

# WorldVision

A young child, likely a boy, is the central focus of the image. He is wearing a light-colored, short-sleeved shirt and dark, worn-out pants. He is holding a round, shallow plate with both hands, and is eating from it. The background shows a rural setting with a building made of mud bricks and a thatched roof. The ground is dry and dusty. The overall tone is somber and highlights the theme of hunger.

SPRING 2008

## ZIMBABWE

*Hunger casts a long shadow*

HELPING HAITI'S CHILDREN | page 22  
KOREAN CHOIR MEMORIES | page 28



# Will *hunger* be her only companion?

Disease claimed her father's life. Then her mother became sick. Now even the rains have abandoned 13-year-old Mathabo.

Alone in the highlands of Lesotho, Mathabo must survive a food crisis that is sweeping through her country.

But thanks to her sponsor, Mathabo won't have to face this crisis on her own . . .



To sponsor a child like Mathabo, please call 1.866.332.4453

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

## The difference a sponsor makes:

More than 5 million people have been made vulnerable by a severe food crisis in Lesotho, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe—three countries already hard-hit by the AIDS pandemic. But thanks to her sponsor, Mathabo's life is changing for the better. Like every child in World Vision's HopeChild sponsorship program, Mathabo benefits from access to resources like:

- Nutritious food, agricultural training, clean water, health care, and education
- Age-appropriate HIV-prevention training based on biblical values
- Programs to mobilize churches and other local organizations to support HIV prevention and provide AIDS care for children and families

NEW sponsorship welcome kit with FREE DVD!

SOURCE: 1127131

Yes, I want to sponsor a HopeChild affected by the food crisis in southern Africa!  
Please send me information and the photo of a child affected by the AIDS crisis.

I want to sponsor a  boy  girl  either  
Country:  Lesotho  Swaziland  Zimbabwe  any

- I've enclosed a check or money order for my first \$35 gift (payable to World Vision).  
 I authorize World Vision to charge my \$35 monthly sponsorship gift to my credit/debit card each month\*:  VISA  MasterCard  American Express  Discover

Card number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature (required) \_\_\_\_\_ World Vision account number \_\_\_\_\_

Mr.  Mrs.  Ms.  Other First name \_\_\_\_\_ Last name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

\*Our promise to you: World Vision reviews the monthly sponsorship commitment on an ongoing basis to maintain the quality of its programs and respond to the needs of the families and communities it serves. As a participant in World Vision's Automatic Giving Plan, you will receive 30 days' advance written notice of any rate changes and will have the option to decline.

**World Vision**  
World Vision Child Sponsorship  
P.O. Box 70050  
Tacoma, WA 98481-0050  
1.866.332.4453

## WorldVision

VOLUME 11, NUMBER 3

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### » ON THE COVER

Innovative food programs seek to stave off the hunger looming in Zimbabwe, especially affecting children. Photograph by Jon Warren.

**World Vision**, a free quarterly publication, affirms people responding to God's call to care for the poor by providing information, inspiration, and opportunities for action, linking them with children and families in nearly 100 countries where World Vision ministers. In an effort to be careful stewards of our resources, this publication costs less than 46 cents a copy to produce.

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

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Visit World Vision's Web site today!

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

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Building a better world for children.

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12

**On the Cover:  
WHY HOPE STILL REIGNS IN ZIMBABWE »**

Innovative approaches to agriculture help families cope with severe hardship.

22

**FILLING HAITI'S "EMPTY BAGS" »**

Food programs promise a new future for undernourished children.

FROM THE PRESIDENT  
...ing and fixing poverty's causes.

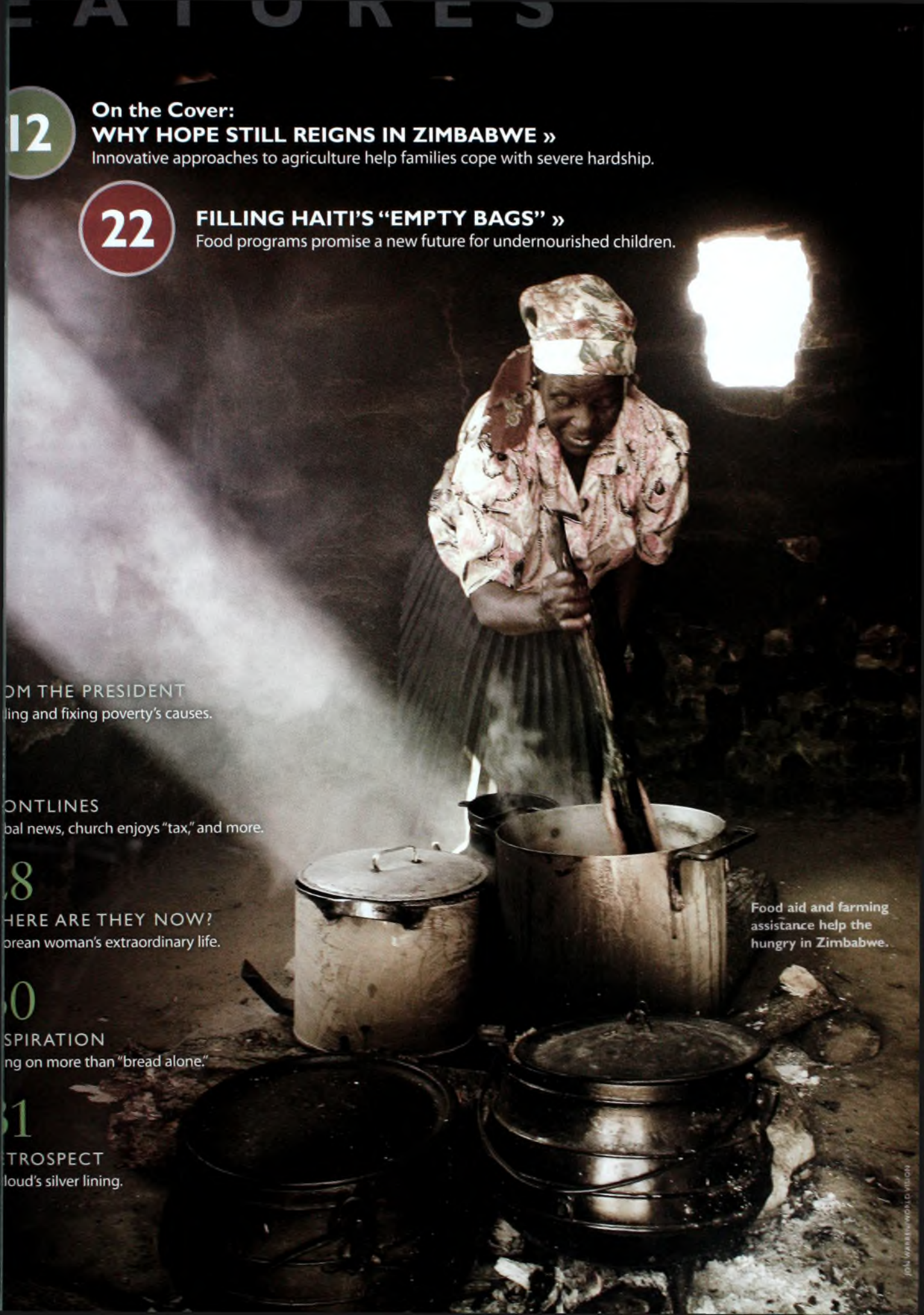
OUTLINES  
...bal news, church enjoys "tax," and more.

