mountain,” Naomi says, “I wished I could see the faces of those African children, and I prayed they might find similar support.” Many children will—thanks to Naomi’s determination and faith.

For more information or to participate in Put Hope in Motion, go to www.worldvision.org/phim or call toll free (866) 332-4453. ■



In the Spotlight



PROSPERO AGBESHE (3)/WORLD VISION

In his zeal to spread the value of education, J. B. Averedam checks in on children's homes in the morning to make sure they go to school.



Force for Change > Cheerful welcomes greet John Bosco Abegu Averedam as he rides his motorbike through Old Konkrompe, a village in Ghana. Ducking to avoid tree boughs, he maneuvers his bike between houses. Children run after him, chanting excitedly, "J.B.! J.B.! J.B.!"

J.B., 29, is a familiar presence around Old Konkrompe. As a "Friend of Families," he regularly visits households involved in World Vision's Family Sponsorship program, conducting lively

conversations on everything from immunizing children to improving income sources. But it's not all serious business—J.B. often has villagers reeling with laughter.

A local sub-chief calls J.B. "a force for change." Trained as a primary-school teacher, J.B. encourages families to send their

children to school, often visiting homes in the morning to urge children to get to class. He even persuaded a boy known for truancy, Nana Kyere, to change his ways. Now 21, Nana is a serious student in school. "His own parents believe this is a miracle," J.B. says.

J.B. sees the private struggles of children, youth, and community leaders alike. He prays for them and offers words of hope. As a resident of Old Konkrompe, he also participates in the solutions to their problems—he contributes to communal labor and helps pay for repairs to the community borehole well.

On occasion, J.B. goes the extra mile. When 8-year-old Afia Yeboah needed emergency surgery, he donated blood. "At that crucial time, [Afia's] mother could not donate blood because of her health," J.B. explains. "Her father was willing, but he had a different blood type, and the family could not afford the price the commercial donors charged." The successful operation saved Afia's life.

The fifth of seven children from Ghana's Kassena-Nankana district, J.B. is a devout Christian. His days begin at dawn with prayer for God's guidance. Then he climbs onto his Honda SLR 125 motorbike to zip from one home to the other—in all, there are 100 families under his care. His teaching background plus a college course in rural development have equipped him for this demanding work.

His motivation for helping the poor started early. In 1991, he was one of four high-school students selected to help conduct a baseline survey for World Vision's Ghana Rural Water Project. He saw malnourished children whose parents



B. has a soft spot for children, dating back to high school. "Back those days, I would gather children at every opportunity and teach them for hours," he recalls.

ould not afford medical care, much less school.

"Some families could not even afford one square meal a day," he recalls. "It suddenly dawned on me that should I ever work for World Vision, I would be part of the solution."

Starting in 1999, he was. Today, he brings humor, faith, education, and even occasional heroism to an important job—being a true friend to the families of Old Konkrompe. ■

—by Prospero Agbeshie

Glad You Asked

How can I be sure my donations to World Vision are used with integrity?



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

World Vision follows accounting procedures established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and is annually audited by a nationally known, independent CPA firm. In addition, the organization fully adheres

to the standards set by independent financial watchdog organizations such as the Council of Better Business Bureaus and the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA), of which World Vision is a founding member. World Vision also has reduced overhead costs for the past nine years. In 2004, these efforts enabled the organization to deliver 87 percent of its total revenue to programs benefiting children and families in need. ■

➔ Upcoming Events

MARCH

- > Vision Villages trip to Honduras, March 12-18, www.worldvision.org/visionvillages
- > World Water Day, March 22, www.unesco.org/water/water_celebrations

APRIL

- > Pastor's Vision Trip to the Dominican Republic, April 12-21, www.worldvision.org/c2c
- > Vision Villages trip to Honduras, April 23-29, www.worldvision.org/visionvillages
- > 30 Hour Famine national observance, April 29-30, www.30hourfamine.org

MAY

- > National Day of Prayer, May 5, www.nationaldayofprayer.org
- > A Child is Waiting weekend to present sponsorship to your church, May 7-8, www.worldvision.org/achildiswaiting



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

May 5

JUNE

- > World Refugee Day, June 20, www.unhcr.ch
- > Vision Villages trip to Honduras, June 25- July 1, www.worldvision.org/visionvillages

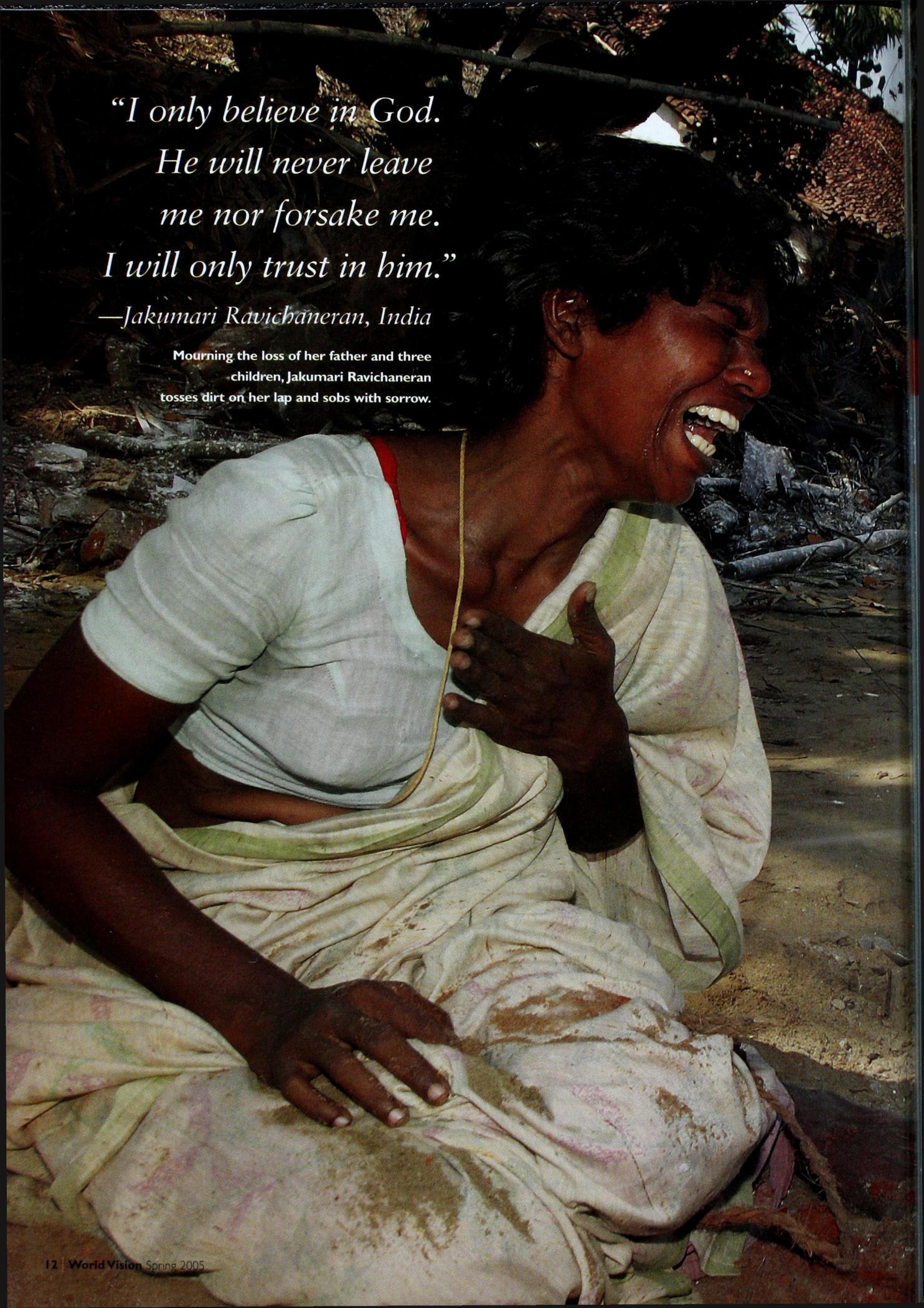
JULY

- > Vision Villages trip to Honduras, July 2-8, www.worldvision.org/visionvillages

fyi Every 15 seconds, a child dies from water-related diseases.

That amounts to nearly 6,000 deaths a day—equal to the casualties from 20 jumbo jets crashing.

—World Health Organization



*“I only believe in God.
He will never leave
me nor forsake me.
I will only trust in him.”*

—Jakumari Ravichaneran, India

Mourning the loss of her father and three children, Jakumari Ravichaneran tosses dirt on her lap and sobs with sorrow.

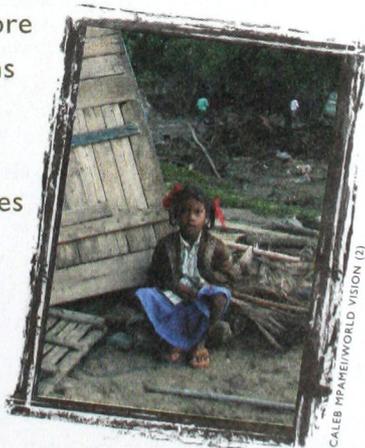
For people living in **poverty**,
every day is an emergency.



Then there are days
like **Dec. 26, 2004.**

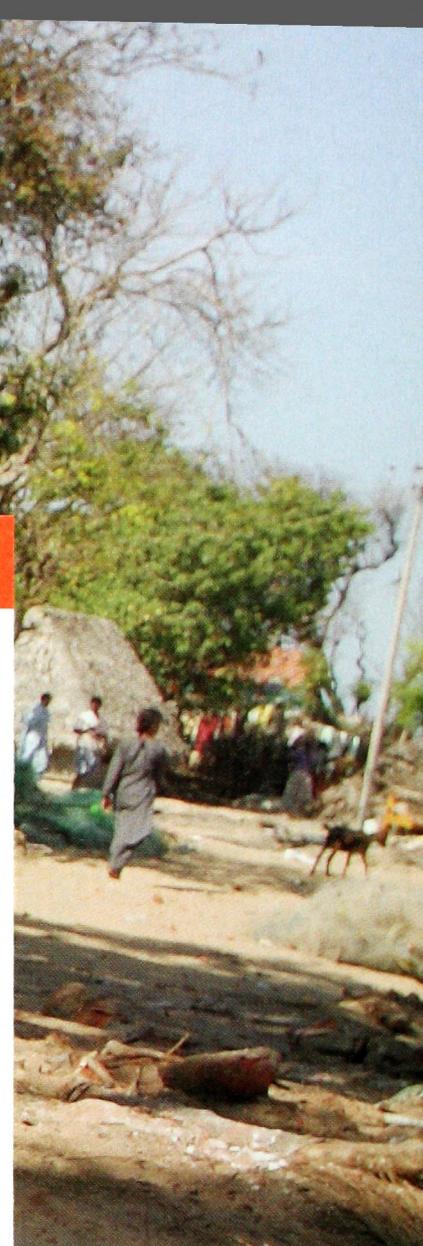
In seven terrible hours, tsunamis killed more than 200,000 people and shattered millions of lives in southern Asia and East Africa. Deadly waters demolished homes and entire villages, robbing already poor families of the little they had—and those they loved: children ... spouses ... siblings.