8  
HERE ARE THEY NOW?  
...orean woman's extraordinary life.

0  
SPIRATION  
...ng on more than "bread alone."

1  
TROSPECT  
...loud's silver lining.

Food aid and farming assistance help the hungry in Zimbabwe.





## Root Causes »

*"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."*

—Benjamin Franklin

Last year, we had a serious leak in our sun porch roof at the Stearns house. It is not good to have a leaky roof in Seattle, a city famous for its frequent rain. Every time it rained, we hurried to place buckets under the leaks to catch the water. Over time, the leaks got worse, and we needed more and more buckets to catch the water. On a bad day, we would empty the buckets several times and catch several gallons of water.

By now you're thinking, *What's wrong with him? Obviously he needs to stop the water from coming in by repairing the leak, not just add more buckets.*

One of the great challenges we face in working with the poor is that same inclination to treat the symptoms of their problems instead of the causes. It is much easier to hand out food than to address poor agricultural practices or challenges posed by constant droughts. It is easier to treat children's infections and parasites resulting from contaminated drinking water than to establish a clean water program. It is easier to give people money than to create jobs and stimulate the local economy. But if we only treat the symptoms of poverty, we fail the very people we hope to help.

*"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." —Galatians 6:9*

Some organizations have settled for the short-lived "buzz" that comes from treating the symptoms of poverty. That approach, while it helps in the short run, is the equivalent of putting buckets under a leaky roof—it doesn't fix the problem. Addressing the root causes of extreme poverty is much more difficult, but often the hard way is the better way in the long run.

No doubt you have heard the saying: "Give a man a fish and he'll eat for a day. Teach a man to fish, and he'll eat for a lifetime." It's one of the best shorthand ways to describe World Vision's approach to poverty alleviation.

Child illness and death can be prevented. Establishing a clean water source and teaching hand-washing and sanitation make a huge difference. Malaria can be prevented by using insecticide-treated bednets. Infant and maternal deaths due to childbirth can be greatly reduced by educating women and training midwives.

Microloan programs that provide capital for creative and hard-working women allow them to start businesses, earn income, and



**Zimbabwe farmers work for their future**

even create jobs for others in the community. Establishing savings accounts provide poor families with a financial cushion for hard times and allows the savings to be loaned to others who need capital—just like our banks do here in the United States.

In this issue, you'll read about a few programs that help communities create reliable and healthy food supplies through innovative agricultural techniques, mothers' nutritional training, and targeted aid. In places of intense need, World Vision involves families in working toward solutions to hunger and malnutrition.

At the heart of all of these programs is the belief that we can't solve the problems of the poor—but they can. They just need a little help from friends. The encouragement and know-how that World Vision provides can ignite a community with enthusiasm as people see that their hard work can actually address the causes of their poverty. I have met community leaders brimming with pride over what they have accomplished for their communities. The best benefit of all is hope—knowing that someday, their children will have a better life.

Fixing my roof turned out to be difficult and expensive. But in the end, it was the best way. Now, when it rains in Seattle (and that is quite often), I just smile, knowing that my house and family will be safe and dry. ■



*Rick Stearns*

www.worldvision.org



# FRONT LINES

Compiled by James Addis

## And Now for the Good News...

Children from Jaya district give rousing cheers following the opening of their elementary school in Aceh, Indonesia.

The school was shattered during the Asia tsunami of 2004. World Vision rebuilt it by providing three new classrooms and renovating three pre-existing classrooms, a staff room, and bathrooms.

The school reconstruction was among the final projects in World Vision's three-year Asia tsunami response. The relief effort has seen the construction of more than 10,000 new houses, 84 schools, and 200 Child-Friendly Spaces. In all, more than 1 million people across Asia benefited. ■

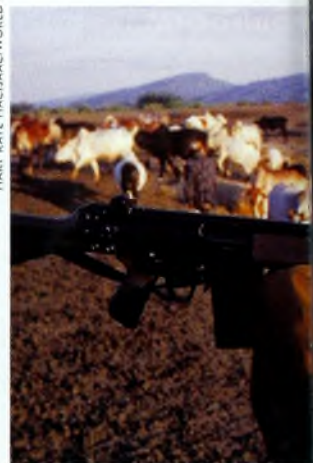
**FOR MORE INFORMATION** go to [www.wvasiapacific.org/asia-tsunami-response](http://www.wvasiapacific.org/asia-tsunami-response).







MARY KATE MACISAAC/WORLD VISION



## WORLD WATCH

**AFGHANISTAN** | BOOST FOR MOUNTAIN MIDWIVES » A successful World Vision midwifery-training program, based in Herat, will be expanded to include Chaghcharan to address a dire shortage of midwives in the mountainous region. Afghanistan has one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world. One woman dies from pregnancy-related causes every 30 minutes.



MARY KATE MACISAAC/WORLD VISION

**NORTH KOREA** | TUBERS TRIUMPH OVER HUNGER » The completion of a fifth hydroponic potato seed farm is expected to substantially reduce food shortages in North Korea. World Vision began construction of the technically advanced farms in 2000, and they will soon be capable of producing 18 million tubers a year. It's anticipated that by 2010, World Vision facilities will produce quality potato seed for every potato farm in the country, lifting production by 50 percent.



G. JEFF LARIIGO/WORLD VISION



DAWN VILLELLA/GENESIS PHOTOS



## the medium IS THE MESSAGE

**A Minneapolis artist finds a new use for coffee cups.**

When artist Phil Hansen chose to portray his sponsored child, Daudi Natiigo from Uganda, he depicted him on 44 Starbucks coffee cups. He says there are a number of possible explanations. One is that for the price of a cup of coffee each day it's possible to help a child in desperate need. Another is that some of the cups are upright and some upside down. Is this child's cup full, or is it empty? However people read it, they seem to like it. So far, Phil has raised \$3,000 by selling posters, postcards, and prints of the original work and is donating money raised to Daudi's community to further World Vision's work there. ■



**FAST FACT** » **Hunger and poverty claim the lives of 25,000 people each day, more than AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis combined.**

Source: Food and Agriculture Organization

**UNITED STATES | FIRES BURN CALIFORNIA** » Corporations donated \$2 million of emergency supplies for World Vision to distribute to families affected by wildfires in California in October 2007. The items included facemasks, bedding, clothing, hygiene products, diapers, and baby food. About 500,000 people were evacuated during the fires, which caused more than \$1 billion worth of damage in San Diego County alone.

**LESOTHO | HELP FOR HUNGRY CHILDREN** » Mothers of malnourished children in Maputseng benefited from a three-month nutrition training program organized by World Vision. Malnutrition levels have risen sharply in Lesotho following the worst drought in 30 years. The training taught mothers the best use of available foods.

**PHILIPPINES | WINDOW FOR CHILD SPONSORS** » A new Web site allows child sponsors in the United States to correspond with their sponsored child via e-mail, read children's posts to a community journal, and get regular written, video, and audio reports of what is happening in their child's community. Currently the service is available to sponsors of children in the Himaya and Maghirupay communities. The Web site address is [www.worldvision.org/mysponsorship](http://www.worldvision.org/mysponsorship).

**SUDAN | SCHOOL SUPPORT IN WAR ZONE** » Girls who fled fighting in war-torn Darfur received school supplies to help them continue their education. World Vision donated more than 1,000 uniforms as well as furniture and teaching materials to the Zat Al Nitagien Basic School for girls in Nyala, which caters to students displaced by ongoing conflict. Before the arrival of the furniture, girls were forced to sit on the floor.

**THAILAND | FARMERS DITCH DRUG** » Hill tribes around Chiang Rai are abandoning the production of opium after participating in a program to assist them to grow fruits and flowers. World Vision distributed 14,000 young plants to farmers. The farmers say they can make more money from the new crops, which are specially adapted to the warm conditions.

**PERU | EARTHQUAKE HITS HARD** » More than 500 people died when an 8.0-magnitude earthquake hit the central coast in August 2007. World Vision rushed emergency aid, including blankets, tents, water, and food to survivors. The organization also established Child-Friendly Spaces where children could play, learn, and find comfort.

**KENYA | RUSTLERS FACE THE MUSIC** » World Vision will partner with the Kenya National Music Festival to advocate for an end to inter-tribal cattle rustling. Children from around the country will compose songs and poetry encouraging communities to live in harmony. Rustling is blamed for forcing villagers to flee their homes, hampering community development.

**ARMENIA | NEW LIFE FOR CHURCH** » A program to restore the 7<sup>th</sup> century church of St. George in the village of Sverdlov is expected to revitalize the community's Christian traditions. The Soviet army dismantled the earthquake-damaged church in 1942, but recently World Vision, in conjunction with the Armenian Apostolic Church, began its reconstruction. In addition to holding regular services, the church will function as a Christian education center for children. ■



JOHN WARREN/WORLD VISION

KENYA





Jeff Wenke (front, left) and Jason Jones (front, right) with members of the Journey Church.

## Church Loves Paying Tax

*A California congregation gets a vision for Zimbabwe.*

**M**onopoly players usually find landing on the square marked "Luxury Tax" a drag, but members of The Journey Church in San Jose, Calif., found a way to make paying such a tax a joy.

The church printed "Luxury Tax" cards based on the board game and asked members to tax themselves based on the luxuries they take for granted every day. It was all part of an effort to raise

The result? A church of just 225 adults raised more than \$25,000 for Limpopo and began sponsoring 98 children in the community.

It helped that pastor Jeff Wenke and church member Jason Jones previously visited Limpopo on a World Vision Pastors Vision Trip, which enabled them to give a firsthand account of life there. Jeff says the church was especially receptive to their message following a study in Isaiah, which reminded the congregation of God's heart for the poor and oppressed.

He adds that he was deeply impressed by the benefits sponsorship had already brought in Limpopo, especially the development of small-business enterprises such as tailoring and soap making. "It was not about giving them \$10 to buy a loaf of bread. It was about giving people the ability to improve their own situation," he says. ■

*"It was about giving people the ability to improve their own situation."*

—Jeff Wenke

money for Limpopo, an AIDS-devastated community in Zimbabwe.

Members filled in the cards, taxing themselves on things like the number of taps or toilets in their homes—simple things that the people of Limpopo only dream about.

» To learn more about Pastors Vision Trips, visit [www.worldvision.org/c2c](http://www.worldvision.org/c2c).



LONG LIVE CHILDREN

Global deaths of children younger than 5 have fallen below 10 million a year for the first time ever, according to UNICEF. Much of the progress is due to basic health interventions such as immunizations and mosquito nets.



ANDREA DEARBORN/WORLD VISION

**HUNGRY** for your **LOVE.**



SYNTHIA McLENNAN

change AGENT

**Name:** Elise Bailey  
**Home:** The Dalles, Ore.  
**Occupation:** Materials Manager, Mid-Columbia Medical Center  
**Program:** Gift Catalog

**Buzz:** For 25 years, Elise has caused much hilarity among her friends by sewing flannel nightdresses and giving them as gifts. The dresses are renowned for their outrageous designs—including patterns featuring flying pigs, giant pizzas, and strawberries. Then Elise hit on the idea of asking those who would like a nightdress to give \$50 to support World Vision's water projects through the Gift Catalog. ■

I like the smiles when people see the bright, goofy colors, but I wanted the dresses to impact more than just one person. I am so passionate about Africa and seeing people get water.

—ELISE BAILEY

» To learn more about the Gift Catalog and other ways to change your world, visit [www.worldvision.org/change](http://www.worldvision.org/change).

QUOTABLE » "No one has ever become poor by giving." —Anne Frank



more than 20%

Sierra Leone  
 Zambia  
 Malawi  
 Kenya

» R »

one at the time, difference. I moved to as been my wed-

to sponsor my dear friend or my friend

to sponsor, use of wedding till in school. But s. God has pro- vays, and we are

STORY

child sponsor? magazine@





Jeff Wenke (front, left) and Jason Jones (front, right) with members of the Journey Church.