If ever there was a time to help, it is now.



o
end'

*with monstrous fury on
tides as far away as East
Africa, waves overwhelmed the
land, the rich and the poor,
creating a maelstrom of muddy
waters—and stand aghast at
the wreckage once fed their lives.*



*"I only believe in God.
He will never leave
me nor forsake me.
I will only trust in him."*

—Jakumari Ravichaneran, India

Mourning the loss of
children
tosses dirt on her



CALEB MPANJE/WORLD VISION



PHILIP MAHER/WORLD VISION



STEVE LEVITT/WORLD VISION

World Vision works in 10 countries affected by the tsunami and in many other poverty-stricken places vulnerable to emergencies. Give now to help today's victims ... and tomorrow's.

- \$30 provides food and care for one person affected by the tsunami.
- A \$100 Family Survival Kit provides things like blankets, water purification tablets, and hygiene products for crisis victims.
- A gift of any size will help World Vision continue to provide relief as well as start rebuilding communities.

Clip this coupon and mail it in the envelope located between pages 20 and 21.

Here's my gift to help families affected by the tsunamis and other crises around the world. Amount: \$ _____

Check payable to World Vision

Charge my gift to my debit card/credit card

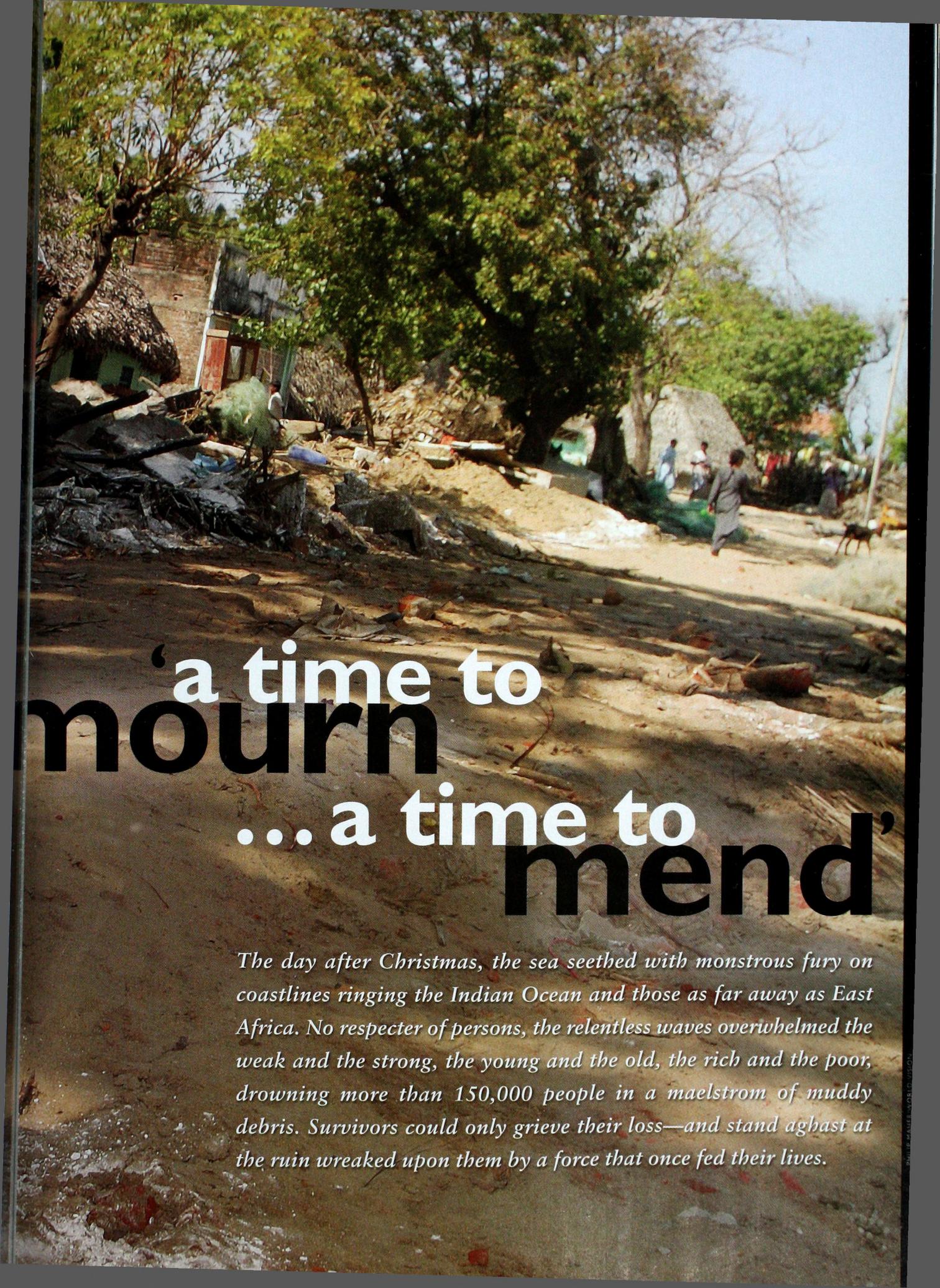
VISA MasterCard American Express Discover

Card No. _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ Expiration Date _____ / _____

Name on Card _____

Signature _____

Email address _____



**'a time to
mourn
... a time to
mend'**

The day after Christmas, the sea seethed with monstrous fury on coastlines ringing the Indian Ocean and those as far away as East Africa. No respecter of persons, the relentless waves overwhelmed the weak and the strong, the young and the old, the rich and the poor, drowning more than 150,000 people in a maelstrom of muddy debris. Survivors could only grieve their loss—and stand aghast at the ruin wreaked upon them by a force that once fed their lives.

“We didn’t have time to grab anything at all, except for the children.”

—Mrs. Selvarani, Sri Lanka



JON WARREN (5) / WORLD VISION

Above: Bulletin boards in Banda Aceh, Indonesia, post both flyers about the missing and lists of the dead. **Right:** “I am sad and scared,” said survivor Ponnia Jaykumar, as he tries to comfort his daughter, Jayadarshne, 5, in Sri Lanka.



‘a time



Search and a time to give up'

When the tsunami struck, Mrs. Selvarani and her children ran for their lives toward a nearby beach and safety. **Right:** After losing her parents in the tsunami, Prephaba had to handle the responsibility of signing for a World Vision relief kit. **Far right:** Though safe now at a World Vision center in Sri Lanka, displaced families grieve, remember their losses, and try to move on.





'a time to plant...and a ti



Above: World Vision-sponsored child Jagar Jayasanthi, 12, narrowly escaped the tsunami in Sri Lanka but lost a sister. Clarence Sutharsan, a World Vision worker who, along with others, saved the lives of many sponsored children—her at a World Vision center. Far left and middle: Preserving antibiotics (India) and clean water (Indonesia) are just two provisions quickly provided by World Vision in the wake of a disaster.

“I ran into the jungle and climbed on a big rock. We were all praying. The next morning we moved to this World Vision center because we knew we would be safe here.”

—Jaganathan Jayasanthi, 12, Sri Lanka



Above: Long a presence in the affected region, World Vision was uniquely positioned to implement relief nearly immediately, distributing survival packs, food, water, and cooking utensils. **Left:** Recognizing the need to provide support for surviving children, “Child-friendly Spaces” provide a safe place for children to learn, play, and receive trauma counseling.

JOHN WARREN (3) / WORLD VISION

to build

World Vision: First In, Last Out



World Vision works in 10 countries affected by the tsunamis and has 3,700 workers—many of them nationals—in the five hardest-hit nations. Within hours of the disaster, staff began to respond to survivors' immediate needs. And World Vision will stay to provide long-term assistance, bringing to bear more than 40 years of experience in Asia.

India

World Vision operations started: 1958

Children sponsored by U.S. donors: 45,869

World Vision's response: Currently providing seven-day emergency packs containing food, clothing, and cooking supplies to 45,000 families in Tamil Nadu, Andra Pradesh, and Kerala; also sending relief goods to the Andaman Islands.

Future: Focus on the well-being of children through psychosocial



CALIE HPAHEI/WORLD VISION

activities and improving their access to education; rebuilding infrastructure, including homes and cyclone shelters; improving health and sanitation; providing fishermen with nets and boats to restart their income.

Indonesia

World Vision operations started: 1962

Children sponsored by U.S. donors: 16,309

World Vision's response: Currently assisting 40,000 people in



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

Sumatra's Aceh province (a new area of operation) with food, water, emergency supplies, temporary shelters, and latrines; also providing "Child-friendly Spaces" for children aged 3-13.

Future: A three-year commitment will help rebuild homes and infrastructure in Aceh.

Myanmar

World Vision operations started: 1992

Children sponsored by U.S. donors: 5,179

World Vision's response: Currently providing food and blankets for 1,900 people in southern communities along the Bay of Bengal; also repairing bridges.

Future: Rebuild homes and help families find new sources of income.



LAYHTOO/WORLD VISION

Sri Lanka

World Vision operations started: 1977

Children sponsored by U.S. donors: 11,259

World Vision's response: Currently targeting 12



STEPHEN MATTHEWS/WORLD VISION

affected districts and 200,000 people for distribution of food, medicine, sleeping mats, cooking supplies, and clothing.

Future: Coordinate with the government to provide new housing for homeless families.