## Church Love

*A California congregation*

Monopoly players usually find the square marked "Luxury Tax." Members of The Journey Church in Jose, Calif., found a way to make paying taxes. The church printed "Luxury Tax" cards on the board game and asked members to tax themselves based on the luxuries they granted every day. It was all part of an effort

*"It was about giving people the ability to improve their own situation."*

—Jeff Wenke

money for Limpopo, an AIDS-devastated area in Zimbabwe.

Members filled in the cards, taxing themselves on things like the number of taps or toilets in their homes—simple things that the people only dream about.

## YES!

I want to help hungry children and their families

- I'm giving:**
  - \$25 TO PROVIDE \$100 WORTH OF FOOD
  - \$50 TO PROVIDE \$200 WORTH OF FOOD
  - \$100 TO PROVIDE \$400 WORTH OF FOOD
- I want to sponsor a child for \$30/month.**
  - GENDER:  BOY  GIRL
  - LIVING IN:  ASIA  AFRICA  LATIN AMERICA  MIDDLE EAST  WHERE MOST NEEDED
- I want my one-time donation to go where it's needed most.** AMOUNT: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- Check payable to World Vision
- Credit / debit card payment

VISA  MASTERCARD  AMERICAN EXPRESS  DISCOVER

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

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

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

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

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

TO RECEIVE PERIODIC UPDATES ABOUT THE IMPACT OF YOUR GIFT

1127131

PLEASE UPDATE IF NECESSARY

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

TELEPHONE

E-MAIL





SYNTHIA McLENNAN

## LONG LIVE CHILDREN

Global deaths of children younger than 5 have fallen below 10 million a year for the first time ever, according to UNICEF. Much of the progress is due to basic health interventions such as breast-feeding, immunization, vitamin A supplements, and use of mosquito nets.

### Top countries for reduction of under-5 child mortality.



| More than 40%       | More than 33%      | More than 25% | More than 20% |
|---------------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|
| China               | Dominican Republic | Malawi        | Ethiopia      |
| Madagascar          | India              |               | Mozambique    |
| Sao Tome & Principe | Morocco            |               | Namibia       |
|                     | Vietnam            |               | Niger         |

## why I love BEING A CHILD SPONSOR »

I began sponsoring when I was in high school. I didn't make much money at the time, but I felt God leading me to sponsor and was determined to make a difference.

Right now my life is in a major transition period. I graduated from college, moved to Elgin, Ill., and started a new job at a hospital. But the most exciting event has been my wedding. I married my amazing husband, Nate, in August 2007.

I talked with Nate about my desire to sponsor another child. We chose to sponsor Rovena, 6, from Albania. I chose her because her birthday is the same as my dear friend Kara, who died last summer in a tragic canoe accident. I think it's neat to honor my friend by sponsoring Rovena.



SARAH SPARKS | Elgin, Ill.

When we decided to sponsor, money was tight because of wedding expenses, and Nate is still in school. But giving is a priority for us. God has provided for us in special ways, and we are so thankful. ■

### » TELL US YOUR STORY

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

## change AGENT

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—ELISE BAILEY

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QUOTABLE » "No one has ever become poor by giving." —Anne Frank



# HUNGRY FOR MORE?



## Famine Flashback

*30 Hour Famine revives memories of the real thing.*

When Jumah Sandefur, 16, was asked to take part in World Vision's 30 Hour Famine to raise money for hungry children, she knew exactly what she was letting herself in for.



**FASTFACT** » Each year more than 500,000 young people participate in the 30 Hour Famine and raise about \$12 million.

Jumah was raised in an orphanage in strife-ridden Liberia before being adopted by a couple from Tacoma, Wash., when she was 13.

Among her memories of Liberia is one where her school bus had to turn back following an outburst of shooting between rival factions. It was not so much the danger and loss of lessons that bothered her, but missing out on the breakfast and lunch that the school provided.

At the height of the civil war, good days meant there might be a bowl of rice to eat; on bad days, no food at all.

Jumah says that while going without food during the 30 Hour Famine brought back painful memories and thoughts of her friends still struggling in her home country, she was touched that so many of her American peers were willing to participate.

"I did get the feeling that kids here really care about kids in Africa and other countries. That was really awesome," she says.

Jumah plans to train as a nurse and return one day as a missionary to Africa. "I don't just want to tell people about God, I want to make them feel better when they are sick," she says. ■

» **Do the 30 Hour Famine**, Feb. 22-23 or April 25-26. For more information, visit [www.30hourfamine.org](http://www.30hourfamine.org).

LAURA REINHARDT/WORLD VISION



## Marathon Reward

*An Illinois runner discovers God loves a cheerful giver.*

Any married woman might expect a big kiss and hug from her husband after running a marathon, but for Deanna Valadez of Lake in the Hills, Ill., the experience was doubly sweet.

Deanna, 35, joined about 500 Team World Vision runners who tackled the Chicago Marathon and raised more than \$500,000 for impoverished communities in Africa.

But Deanna admits that before making the decision to take part, running a marathon was about the last thing on her mind. Her real goal in life was to persuade husband, Marc, that the couple ought to try for a third child. Alas, Marc was of the opinion that two were plenty.

There seemed no way to resolve the impasse, and Deanna says she felt God prompting her to turn her focus away from her own desires and start thinking about seeking justice for the poor and oppressed. To that end, she signed up for Team World Vision and set an ambitious personal fundraising goal of \$10,000.

Unfortunately, when she turned up at a pre-race dinner for team members on the eve of the big day, she had only managed to get \$1,700 in pledges. When the subject came up at her table, she was

asked if she would get any special reward if she met her target.

Thinking there was no way his wife could get anywhere near her goal, Marc blurted out, "She gets to have a third child."

Marc admits he began to sweat a little when the remark immediately set tongues wagging. Within five minutes, two couples at adjoining tables each presented Deanna with checks for \$5,000.

A bemused Marc says he felt he had no option but to honor his offer. "I am a man of my word, though sometimes I wonder why I open my mouth," he laughs.

Even so, Deanna was still left with a big challenge ahead. The 2007 Chicago Marathon turned out to be the hottest on record, with high humidity compounding temperatures in the 80s.

Deanna says when she got tired she just kept remembering who she was running for. "Jesus talks a lot about being on the side of the poor," she says. ■

» **Could you run a marathon?** World Vision is seeking more than 1,000 runners to help raise more than \$1 million at the 2008 Chicago marathon on Oct. 12. For more information, visit [www.worldvision.org/chicagoteam](http://www.worldvision.org/chicagoteam).