Thailand



World Vision operations started: 1973

Children sponsored by U.S. donors: 16,986

World Vision's response: Currently working in Ranong, Phang Nga, Krabi, and Phuket, distributing plastic sheets and milk for women and children, building temporary shelters for displaced families, and providing counseling for children and teens.

Future: Plans include rebuilding infrastructure and providing micro-enterprise programs for those who lost jobs and businesses.

'a time to heal...'

Note: The facts and information presented here, while current at presstime, are subject to change.



WID YOU KNOW?

World Vision's Response

World Vision is addressing their sorrow and trauma through Child-friendly spaces—safe places where children can play, read, draw, and start to heal. Thousands of World Vision staff living in affected regions responded quickly. Workers in Sri Lanka even opened their own homes to displaced neighbors. World Vision is coordinating with government leaders to partner in the worldwide tsunami relief effort. World Vision participated in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit in Jakarta on Jan. 6. On Jan. 10, U.S. staff attended a meeting with 20 other organizations hosted by President George W. Bush. To date, more than a dozen World Vision airlifts have brought emergency supplies and equipment to the region—including six Toyota Land Cruisers flown in from Nairobi, Kenya. Generous donors are helping World Vision meet its \$200 million goal for the tsunami relief fund—the largest in the organization's history.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- **GIVE** For details, see the insert located between pages 12 and 13.
- **JOIN WITH OTHERS** Get your church, your child's class, or your friends involved in raising funds for the tsunami effort. Downloadable documents and materials—including videos, church bulletin inserts, and forms—are available on World Vision's website, www.worldvision.org. Look for the link to "Learn how you can help."
- **SPONSOR A CHILD** Provide long-term support to a child living in poverty in Asia or another region. Call (866) 332-4453 or sponsor online at www.worldvision.org.
- **PRAY** Lift up suffering families and children as well as World Vision workers serving them. To remind you to pray for these needs, detach and post the prayer card located between pages 28-29.

Rath, 13, endures beatings, taunts, and dog bites, often working on an empty stomach to make money to support his homeless family.

SUFFER THE LITTLE CHILD

Is there hope for a brighter d

World Vision



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

no **night lights**
no **lullabies**
no **kisses**
goodnight

*“Children are the bamboo
shoots who replace the
bamboo stalks” says an*

ancient Cambodian proverb.

In Phnom Penh, World Vision

is helping ensure that

Cambodia’s street children

grow strong roots.

GRAPHS BY JON WARREN

Rath, 13, endures beatings, taunts, and dog bites, often working on an empty stomach to make money to support his homeless family.

SUF LITTLE

Please update your address if necessary

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

() TELEPHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

YES!
I want to protect and care for children in crisis.

- Please use my gift of \$ _____ to help children in greatest need around the world.
- Please use my gift of \$ _____ to care for Cambodian street children or to help stop child sex tourism in Cambodia.
- I want to sponsor a child for \$30/month.
 - a girl a boy living in
 - Asia Africa Latin America Eastern Europe
 - where most needed
- I want my one-time donation to go where it's needed most. Amount: \$ _____

Check payable to World Vision

Charge my gift to my debit card credit card

Visa MasterCard American Express Discover

Card no. _____ - _____ - _____

Exp. Date _____ / _____

NAME ON CARD _____

*“Children are the bamboo
shoots who replace the
bamboo stalks” says an*

ancient Cambodian proverb.

In Phnom Penh, World Vision

is helping ensure that

Cambodia’s street children

grow strong roots.



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

**Millions of the world’s
children will never
know the comforts
American kids take
for granted. But they
deserve to be
protected, nurtured,
educated, and loved.**

You can help children in crisis, in Cambodia, South Asia and around the world. Your gifts enable World Vision to expand programs that care for boys and girls who have survived unimaginable circumstances. And your support emboldens World Vision to fight the conditions that entrap and harm children in the first place.

GRAPHS BY JON WARREN

PLEASE TEAR ALONG PERFORATED EDGES

Rath, 13, endures beatings, taunts, and dog bites, often working on an empty stomach to make money to support his homeless family.

SU
LITTLE



1024371

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

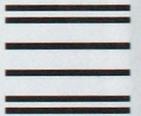
FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO 568 TACOMA WA

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

WORLD VISION

PO BOX 70081

TACOMA WA 98471-0081



NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES





*“Children are the bamboo
shoots who replace the
bamboo stalks” says an
ancient Cambodian proverb.
In Phnom Penh, World Vision
is helping ensure that
Cambodia’s street children
grow strong roots.*

KARI COSTANZA

REN

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JON WARREN



Ty, 12, and her mother, Mon Orch, rummage through garbage to find cardboard scraps. "When I collect paper, I sometimes cry," says Mon Orch.

“YOU scavenger girl!” snaps a street boy, seizing a chunk of Khoeun Lim’s hair and yanking her head back hard.

“A scavenger is better than a glue sniffer,” retorts Khoeun.

A World Vision outreach team within earshot rushes to Khoeun’s rescue, saving the tiny 12-year-old from a beating.

“*‘Khoeun is so brave,’* I thought,” says Somaly Chan, 19, one of the first World Vision outreach workers on the scene. “I was afraid, but I had to help. We told the boys to leave her alone, and we brought her to the center.”

Today Khoeun is liberated from the dangers of street life. She lives with 60 former street children in World Vision’s Bamboo Shoot Children’s Center in Phnom Penh, Cambodia’s capital. “My life is bright, and now I have freedom,” she smiles, placing her hands over her heart.

Street children like Khoeun are brought to the center by police, kind strangers, or World Vision outreach teams who take to the streets twice a week to find them. Since 1993, 1,725 children have passed through the center’s heavy iron gates seeking safety, nutritious food, and a place to sleep and learn skills. Most stay a year.

During that time, World Vision staff work to reunite the children with their families, providing food, clothes, job opportunities for their parents—whatever it takes to bring stability to the family. Most of these reunions are successful. In cases where families are too poor to take their children back, World Vision finds foster families willing to provide a loving home.

REACHING OUT TO THE CHILDREN

A full moon shines on the Mekong, casting Phnom Penh’s riverfront strip of restaurants and noisy bars in an orange glow. Outreach workers pull up in a well-marked World Vision truck, hop out, and unfurl a clean, green tarp on the cement. A little boy in Superman pajamas turns a few cartwheels on the tarp in delight—acknowledging with acrobatics what sanctuary these visits bring from life on the street. Dozens of children quickly cover every square inch, learning English from wooden puzzles, getting HIV/AIDS training, and hearing about the dangers of drugs. The smell of rubbing alcohol permeates the air as Somaly dresses minor cuts.

There may be as many as 10,000 children on the streets of Phnom Penh. UNICEF estimates that worldwide, 100 million children live on the street, and that number is growing. These children are vulnerable to disease, hunger, child prostitution, and death.

To survive, tactics turn desperate. “They run into traffic when the lights are red and beg money from tourists in cars,” says Sith Kong, 44, who directs the children’s center. “The older ones sell their blood to buy drugs,” he says. Glassy-eyed boys sniff glue instead of begging for food. “When they sniff glue they forget their worries,” says an outreach worker. “They forget their hunger. They forget their pain.”

Sith runs a very different kind of children’s center from the one in which he grew up. Like millions, he suffered under the Khmer Rouge’s communist takeover of Cambodia. Between 1975 and



Barang, 8, uses his brother, Rath, for a pillow as the boys try to get some sleep on the street. Barang doesn't go to school, so Rath tutors him.



Rath and Barang eye freshly baked bread they cannot afford. Below: A typical street family earns the equivalent of about 74 cents a day.

1979 he was forced to work in a children's labor camp. Only 15 at the time, Sith was separated from his parents in a country that had changed overnight into a national concentration camp. He learned to cry silently when he missed his parents. He worked, growing cotton, even when he was sick. "If I did not go, the team leader would accuse me of being lazy, and he might kill me," he says. As many as 2 million Cambodians were killed during this period—by execution, torture, disease, or starvation.

The Khmer Rouge, led by Pol Pot, dismantled families, culture, and the economy. A former school in Phnom Penh served as a slaughterhouse for Cambodia's educated professionals. Outside the city, a tower memorializes the massacre, its skull-packed platforms reaching skyward. Around the tower, remnants of clothing poke up from shallow graves as if imploring visitors to remember the dead buried there.

Today Cambodia is among the world's poorest 20 countries. The majority of its 13 million people live on less than a dollar a day. Half of its children have never been immunized against debilitating diseases like polio and tuberculosis. Profound poverty forces families into life on the streets.

A DIFFERENT WORLD FOR RATH

Khoeun's brother, Rath, still lives on the street. Just 13 years old, he is the family's breadwinner. He works all day, collecting cardboard to sell for recycling. "I get up at 4 a.m.," he says. Usually there is nothing for him to eat. "I just stay



hungry," he says. He searches for cardboard until late afternoon when he stops to beg for food. "I try to bring food to my mother and brother," he says—often leftover fried rice from people's lunches.

Rath will probably never go to World Vision's center. He chooses to stay on the street to support his widowed mother, Mi Sokhom. Rath is all that stands between her little family and starvation. "I don't have a house," says Mi Sokhom, tears filling her eyes. "I just have my bare hands." She limps down the street, her left foot badly swollen, to where she, Rath, and his brother, Barang, 8, sleep—a makeshift shelter of a tarp dangling from a corrugated fence. They store their few clothes in a plastic bag.

Former street child Somaly
Chan is an outreach worker
with World Vision at night.
During the day, she's realizing
her dream of becoming a
hairdresser.



“My brother is polite and generous,” says Khoen. “If he has anything, he gives it away. Once he bought a chalkboard to teach us,” she says. “He taught me literature and math. I was never at the top of my class, so Rath tutored me. I got to the rank of sixth.” Khoen knows her brother’s dream—to become a doctor one day and work with the poor. But for now, his job is collecting garbage and begging for food.

Across town, Khoen is helping to prepare lunch for everyone at the center, including a handful of children who have just arrived. Already the new children are bathed and wearing clothes picked from racks of freshly washed dresses, shirts, and trousers.

The cook crouches in the kitchen, crushing flower petals into spice with a mortar and pestle. The mortar and pestle set a beat, setting in motion a culinary ballet. It starts to smell like lunch.

Baskets full of vegetables, chicken, eggs, and pork were purchased this morning. The cook takes a child to market to teach her what to buy, how to bargain, and how much to pay. These children have spent months or years begging at markets for food from passers-by who hurl insults. Now they’re respected customers. In the kitchen, Khoen, between chopping and stirring, absentmindedly reaches to caress the scarred face of a little girl badly burned in a house fire that left her orphaned.

Dozens of bowls are ready to be filled with hot soup. At the houseparent’s signal, the children walk quickly to the tables. The smallest ones sit on plastic stools around four benches pushed together to make a table their size. The bigger ones find places at long

picnic tables. Khoen and her best friend, San Doung, 13, begin to serve, the littlest child first. The houseparent makes a special bowl of noodles for the burned girl, just vegetables and noodles, nothing too hot. A child stands to bless the food. Then, momentary quiet as the children dig into their meal.

The last meal the new children ate on the street was rice—with bits of rat mixed in.

KHOEUN'S BEST FRIEND

San is the last to begin eating after the lunchtime prayer. She has hopped up to make sure one of the new children has a spoon. Five months ago, the outreach team told San about the center—and how she could learn to sew and dance. “The thought of dancing appealed to me,” she says. “It became my dream to become a professional dancer.”

San’s family used to live in the countryside, but poverty forced them into the city to scavenge for cardboard. “I used to be afraid of the cars when I went to pick up cardboard,” she says, describing life on the streets. She shows the deep scar on her ankle where a dog attacked her.

“I cannot afford good food,” says San’s mother, Mon Orch, 37, her face browned by the sun, her teeth the color of coffee. “We’re starving, so we have to buy food like rat.”

When it rains, they huddle on a tarp-covered platform with another family. “It’s very crowded,” says Mon Orch. “It’s hard to sleep.” During these times San’s mother stops worrying about her



“I never went to church because I was too busy collecting paper,” says San (center). Khoeun (below, right) loves learning sewing and dancing—skills that can lead to future jobs.

son’s constant diarrhea and her own itching skin and dreams of having a house again.

Mon Orch and her husband are both uneducated orphans of the Pol Pot regime. “My parents died from disease. They were starving,” she says. The couple belongs to a lost generation of Cambodians who sacrifice the present to create a future for their children.

“I’m so glad Bamboo Shoot Children’s Center has allowed San to get an education. I want my children to be good people,” Mon Orch says. She laughs with joy at the thought of San dancing. “I never saw San dance before,” she says. When told of San’s dream—to become a professional dancer and earn enough money to buy the family a house, Mon Orch’s voice cracks with emotion. “People urge me to take San out of the center to collect garbage, but I want her to stay and do everything they teach her.” Mon Orch knows that parents can visit their children anytime at the center, but her life is so busy, collecting cardboard and foraging for food.

“Tell San to take care of herself, to study hard, to wash before meals and before bedtime,” says Mon Orch. “And tell her I love her.”

SAFE AND LOVED

San knows she is loved. It shows in her every movement as she practices Cambodian traditional dance. Life at the center seems to follow a beautiful, slow rhythm this afternoon. The costumed girls step and tap their heels, raising their hands in a graceful pose, like lotus flowers greeting the day. The boys in the

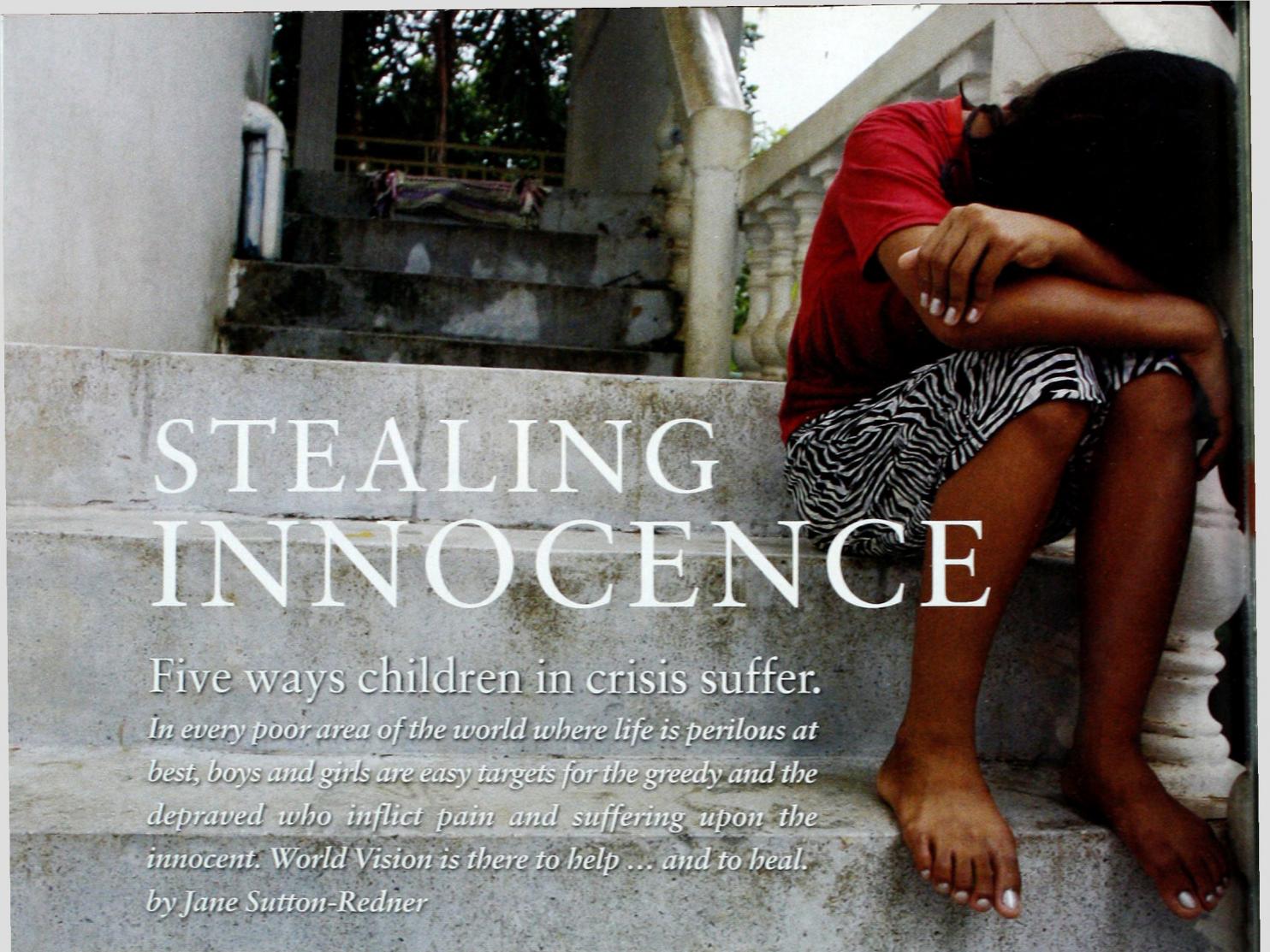


motorbike repair shop keep time to the music, using small gears as castanets. Eight of the new children have set up a miniature bowling set but aren’t sure how it works. They knock the pins down by hitting them with the ball instead of rolling it.

Sith watches the scene, keeping time to the music before trotting over to help the new children learn to bowl. Then the palm trees in the yard begin to sway wildly as the blustery wind warns of oncoming afternoon rains. As drops begin to fall, the children rush into the center—safe and loved, just an iron gate away from the streets they once braved. ■



"They said we were dust bins," remembers Khoeun of the taunts she endured on the street. "Now that I am here, I am better than before."



STEALING INNOCENCE

Five ways children in crisis suffer.

In every poor area of the world where life is perilous at best, boys and girls are easy targets for the greedy and the depraved who inflict pain and suffering upon the innocent. World Vision is there to help ... and to heal.

by Jane Sutton-Redner

CHILD PROSTITUTION

THE PAIN: Innocent girls and boys—some 2 million of them, and some as young as 5 years old—are forcefully prostituted into an escalating commercial sex trade. Many of these children are from impoverished families and are tricked by false offers of jobs that will help their families. Then, at the hands of local men and tourists from industrialized countries, children forced into sex slavery suffer lasting physical and psychological trauma as well as drug addictions, HIV/AIDS, unwanted pregnancies, and social stigma. **THE HEALING:** With backing from the U.S. government, World Vision works with national governments and law enforcement agencies in Cambodia, Thailand, Costa Rica, and the United States to identify and deter sex tourists and provide treatment for victims. At the community level, staff work with families to prevent children from being lured into the sex trade in the first place, and help create alternative ways for them to earn income. World Vision also cares for exploited children—

in recovery centers geared to their needs—helping them recover their health and hope for the future.

LIFE ON THE STREET

THE PAIN: As poor families move to cities to seek a better life that may end up out of reach, their children often end up on the streets. About 75 percent of the world's 100 million street children do have places they can return to at night, but the rest are permanently homeless. Either way, the streets are a dangerous place for children. Surviving by any means, they scavenge, beg, or steal. They fall victim to drug abuse and



STEPHEN MATTHEWS/WORLD VISION

stitution. The police and other authorities
 ten beat and harass them. **THE HEALING:**
 World Vision rescues homeless children, providing
 shelter, health care, education, and skills. Staff
 work to reunite children with their families or find
 other permanent care for them. Also, World
 Vision's sponsorship programs improve living
 conditions for families in rural areas, preventing
 them from moving to cities.

DISABILITIES



PLEASE PRAY WITH US!



1 Pray for children orphaned
 by the tsunamis, that they will
 be protected and comforted

2 Pray for healing for the
 hurt or sick

3 Pray for schools to be
 rebuilt so that children can
 restart education

4 Pray for World Vision staff in
 the tsunami relief zone who
 are demonstrating God's
 love to children and families

"Pray without ceasing."