JUSTIN DOUGLASS/WORLD VISION

### WHAT Can I Do?

#### 5 WAYS TO FIGHT HUNGER

- 1. Broken Bread Poverty Meal** » Share a simple porridge meal to identify and intercede with those broken by hunger, poverty, and AIDS. [www.worldvision.org/brokenbread](http://www.worldvision.org/brokenbread)
- 2. Lobby** » Contact your members of Congress to support food aid funding. [www.worldvision.org/lobby](http://www.worldvision.org/lobby)
- 3. Give** » Feed a hungry African child. [www.worldvision.org/foodaid](http://www.worldvision.org/foodaid)
- 4. 30 Hour Famine** » Join the movement to fast for the hungry, Feb. 22-23 or April 25-26. [www.30hourfamine.org](http://www.30hourfamine.org)
- 5. ONE Campaign** » Join the ONE Campaign to make poverty history. [www.one.org](http://www.one.org) ■

#### » WANT MORE OPTIONS?

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

### WORLD VISION EXPERIENCE: AIDS NATIONAL TOUR

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

**February:** California, Texas

**March:** California, Missouri, Nebraska, Iowa

**April:** Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Wisconsin, Illinois

**May:** Washington, Illinois, Ohio ■

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

DEANNA AND MARC VALADEZ  
Lake in the Hills, Ill.



JAMES ADDIE/WORLD VISION







# DROUGHT-RAVAGED ZIMBABWE

*why hope still reigns*

**IN** a country reeling from environmental and economic crises, World Vision is supplying nutritious food to families in dire need while teaching them innovative farming methods that, given good rains, could transform lives for generations to come. »

BY KARI COSTANZA  
Photographs by Jon Warren



Will work for food: Men and women assemble for a Food for Assets distribution.









## ZIMBABWE



**R**ilato Nare was in a panic. Her children had come home far too early from their first day of school. Her son, Ayanda, 12, says the school's headmaster called him and his siblings aside at midday. "He told us to go home and not to come back until we could pay school fees," says Ayanda. "Then he prayed for us."

A widow since 2001, Rilato, 47, has four children at home and cares for four grandchildren, left by her sick daughters who went away to seek treatment and never came back. Zimbabwe's drought and economic tailspin left Rilato with great responsibility and meager resources. Her cattle, goats, and chickens are dead. The only surviving animals are two skinny dogs. Matabeleland South, the province where Rilato lives, experienced a 95 percent crop failure in 2007 after poor rains.

But Rilato is resilient. Caring for her children and grandchildren and seeing them educated is her life's work, despite life's challenges. "I ran around trying to find money," she says. Her neighbors gave her 200,000 Zimbabwean dollars, or 65 cents—enough to pay fees for just one child. "I had to choose among the children," she says. "Because of the drought, I must make difficult decisions."

Rilato's choice, 9-year-old daughter Sibongokuhle, will attend school this term. Ayanda, who dreams of being a teacher, will stay home, his heartache on display. "At the end of the term," he says, "the others will pass. I will fail."



**LEFT:** Sibongokuhle, chosen to attend school, is heartsick at leaving her siblings behind.

**TOP:** Her mother, Rilato, says the drought is to blame.

**ABOVE:** World Vision's school feeding programs keep children from fainting in class.



## FAMILIES AT RISK

Current media reports spotlight poor governance, empty supermarket shelves, and a population fleeing Zimbabwe to neighboring countries, searching for work. But it wasn't always this way.

"Ten, 15 years ago, this country was as developed as say, Louisiana," says World Vision's Edward Brown (see his essay on page 30). Edward runs the USAID-funded Consortium for Southern African Famine Emergency program dedicated to feeding hungry families. "It's like we've been hit by a macroeconomic hurricane. The infrastructure is still there, the well-educated people are still there, yet things are going downhill. My grandparents lived through the Great Depression. It is a very similar comparison."

Zimbabwe's own depression, compounded by AIDS, has

left 4.1 million people—30 percent of the population—at risk of hunger and malnutrition. "There is no bread. There is no [corn] meal," says Daniel Muchena, who directs World Vision's relief efforts in southern Zimbabwe. "With the drought, the grass is drying up. There are wildfires all over that kill the cattle. People have no money or savings. And even if they do have money, there is no food to buy."

For more than 30 years, World Vision's development programs and ongoing relief work have helped families cope with chronic food shortages and drought. Staff recognize that food aid is necessary to save children and their parents from starvation, but that a turnaround in Zimbabwe can only come by focusing on the future. World Vision's Food for Assets program seeks to accomplish both.





**FACING PAGE:** Grandmother Febby Sibanda, 59, gets water from a dry riverbed that has never before run dry. **BELOW and RIGHT:** Japhet and Estina can fill a wheelbarrow with the food they earn for farming. **BOTTOM:** Their baby's name, Nokubonga, means "with thanksgiving."



 World Vision Experience: AIDS

step  
into  
Africa

The AIDS crisis:  
Can you survive  
the journey of a child?



"I tried different means to make... worked in gardens. He fished. n more than \$1 a week—seven tional poverty standard of \$1 a small jobs she could find. am started, when I came back g at home I would think, *He is so*," says Estina. "I felt like I was couple watched their lives dete- lth decline, and the community

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ogram, supporting conservation

FREE exhibit!



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## World Vision Experience: AIDS

### Come walk in the steps of a child living in an AIDS-affected community in Africa

This interactive exhibit features a stirring audio tour combined with captivating photography that will transport you to the heart of Africa. You'll gain a completely new perspective on the greatest humanitarian crisis of our time.

This amazing walk-through exhibit takes you on a "virtual journey" to Africa, where you'll walk in the steps of a child affected by the AIDS crisis.

The Experience is currently on tour at locations across the country. For FREE tickets and information about dates, venues, and how to volunteer visit [worldvisionexperience.org](http://worldvisionexperience.org)

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*Building a better world for children*

World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice.

**FREE exhibit!**



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## World Vision Experience: AIDS

### Can you survive the journey of a child?

These stories of tragedy and triumph serve to educate, inspire, and move people to respond to the challenges facing so many children affected by AIDS in Africa.

### Experience the lives of:



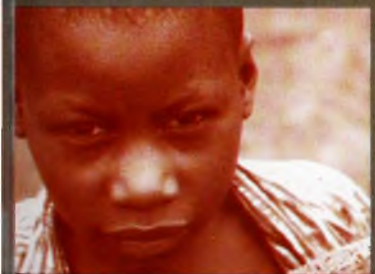
Tombo

Survive the big trucks and the "Big Disease" as they roll past one boy's home at a truck stop along the AIDS Highway.



Mathabo

Feel the sting of abandonment as one girl faces hunger, assault, and disease -- alone in the highlands of Lesotho.



Manuel

Survive the survival in the wild, as a young boy and his brother care for themselves after losing their mother and their home in Uganda.



Babirye

Enter the epicenter of AIDS in Africa, where a young girl watches her father die and her mother grow weak -- and wonders if she'll be next.



children. "I tried different means to make money. He worked in gardens. He fished. He earned him more than \$1 a week—seven times the international poverty standard of \$1 a week from a few clever small jobs she could find.

When the program started, when I came back to work, sitting at home I would think, *He is so busy, he doesn't care,*" says Estina. "I felt like I was left behind."

The couple watched their lives deteriorate as their health decline, and the community began to disintegrate.

For South Africa and never come back," says Estina. "Young ones don't come back. When they are killed by a gun, shot or stabbed. Girls come back from prostitution. They contract AIDS and it has been the worst."

World Vision's program, supporting conservation

FREE exhibit!



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## World Vision Experience: AIDS

### Here's what visitors to the Experience are saying..

- ⊕ I wasn't sure what the "Step Into Africa" experience was about. Though I only had a few minutes to see through a child's eyes what living with HIV/AIDS is like, my heart has changed.
- ⊕ If I could go back in time I would have knocked on more doors, invited more people, made more of a concerted effort to get more people, more pastors, and more churches involved. We have been blessed and changed by this.
- ⊕ I have been truly blessed by volunteering for this awesome exhibit "Step Into Africa". This exhibit has opened the hearts of many people who walked through the doors this weekend, more importantly, mine is wide open.

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Parental discretion advised



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## MARRIAGES AT RISK

How are you?" asks Mjabalisi Mkandla, who is responsible for World Vision's food aid programs in Gwanda, deep in Zimbabwe's southern region. "Sibona indlal, we are faced with hunger," respond dozens of people—mostly women—trying to find shade under a lifeless-looking tree. The landscape may be bleak, these families may be hungry, but the air is charged with energy at this Food for Assets distribution.

Food for Assets provides a way for families to work in order to receive bulgar wheat, vegetable oil, and pinto beans. In groups of 10, they set goals and then work for 20 days at a time on farming or income-generation projects that directly benefit their families. The reason they can spend time working for their future instead of scrambling to feed their children? Their food needs are being met at monthly distributions like these throughout southern Zimbabwe.

Japhet Maseko, 53, and his wife, Estina, credit the food and the farming projects with saving their marriage. "When there is hunger, there is no love," says Japhet, telling a story of financial worries and stress not uncommon to couples everywhere.

Japhet and Estina used to struggle daily trying to find

food for their five children. "I tried different means to make ends meet," says Japhet. He worked in gardens. He fished. Nothing he did earned him more than \$1 a week—seven times less than the international poverty standard of \$1 a day. Estina took whatever small jobs she could find.

"Before the food program started, when I came back home and found him sitting at home I would think, *He is so insensitive. He doesn't care,*" says Estina. "I felt like I was doing all the work." The couple watched their lives deteriorate, their children's health decline, and the community around them crumble.

"People have left for South Africa and never come back," says Japhet. "The young ones don't come back. When they do, they are in a coffin, shot or stabbed. Girls come back dead. They turn to prostitution. They contract AIDS and they die. This year has been the worst."

The Food for Assets program, supporting conservation





These conservation-farming basins will fill with water when the rainy season comes. Then farmers will plant World Vision-provided seeds and fertilizer, cover the holes with mulch, and keep the garden weed-free as their crops grow.



farming activities, is changing this community. Conservation farming is an ingenious solution in a drought-prone area. World Vision has trained thousands of men and women who work in groups on each other's plots, creating basins to fill with mulch and plant with maize. Because they work together, the toil goes fast, and morale stays high. When the rains come, filling the basins with water, World Vision will provide the farmers with seeds, nearly impossible to find in Zimbabwe.

"It is a very good farming method," says Japhet. "It conserves moisture. If there are rains, I will have a better harvest."

The couple, who have a new baby, now work as a team. "Because of this program, we now have food," says Japhet. "She does conservation farming and I go out and do what I can. Whoever comes back first does the cooking. It is not common that men cook, but because there is so much to do, I'll cook if I get home first. That way, she doesn't have to cook tired."

The couple still has obstacles to overcome. Their oldest girl, Sibekezele, 14, suffers from long-term malnutrition. And they still depend on nature for success. "We're waiting for the first rains," says Japhet. "With this drought, there is no telling. With no rain, we will have no plants in the fields. Even as I am sitting here, I am looking up at the sky, hoping to see some clouds."

But looking at this couple, laughing and kissing their baby, it is difficult to imagine that hopelessness nearly destroyed this family.

"I have thought about this," says Japhet. "Without this project, it would be a cycle of poverty for us. I would pass this cycle of poverty onto my children. I want them to get an education. I want them to be successful. I want them to get good jobs and interact with people from abroad. And I think it can happen for one of my children."

## CHILDREN AT RISK

**N**orth of Gwanda, in Insiza, a World Vision irrigation project is helping a community turn dry, brown earth into an oasis of edible green. Mathwel Nyoni, 39, is a foreman on the project. "It is time to pray," he announces this morning as hundreds of workers bow their heads.

"Thank God for his grace that is sufficient," prays one of the women. "We pray for a spirit of oneness. We ask God to provide strength to take us through the day." And the work begins.

The irrigation project takes advantage of a nearby dam, constructed with assistance from World Vision. Workers are clearing the land and creating trenches where water from the dam will flow. The trenches will water crops—winter wheat and maize—to eat and sell. On this day, Mathwel passes out samples of wild fruit, *umbumbulu*, for the workers to try. "They don't have those fruits at their houses, so I wanted them to taste them," he says.

Picked as foreman for his kindness, Mathwel demonstrates that same quality at home. "If you have God in your heart, you do everything with patience and diligence," he says, as his 2-year-old daughter squirms in his lap, tugging at his skin, trying to feed him bits of fruit. He gently cradles his wiggly girl as he talks about the irrigation project. "It really excited me," he says. "The food would be right there at our doorstep. My children will no longer face any trouble finding food."