-1 THESSALONIANS 5:16

1 soldiers. In war-
 conducts peace-
 ages children's
 for peace.

ildren around the
 oing to school or
 labor in homes,



SANJAY SOJWAL/WORLD VISION

HEALING: In
 o the worst forms of
 lve very young
 les employers to
 n hours for teen
 n transition out of
 et an education or

STEALING INNOCENCE

Five ways children

In every poor area of the world, best, boys and girls are easy targets of those who are impoverished and deprived who inflict pain on the innocent. World Vision is working to help.
by Jane Sutton-Redner

CHILD PROTECTION

THE PAIN: Innocent children, young and old—are forcefully pulled into commercial sex trafficking from impoverished areas by false offers of jobs. Then, at the hands of traffickers from industrialized nations, they are pushed into sex slavery suffering from psychological trauma, HIV/AIDS, unwanted pregnancies, and stigma. **THE HEALING:** U.S. government, World Vision, and national governments are working with agencies in Cambodia and the United States to educate tourists and provide the community level support to prevent children from being in trade in the first place. Alternative ways for World Vision also can

PLEASE PRAY WITH US



1 Pray for an end to sexual exploitation and sex trafficking of children



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION (2)

2 Pray that care and proper housing can be found for street children

3 Pray for child laborers to be delivered from the worst forms of labor

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.”

—EPHESIANS 6:18



DETACH AND DISPLAY AS A REMINDER TO PRAY
To help or to sign up for email updates, call (866) 332-4453 or visit www.worldvision.org

prostitution. The police and other authorities often beat and harass them. **THE HEALING:** World Vision rescues homeless children, providing shelter, health care, education, and skills. Staff work to reunite children with their families or find them permanent care for them. Also, World Vision's sponsorship programs improve living conditions for families in rural areas, preventing them from moving to cities.

DISABILITIES

THE PAIN: Children with physical and mental challenges in many developing countries suffer neglect—denied food, medical care, and education—and are often mistreated or worse.



SANJAY SOJWAL/WORLD VISION

More than 120 million children live with disabilities worldwide, yet only a tiny percentage receives rehabilitation. Up to 8 million disabled children are institutionalized and receive substandard care. **THE HEALING:** World Vision fights on behalf of disabled children by

eliminating the factors that impair them: malnutrition, contaminated water, and lack of health care. Staff provide special-needs children with medical care and rehabilitation, prosthetic devices and wheelchairs, and education or vocational training. They also look for caring homes for institutionalized children.

COMBAT

THE PAIN: Increasingly, children are forced to the front lines of the world's wars. An estimated 300,000 children under age 18 participate in armed conflict. Some are as young as 7. Many are kidnapped and coerced to fight, spy, and commit atrocities, sometimes against their own communities and families. **THE HEALING:** When child soldiers manage to escape and return to their villages, World Vision provides them with medical care, trauma counseling, education, and vocational opportunities. Staff also advocate with governments and other



KATE SCANNELL/MICHELLE/WORLD VISION

groups to stop the use of child soldiers. In war-torn societies, World Vision conducts peace-building activities and encourages children's groups to carry the standard for peace.

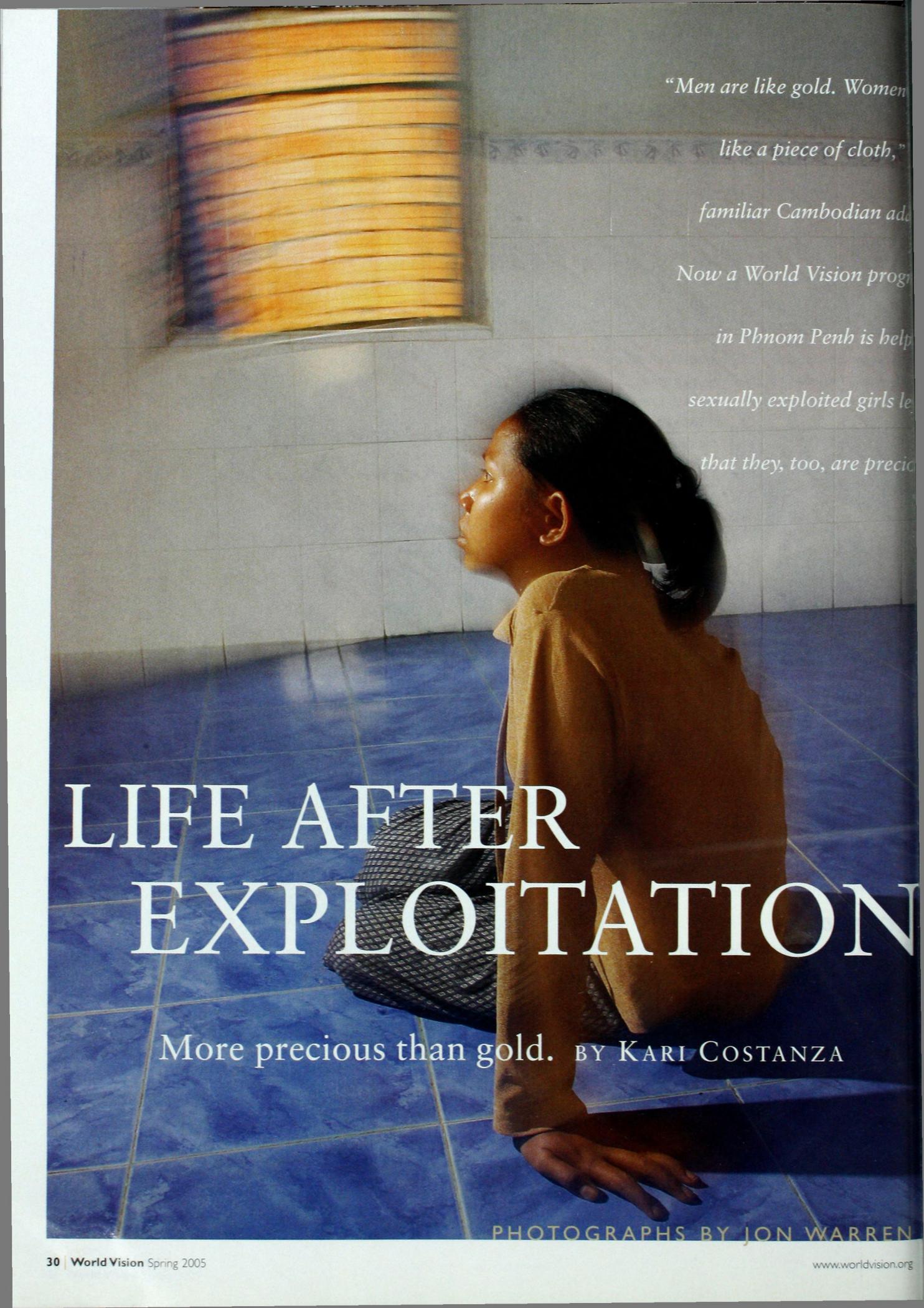
LABOR

THE PAIN: For 246 million children around the world, work is life. Instead of going to school or playing, children as young as 5 labor in homes, farms, and businesses up to 16 hours a day, often paid little or nothing. For 170 million child laborers, the work is harmful and involves dangerous equipment, hazardous materials, or cramped spaces. Egregious forms of labor—bonded labor and slavery—



SANJAY SOJWAL/WORLD VISION

trap 8 million children. **THE HEALING:** In addition to calling for an end to the worst forms of child labor and those that involve very young children, World Vision persuades employers to improve conditions and shorten hours for teen workers. Staff also help children transition out of menial jobs by helping them get an education or marketable skills. ■



*"Men are like gold. Women
like a piece of cloth,"*

familiar Cambodian adage

Now a World Vision program

in Phnom Penh is helping

sexually exploited girls learn

that they, too, are precious

LIFE AFTER EXPLOITATION

More precious than gold. BY KARI COSTANZA

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JON WARREN



Reunited with her family after two years in a brothel, Srey Mom looks out on a new life.

NEARLY everyone in Phnom Penh is dashing to beat the downpour guaranteed by the hue of tonight's sky—an angry navy blue. Men in baseball caps zoom down the street on motorbikes, their thin cotton shirts billowing out. A grim-faced mother breaks into a run, tugging at her little boy. His free hand clutches a green balloon that seems to dance along behind them.

But some are quite still on this threatening night—women wearing conspicuous makeup, standing along the busy avenue or sitting in backlit doorways.

They have one thing in common: They're waiting.

Srey Mom used to wait. "I sat in front of the brothel, watching people ride their motorbikes back and forth, watching what they were doing and wondering where they were going," says the 17-year-old. "I always hoped to have that life."

When she was 14, Srey Mom was tricked and sold into a brothel in Koh Kong on the Gulf of Thailand. Today she has a new life and new hope through World Vision Cambodia's trauma recovery program.

Srey Mom grew up in a family that had been victimized, like so many others, by the Pol Pot regime. "Because of the Khmer Rouge," says her mother, Saron, 53, "I lost everything." In the early 1970s, the family owned a bakery in Phnom Penh. They lived in a house. Then, like millions in the capital city, they were forced to

evacuate in April 1975, and enter a rural labor camp.

"My family was starving," says Saron, who kept her family alive by stealing corn from the fields where she worked. "I would stick [the ears] into my watering can." She stole rice that she would wet, wrap in a scarf, and then bury, lighting a fire on top of the dirt to cook the rice below.

Srey Mom was born after the genocide, the youngest of seven children. When she was 10, her father died of malaria. "There was no medicine after the Khmer Rouge," says Saron. She remarried and left her only daughter with her grandmother in the country. "Her grandmother is old. I wanted Srey Mom to take care of her," she says.

SREY MOM DECEIVED

One day a neighbor came to visit Srey Mom and her grandmother. "He told me he knew where my mother was in Phnom Penh," she says. But he didn't take Srey Mom to see her mother. Instead, he abandoned her in the city.

With no way to get home, Srey Mom became a street child, selling fruit. One customer kept coming to buy from her. "I told her my story," says Srey Mom. "She said she could help me find a job [in the] Koh Kong province."

It sounded perfect to Srey Mom—a job peeling shrimp in the coastal city. The woman promised her a place to stay and clothes to wear. The two took a bus to Koh Kong. A couple met them, paid their fare, and took them "home."



“I was surprised to see that there were so many girls in the house,” remembers Srey Mom. “The lady told me they stayed there while they worked with the seafood.” The woman who had brought her said she was going into town to buy Srey Mom some clothes. She never came back.

Srey Mom’s long nightmare began.

The couple told her to put on makeup and sit in front of the house. “I asked why I had to look nice to work with seafood,” she says. They told Srey Mom she belonged to them now.

Srey Mom stood firm. She would not be a prostitute. “When I refused, the brothel owner beat me with electrical wire until I was unconscious. When I woke up, he beat me again,” she says. She was forced to have sex with many men a day.