Before the project, Mathwel would hire a donkey cart and drive more than 30 miles to find food for his wife, six children, and neighbors. Older daughter Langelilhe says the four-day wait was excruciating. "When he was gone, and I was hungry," she says, "I felt like everything was not right with me. I would spend the day sitting, waiting for him to come back."

For Mathwel, not being able to provide for his family was torture. "It made me feel thin on the inside," he says of those days. "I knew I'd left my children with nothing."

Worse yet, he couldn't pay for his oldest daughter's education and felt she might do better with rela-

tives. He sent Locadia, 16, to Bulawayo, the southern region's biggest city, to live with an aunt. But this choice brings him great pain. Locadia is not in school. Instead, she works as a maid at her aunt's house. "If it wasn't for the drought," he says, "my daughter would be right here and going to school."

The other children go to a nearby primary school where they are fed a hot lunch by World Vision. "The fact that the children eat in school makes our food reserves last even longer," says Mathwel. The children say that the food helps keep their classmates from what was once a daily occurrence—fainting from hunger.

"My vision through the irrigation scheme is that our standard of living in this community will rise," says Mathwel. "We will no longer be known as the ward of hunger, but the ward that produces its own food."

"This is a very good project. It shows that God remembered us," he says, gesturing upward with his hands.



*"It made me feel thin on the inside.  
I knew I'd left my children with nothing."*

—MATHWEL NYONI—





**LEFT:** Thousands of school children receive nutritious food their mothers prepared with training from World Vision. **BELOW:** Wheat is plentiful at this completed irrigation project. **BOTTOM:** For these World Vision-trained candle makers, the future now glows with promise.



## THE FUTURE AT RISK

**S**ikhangele Dube, 25, works for Mathwel on the irrigation project. “He works well with us,” she says. “He is very understanding.” World Vision’s Food for Assets program gives this mother of four the food she needs to sustain her family while she grows food for their future. But Sikhangele is also part of a project that resolved an immediate need—getting her children back into school.

In January 2007, her husband, a gold panner, lost his job when gold panning became illegal in Zimbabwe. The family had nothing. The children were sent home from school, unable to pay the fees. “When that happened,” says Sikhangele, “I thought, *My children are going to suffer like I suffered.*”

History seemed to be repeating itself for Sikhangele. As a girl, she was forced to drop out of school because her parents couldn’t pay her fees. Her dream of becoming a nurse was snuffed out by poverty.

In March 2007, World Vision began teaching women in Insiza to make candles and soap. Like most goods in Zimbabwe, soap is a scarce commodity and often must be imported from other countries. World Vision trained the women and loaned

them the equipment to start their business.

“At the beginning, I thought we were playing,” says Sikhangele, admitting that she didn’t take the project seriously. “But I took five bars of soap to sell.” The women brought back and split up their earnings and set some money aside to pay back their loan. Sikhangele’s take: 500,000 Zimbabwean dollars, or about \$1.65—enough to pay her children’s school fees. She was the first person at the school the next semester to re-enroll her children.

Stories like Sikhangele’s inspire staff such as Edward Brown to work through the many challenges in Zimbabwe. “It’s just a joy to work here, because you feel a huge sense of accomplishment,” says Edward. “In two years, we have moved so far. There has been much to overcome: fuel shortages, currency chaos, and change of laws, but we can always figure out how to deal with it and deliver on our promises.”

In Zimbabwe, those promises play out in ways you can see—a schoolgirl hungrily eating a hot, nutritious lunch; a mother proudly displaying bars of soap she herself created; a father directing efforts at an irrigation scheme that will be his legacy to his children. In providing food today for work that will yield results in the future, World Vision is providing a pathway to perseverance that families need in the worst of times. ■

*Stewart Muchapera and Sibusisiwe Ndlovu, communications staff for World Vision in Zimbabwe, contributed to this story.*



## Government Grants GO TO GOOD USE

When public and private funding sources work together, hungry people win. World Vision has received U.S. government food aid grants in 14 countries, totaling more than \$70 million

and benefiting 3.1 million people. These grants leverage private donations to World Vision, multiplying supporters' gifts four times. To give, see the envelope between pages 16 and 17.



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### WEB SPECIAL

For behind-the-scenes commentary and photos for this story, visit [www.worldvision.org/magazine](http://www.worldvision.org/magazine).

## Feeding the VULNERABLE

**N**ot everyone in Zimbabwe can work for their food. With an HIV infection rate of 20 percent that has orphaned more than 1 million children, chronic diseases such as tuberculosis, one of the lowest life expectancies in the world (39 years), and the world's highest inflation rate, it is not surprising that many people are vulnerable and too weak to work.

Mpumelolo Fuzwane, 40, runs the Progressive Preschool Center in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe's second largest city. She found out about World Vision's feeding programs at her church. "This place wouldn't exist anymore if World Vision hadn't come," she says.

And it is likely that the 24 orphans who attend school here daily, most parentless due to AIDS, would have nothing to eat. World Vision provides a hot meal every day to the children. Food is also distributed to health centers for the chronically ill in Bulawayo, feeding another 15,000 vulnerable people.

Mpumelolo, who runs her school solely with volunteers, is one of World Vision's most committed partners. "I want to do this until I die," she says.

—Kari Costanza



Mpumelolo, cradling a sick child at Progressive Preschool, was inspired to take care of orphans when her brother died, leaving her with two children to raise.





“  
FILLING HAITI'S C



Food en route to the market in Haiti's Central Plateau. **FACING PAGE:** Monise with her daughter, Ketnay.



# Empty bags"



*"Sak vid pa kanpe": "An empty bag cannot stand up."* The traditional Haitian proverb alludes to the problem of empty tummies—without proper nourishment, children cannot stand.

**K**ETNAY SHOULD BE WALKING BY NOW. At 16 months, she should be chasing the piglets in her yard, running after her half-brother, or wandering through the nearby banana trees. Instead, Ketnay wiggles weakly in her mother's arms. She has survived the most life-threatening period of malnutrition. But the next eight months are critical. If she does not recover by the time she reaches her second birthday, lack of nutrition will have permanently crippled her development.

Her mother, 20-year-old Monise Saint-Vilus, anxiously clutches Ketnay closer to her breast. "When she turned 6 months old, we went for growth monitoring and I found out she was malnourished," Monise says. "My heart broke. I knew if she remained malnourished, she would die.

"She has gotten better, but not where she should be. When she gets up, her feet are shaking so much she cannot stand."