“The clients were Cambodian, Thai, and foreigners. I don’t know where the foreigners were from. I just know they were white people. And tall,” she says.

SREY MOM IS NOT ALONE

“Cambodia is a country that has been devastated and destroyed by genocide,” says Mu Sochua, 50, Cambodia’s former minister of women’s and veteran’s affairs. “Poverty is increasing,” she says. “More than 40 percent of our people live below the poverty line, making less than 50 cents a day. In real numbers, about 3 million people—the majority of them children—go to bed hungry every night.”

These billboards that overlook Phnom Penh, as well as in-flight videos, police training, and children’s clubs, are part of World Vision Cambodia’s multifaceted approach to battling sex tourism.

Poverty poses a greater challenge to women than men. Women shoulder the heavy cultural burden of having to “pay back the breast milk”—the debt for bringing children into the world. And a woman’s value is conditional. “A man is like gold, a woman like cloth,” goes the Cambodian saying. “When gold falls into mud, it remains gold,” says Mu Sochua, “but when a piece of cloth is stained, it is stained forever.”

Through her work with the government and as a women’s advocate, Mu Sochua is campaigning for better treatment of women and girls. “Women are precious gems, and every member of society must protect these precious gems,” she says.

Children are precious gems as well, but as many as 2 million are currently enslaved in the worldwide multibillion-dollar commercial sex trade. Most are girls. Some are trafficked within their countries; some across borders. World Vision works with child victims helping rehabilitate them as well as keeping them from becoming victims in the first place.

In Cambodia, World Vision uses a multifaceted approach to assail the sex trade on every front. In airports and on flights from the United States to Asia, travelers watch a video created by World Vision warning that sex tourists will face 30 years in prison



Girls at the Neavear Thmey recovery center. Their faces are not shown in order to protect their identities. Srey Mom wanted to be photographed and to tell her story to *World Vision* magazine.

in the United States for having sex with a minor. The same video airs on CNN in hotel rooms throughout Cambodia. On Phnom Penh billboards and in tourist magazines paid for by World Vision and the U.S. Department of State, the message is the same: Sex tourists will be prosecuted.

World Vision supports Cambodia's anti-trafficking efforts, teaming up with Christian Guth, 58, a law enforcement expert who works with Cambodian police to teach them to protect children and women from the dangers of prostitution. "Prior to 1999, police would not have considered rescuing a girl," says Christian. "They didn't consider the offenses important." That's starting to change.

Very few sex offenders had been arrested before Christian's training program started in 1999. "By 2003, 392 sex offenders had been arrested and 676 victims rescued from prostitution," he says. Now policemen can be fired for looking the other way.

Christian is enthusiastic about World Vision's comprehensive approach. "If you don't link closely with law enforcement and social work," he says, "you miss the mission."

The mission starts on the front lines. Around Cambodia, World Vision runs 51 children's clubs, 5,300 members strong. "We learn that strangers come to villages and tell us they can find us work in the factory, but then they would sell us," says club member Seila Chhoun, 15. "If it happens to me, I'll go to my parents and tell them."

World Vision also operates the Neavear Thmey Trauma

Recovery Center for girls (see sidebar on page 35). Workers from this center came to Srey Mom's aid after her daring escape.

SREY MOM ESCAPES

In Koh Kong, Srey Mom began to experience pain beyond the psychological horrors of prostitution: genital pain and trouble with her ovaries and uterus. She was taken to the hospital for treatment. "I knew if I went back [to the brothel], I would not survive," she says.

"I asked the doctor, 'Where is the restroom?' Then I ran outside to a crowded place and hid myself in a rubbish bin," she says. "People put trash on me and threw hot water on me, saying I was a thief."

Srey Mom persisted, quickly telling the bin owner her story. The woman's heart softened. "She put a cover on the rubbish bin so I could hide," says Srey Mom. And just in time. As Srey Mom expected, the brothel owner came hunting for her. The girl crouched in the dark, covered in filth. "I heard everything as the brothel owner talked to the lady. She checked every house—everything except for the bin I was in."

Srey Mom had escaped the brothel, where she had lost her childhood and her dignity. Now her future was in question. A



blood test confirmed she was HIV-positive.

A temporary reunion with her mother failed when Srey Mom's physical condition proved more than Saron could handle. Srey Mom, HIV-positive and now sick with tuberculosis, was frightening customers away from Saron's small business of selling soup to factory workers. Saron asked her daughter to leave. Srey Mom went to the only place that would accept her—the hospital.

It was in her hospital room that Srey Mom met her lifeline: Rany Khoy, 49, a social worker from Neavear Thmey, World Vision's Trauma Recovery Center in Phnom Penh.

"I thought she would die the first time I saw her," says Rany. "She was so skinny and sick and too tired even to speak." Rany brought Srey Mom nutritious food and sat at her bedside. "I prayed that the Lord would take care of her," she says. Rany bought her a tape player so she could listen to music. She began to take her outside for picnics and encouraged Srey Mom to set goals, writing them down in a letter.

"Srey Mom and her whole family had to have counseling," says Sophana Um, a World Vision counselor. "Her mother was afraid to touch her." World Vision counselors would hug Srey Mom and eat with her. They would sit close to her, showing Srey Mom's mother not to fear.

When Srey Mom came home from the hospital, Saron wrapped her arms around her daughter. "It felt good to be in my mother's arms again," says Srey Mom.

"Before, I wanted to die. Now I can support myself again," says Srey Mom, showing off the cane crusher she received from World Vision.

Srey Mom's letter was answered a few months later when staff from the recovery center made their weekly visit to bring Srey Mom her medicine. This time they also brought a surprise: a new bicycle and a sugar-cane crusher Srey Mom had asked for to start a juice-making business.

"I feel like the people I used to watch from the porch of the brothel," she says as neighbors crowd near, celebrating her good fortune. "This is the life that I had hoped for. I feel like I am born again."

Taking her new bicycle for a first spin with a broad smile on her face, Srey Mom is a different person from the girl who lived through hell in a brothel. "When I fell in the mud, I never thought I could get out. Now I'm out. The world is big, and I have hope."

The wait is over. The life Srey Mom wanted has begun. ■

EDITOR'S NOTE

Children affected by the tsunamis may be at further risk of exploitation. World Vision is already working on preventative measures, child protection, and psychosocial programs in relief zones throughout southern Asia.

In addition to therapy (below), World Vision staff hold daily devotions to discuss each girl's case. "We pray all the time," says Sovandara. "We pray for them by name." Two puppies live at the center, giving the girls unconditional love.



Recovering from the Trauma

"When [girls] first come to the center they have no hope. They want to commit suicide," says Sovandara Somchan, 43, who manages World Vision's Neavear Thmey Recovery Trauma Center in Phnom Penh. Neavear Thmey—in Cambodian, "new ship"—is a refuge for the girls and a place to find healing.

Fifty-seven girls live in the center, its new location kept secret from the brothel owners who try to steal them back. At the old location Sovandara faced down brothel owners who brought corrupt police armed with brass knuckles and guns, trying to force him to give up certain girls.

"Some girls have nightmares. They scream in their sleep," says Sovandara. Nighttime is brutal. Girls tried to commit suicide by cutting their wrists on a glass door before it was replaced by unbreakable plastic. One girl tried to jump from the roof. She was rescued by a staff person.

"All the girls come with sexually transmitted diseases," says Sovandara. The house parents take them to a clinic for treatment. One out of five is HIV-positive. "We pay for funerals," he says sadly.

At the center, the girls receive medical care, counseling, shelter, good food, and training. They learn skills they will

need when they leave—tailoring, cooking, and even raising livestock.

Social workers counsel the girls' families to ensure their safety when they return home. If rape or sex trafficking is still a danger, the girl can choose to live with a foster family. In rape cases, when charges are pressed, social workers accompany the girls to court.

Staff watch for signs that girls are ready to go home. "They've stopped having nightmares," says Sovandara. "They laugh more. They have more confidence." Most of the girls are able to integrate back into society, but Sovandara says that one out of 10 girls runs away from home—perhaps back to the brothel, he says. Staff work hard to help girls realize their worth, but it doesn't always take. Some girls never quite believe they are precious gems.

But for most, there is healing. "When these girls leave the center, they know they are valued," says Sovandara. ■



Life Lessons

Just a toddler when famine devastated Ethiopia in 1984-85, former sponsored child Getacher Beyene now helps educate new generations. *by Jocelyn Bell*

GETACHER BEYENE'S MEMORIES of the 1984 famine come in hazy flashes: the persistent hunger, the lineups to get food, his hair falling out because of malnutrition. Only 3 years old at the time, Getacher could not have grasped then that 1 million Ethiopians would die in the famine.

But with heartbreaking clarity, he can recall how hunger saps a person's humanity. "When you don't have these basic necessities, you totally lose your appetite for life, and you don't have time to think about tomorrow," he says. "You cannot think about anything but a piece of bread."

Two decades later, Getacher, 23, is a science teacher at an elementary school in Cheffa Robit, a town in northern Ethiopia. He credits World Vision for helping him survive—and his child sponsors for enabling him to thrive.

Getacher grew up in a one-room mud hut in Ambowuha, a village in Antsokia Valley some 200 miles northeast of the capital, Addis Ababa. His parents farmed a small piece of land and

depended on the rainy seasons to sustain their crop. For three difficult years, as Getacher grew into a toddler, the rain didn't come, and the family's crop of teff (Ethiopia's staple grain) failed.

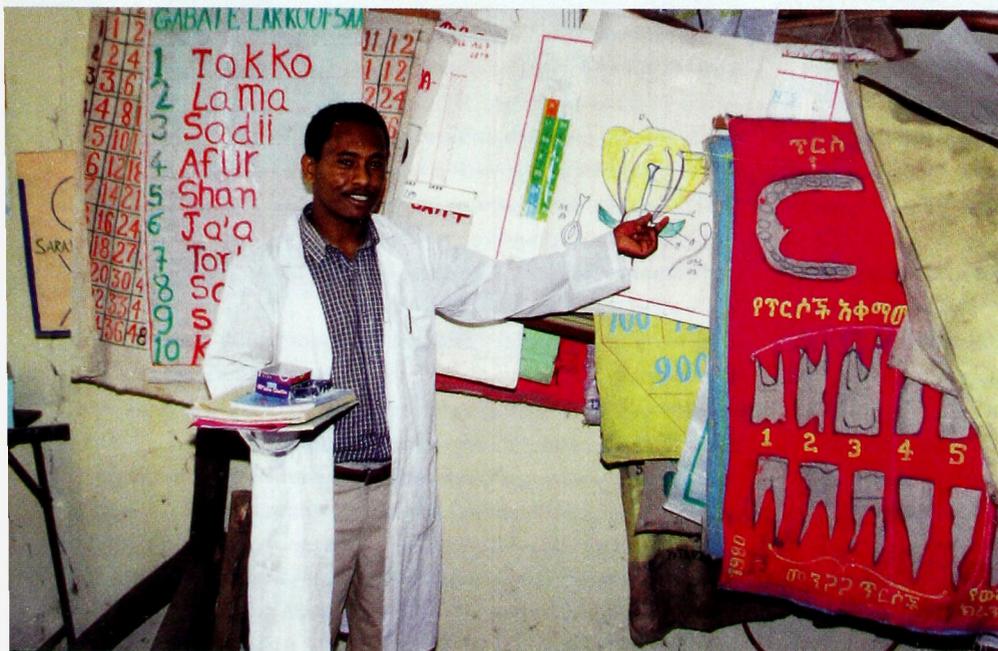
Communities all over Ethiopia endured crop failures and severe food shortages. By October 1984, 200,000 Ethiopians had succumbed to starvation, and 8 million were at risk of dying. Ethiopia's then military government failed to curb the mounting death toll. Western governments got involved only when television images of starving children shocked the public.

World Vision responded by airlifting food and medical supplies to affected regions across the country. Nine feeding centers fed 150,000 people per month. Staff provided 23,000 malnourished children with lifesaving food and 133,000 patients with medical care.

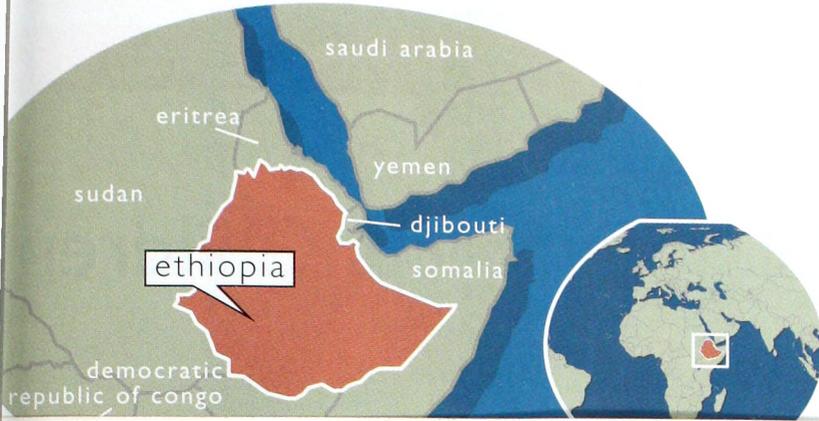
Getacher remembers receiving biscuits and wheat flour, which cured his malnutrition. As World Vision's relief operation in Antsokia phased into rehabilitation programs, Getacher's father joined a local committee to improve the community's agricultural practices. Within a few years, they reforested eroded patches of land and grew more nutritious varieties of fruits and vegetables.

At age 6, Getacher became a sponsored child. "If I wasn't sponsored, it would have been very difficult for me to complete my education," he says. During elementary school, child sponsorship paid for his books and school fees. As a teen, sponsorship

After receiving the kind of education that had been unimaginable for preceding generations, Getacher Beyene passes on the same opportunity to his students.



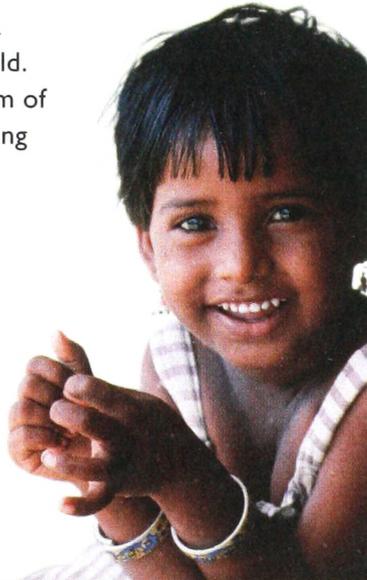
WORLD VISION ETHIOPIA



more than you ever thought possible

Thank you! Your generous support is making a difference for hurting children around the world. Faithful friends like you often tell us they dream of being able to transform even more lives by giving the gift of a lifetime.

With powerful gift planning tools, you can plan now to make the gift you've always dreamed of giving! Our **Gift Planning** team can help you discover new ways to meet your needs and goals. Complete the card below, call us at **1.866.332.4453**, or e-mail giftplanning@worldvision.org to explore your possibilities.



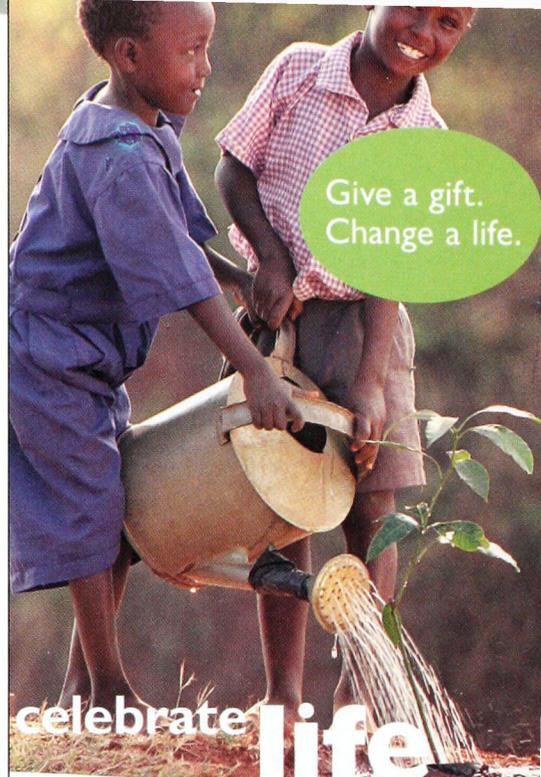
I'd like to learn how to do the impossible through gift planning!

Please send me information about gift planning.
I have included World Vision in my estate plans.

Name _____
 Address _____ This is a new address
 City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
 Phone _____ Best time to call _____
 E-mail _____

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

Thank you for your continued support!



celebrate **life**
this spring

**Perfect for Easter
and Mother's Day!**

Give a special gift on behalf of a loved one this spring, and change the life of a child or family in need. We offer more than 100 hope-inspiring gifts to choose from including rabbits, chickens, and a year of education for a child! Plus, we'll send a keepsake-quality card to remind your loved one of the joy your gift has brought.

To place your order or to receive a free catalog, call **1.866.332.4453**, or visit:

www.worldvisiongifts.org

51402_1204

5138_1204

Where Are They Now?

Life Lessons

Just a toddler when Getacher Beyene

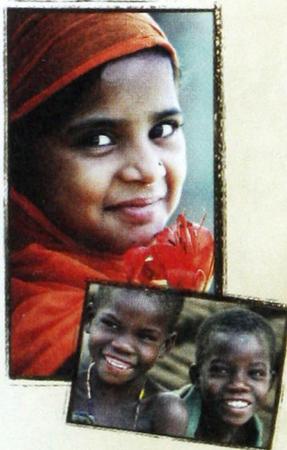
GETACHER BEYENE'S hazy flashes: the persist falling out because of m Getacher could not hav would die in the famine

But with heartbreak person's humanity. "Wh you totally lose your ap think about tomorrow, but a piece of bread."

Two decades later, C elementary school in C He credits World Visio sponsors for enabling h

Getacher grew up in village in Antsokia Valle; Addis Ababa. His paren

After receiving the kind of education that had been unimaginable for preceding generations, Getacher Beyene passes on the same opportunity to his students.



World Vision

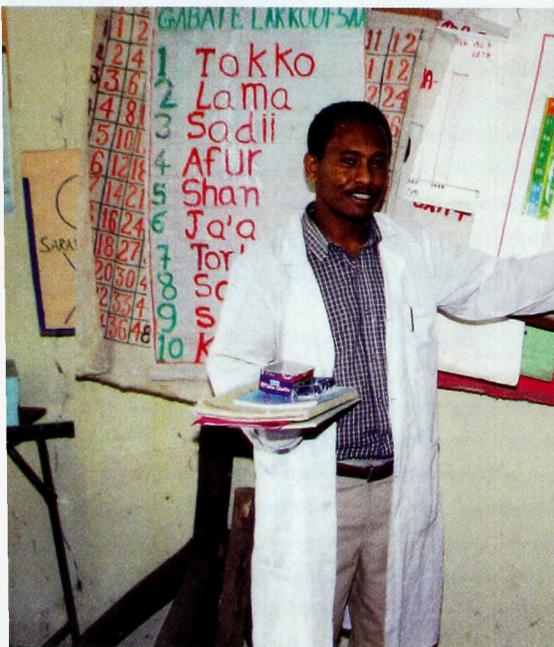
Dear Friend,
Like my family, you may dream of doing more to help children in need. I'm excited about how gift planning can enable families like mine—and yours—to give gifts of extraordinary impact. Please send in the card below today—and join me in doing the impossible for precious children around the world.

Rich Stearns
Rich Stearns
President

*"I can do all things through
Him who strengthens me."*

PHILIPPIANS 4:13 (NASB)

Don't miss this opportunity to do more than you ever thought possible for the world's children. Complete and mail this postcard today or call **1.866.332.4453** or e-mail giftplanning@worldvision.org.



BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

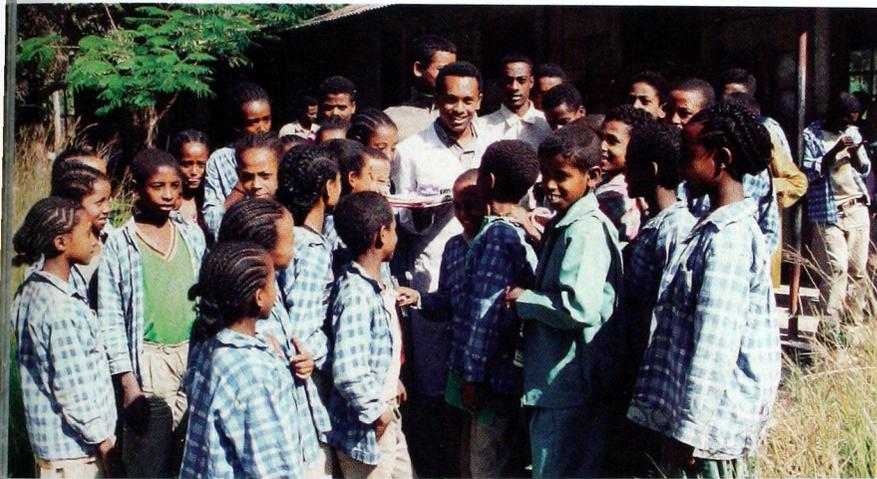
FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 568 TACOMA WA

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

WORLD VISION
PO BOX 70438
TACOMA WA 98471-0438

NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES





WORLD VISION ETHIOPIA

covered his transportation costs to a high school in a town about 12 miles from home. Getacher's sponsors continued to support him through teacher's college.

An Orthodox Christian, Getacher devotes his life and future to God. "God give me the opportunity [to live]," he says. "I pray to God to help me be capable and do something for the needy."

He is living out that desire at Cheffa Gobit Comprehensive Elementary School, where most of his students are children of poor farmers and day laborers. "I think of my students as my children. I want them to overcome their difficulties and to dream of a higher position," he says. "My fear is they may face the same problems I faced. My prayer is that they become self-sufficient." The 1984 famine might be something Getacher's students read about in history textbooks, but drought remains a threat to subsistence farmers in rural Ethiopia.

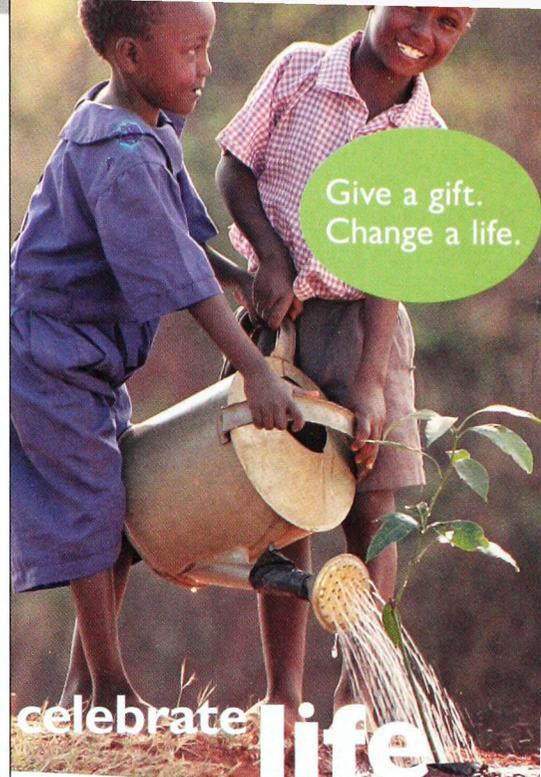
Getacher has learned to apply his own lessons from the famine. "It made me understand that only hard work and tenacity can alleviate all problems," he explains. "I tackle challenges as though they're good opportunities." ■

—with reporting from

Tamiru Chewaka and Jonathan Krause

Jocelyn Bell is the associate editor for World Vision Canada's Childview magazine.

Coming Next Issue
 World Vision magazine's Summer 2005 issue revisits Ethiopia's Antsokia Valley, reporting on the difference that dedicated Christian staff and strong development work has made in people's lives in the two decades since the famine.



celebrate **life**
 this **spring**

Perfect for Easter and Mother's Day!

Give a special gift on behalf of a loved one this spring, and change the life of a child or family in need. We offer more than 100 hope-inspiring gifts to choose from including rabbits, chickens, and a year of education for a child! Plus, we'll send a keepsake-quality card to remind your loved one of the joy your gift has brought.

To place your order or to receive a free catalog, call **1.866.332.4453**, or visit:

www.worldvisiongifts.org



Why World Vision Protects Children

WHILE LIVING AND TRAVELING in the developing world for the past 20 years, nothing broke my heart more than observing young children begging in the streets or enslaved for an adult's profit when they should be in school learning or at home playing. It's a cruel world, and getting crueler—but why must children suffer the worst of it?

Perhaps because adults—who always make the political and economic rules—forget children's special value.

There was one adult who didn't forget, even though he never had children. During his brief time on earth, Jesus created teachable moments for his disciples and followers, and ultimately, the world, about children's worth and their place in God's creation.

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them..." As the children burst forth from behind the blockade of disciples' arms

"The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'" —Matthew 25:40

to climb onto Jesus' lap, I can envision Jesus surveying the crowd and finishing his sentence "...for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it" (Mark 10:14-15).

Jesus put his hands on the children—boys and girls—and blessed them. In a society where children were considered to be of even lesser import than women, Jesus made a very public point that children, created in God's image, have the right to participate in God's kingdom.

On another occasion, Jesus taught his disciples—the Church's future leaders—through a child. When the disciples asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" Jesus called a little child to stand among the adults and said, "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me" (Matthew 18:1-5).

Jesus' teaching makes clear that children require protection from physical and emotional attacks and from any force that prevents them from receiving the love of others or from comprehending God's love. Our duty to protect children is not born out of charity, but out of biblical justice.

World Vision expresses this Christian motivation through caring for children living in the most difficult circumstances imaginable—war, famine, or exploitation. Sponsorship is one avenue for reaching these

children; sponsors support children directly and their funds leverage grants that help those who fall between the cracks.

Another way World Vision answers Scripture's call is by creating public awareness about children in crisis worldwide while fighting the forces that oppress them.

For example, an estimated 2 million children are enslaved in the global commercial sex trade—some as young as 5. Sex tourism by Westerners, particularly Americans, increases the demand for prostituted children, and the number of victims continues to grow. World Vision is combating child sex tourism in Asia and Latin America because protecting children from sex tourists and aiding law enforcement efforts is doing justice for "the least of these."

Children are also at risk in northern Uganda, where for the past 18 years a rebel group known as the Lord's Resistance Army has forced more than 20,000 children to become soldiers and sex slaves. Fearing abduction, upwards of 50,000 children flee their rural homes every night to the relative security of towns where they sleep on the streets. World Vision provides rehabilitation for abducted children and raises awareness of this little-known crisis among U.S. government officials and the general public (see page 7 for more information).

As Jesus' followers, we are called to protect children as passionately as Jesus himself did. To find out more about how World Vision promotes justice for children around the world and how you can help, visit www.seekjustice.org. ■

Serge Duss is World Vision's director of public policy and advocacy.





JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

Reflections

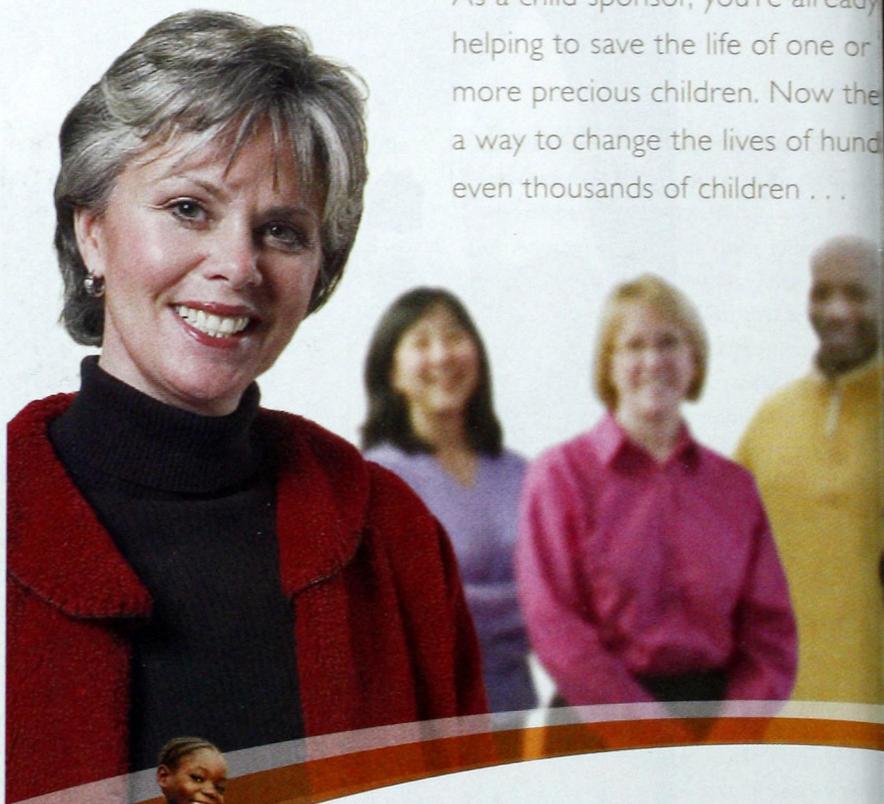
A R M E N I A

All the right pieces are fitting together for Margarita Muradyan, 7, a girl with multiple disabilities in Yerevan, Armenia. She's one of 50 children receiving intensive therapy at World Vision's Malatia Center, where speech therapist Ella Kafyan gives her lots of special attention. In just two months, Margarita has learned to voice specific sounds, increased dexterity in her hands, and improved her ability to walk and jump. "She very likes me and I very like her," exclaims Ella in English, summing up the secret ingredient of Margarita's success. In Armenia and many other places where World Vision provides care for children with disabilities, such small victories happen every day.

you can help hundreds of children

without increasing your giving

As a child sponsor, you're already helping to save the life of one or more precious children. Now there's a way to change the lives of hundreds, even thousands of children . . .



Become a Child Ambassador

Many children living in some of the world's poorest areas are waiting right now for someone to care for them. You can be an answer to their prayers by encouraging caring people to sponsor them.

All you need to do is tell your family, church, community, or workplace about your experience as a child sponsor. We'll supply all the materials and support you'll need to inspire them to say "yes" to children.

If you feel a call to help more children, request a Child Ambassador Information Packet today.

Call us today at **1.866.332.4453** or visit www.worldvision.org/childambassador

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

World Vision

Building a better world for children