STORY & PHOTOGRAPHS  
by *Andrea Dearborn*



Monise holds Ketnay's tiny body in her arms and sings her a lullaby: "Baby, go to sleep. Your mama's going to the market. When she comes back, she'll bring you bread."

But Ketnay cannot live on bread alone. She also desperately needs the right variety and frequency of food, supplemental vitamins, access to health services, and clean water.

Currently half of all Haitian children are undersize due to malnutrition. For children under 5, Haiti is the most deadly country in the Western Hemisphere. Poverty, unemployment, environmental degradation, and political instability make rural communities especially vulnerable. In these areas, average earnings amount to 68 cents a day. Increasingly, rural Haitians are migrating to the cities to search for nonexistent jobs.

In September 2007, World Vision secured a grant from the U.S. government for a bold plan to combat pervasive malnutrition. The *Sak Plen* (full sack) initiative calls for food distributions, education for mothers, health care, and agricultural assistance for more than 100,000 impoverished households. Child sponsors complement the effort by helping communities access clean water and ensuring children can go to school. The hope is that by 2012, none of the children from these homes will be dying from malnutrition, nor will their development be irreversibly crippled by stunting.

Today in Terre Casse, a rural community near Hinche in the Central Plateau of Haiti, World Vision is supplying Monise and her family with monthly provisions of flour, oil, beans, and a wheat-soy blend. World Vision health worker Eduléne Pierre visits them regularly to teach Monise proper nutrition and to check up on her daughter. But it's early; Ketnay is still too weak to stand.

## DEBUNKING MYTHS

In addition to practical aid, seeing children become strong again requires debunking lingering myths. So, at her regular mothers' club meetings, Eduléne makes every word count. During a typical session, held inside a small wooden shelter, women gather to sit in a semi-circle holding babies in their arms. It's almost lunchtime. Hungry children moan weakly, but nobody cries. It's too hot. A few babies drift off to sleep. Sweat runs down their faces. Tenderly, mothers wipe the moisture away, lift up their shirts, and the babies turn to nurse.

"Is it true," Eduléne asks, after opening the meeting with

prayer, "that it is not good to feed children at night?"

"No," declare several women in unison. This is progress. Formerly, many of these mothers adhered to local custom where dinner is not given to children. Eduléne goes on to challenge another myth, explaining that if a child refuses to eat, the mother should not simply give the food to another eager mouth. Many mothers don't always realize that loss of appetite is often a sign of malnutrition.

Later, using a large poster board with illustrations Eduléne teaches women how to feed children from birth to 2 years old. She highlights the main stages of development and offers practical advice about frequency and quality of feeding. She uses song, drama, and hands-on recipe demonstrations to enliven the presentation and make sure the mostly uneducated mothers remember.



*"If I go to the hospital, they can tell me things, but it does not grab me as much as going to the mothers' club."*

—JONISE SIMÉUSE—

"If I go to the hospital, they can tell me things, but it does not grab me as much as going to the mothers' club," says attendee Jonise Siméuse, 20, who admits she can be a slow learner.

Jonise grew up in the same rural community in which she now lives with her husband and children. Most likely, Jonise's own mother struggled to feed her properly, resulting in a damaged mental capacity.

"I do not have much head to remember," says Jonise. "It was hard for me to learn. I wish for my children to grow and go to school so they are not like me."

Despite her good intentions, only a few months ago Jonise's children were struggling. She does not know why her 9-month-old son Claudeson died. "He just started crying, and we didn't have time to take him to the doctor. He died right away." He left behind an older sister and his emaciated twin brother, Peterson.

"I thought that I could lose him, too," says Jonise. "Peterson was worse than this little stick," she says, picking up a scrawny twig from the dirt.

Things changed when Jonise took her son to a World Vision health post where he was diagnosed with severe malnutrition. Jonise was given a monthly food ration and home-based lessons on how to improve Peterson's diet, and she was encouraged to attend the mothers' club. The support proved a lifesaver.

Once Eduléne concludes her presentation, the women cook up some enriched porridge and feed their hungry children. Sitting in Jonise's lap, Peterson eagerly consumes spoonfuls. Today he is a plump, healthy 1-year-old.

This is what makes Eduléne optimistic. She prays for each malnourished child she meets and rejoices when they recover.

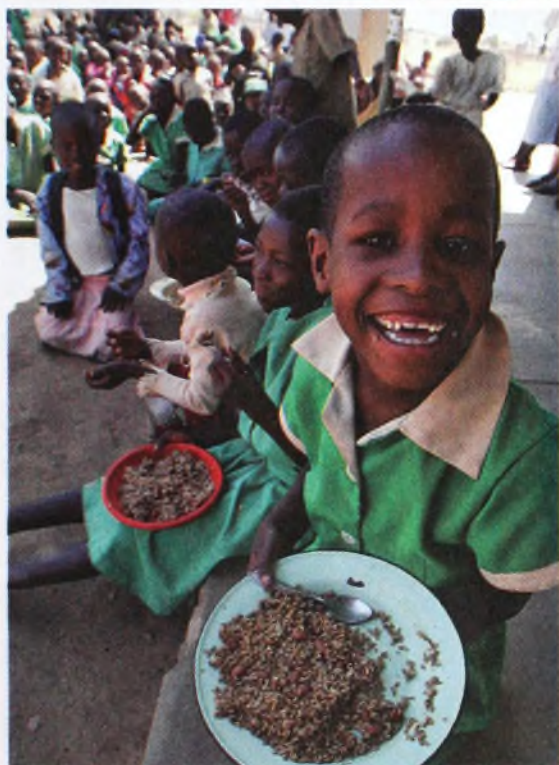
—continued on page 27





MAKOPANO LETSATSI/WORLD VISION

JON WARREN/WORLD VISION



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

**LEFT:** Edulène Pierre demonstrates a new recipe for enriched porridge to mothers of malnourished children. **BELOW:** Edulène challenges local myths, including one that says breast milk causes intestinal parasites. **BOTTOM:** Three-year-old Yvenord Sineus takes refuge in his mother's arms.



Worldwide, 854 million people do not have enough to eat—almost three times the population of the United States.

World Vision has received U.S. government grants to deliver food aid to families in Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, and nearly a dozen African countries. Because your gift will be combined with these funds, it will go four times further to save children's lives.

**Make your dollars count. Give generously to feed hungry children and their families.**



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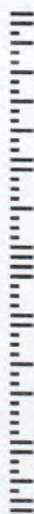
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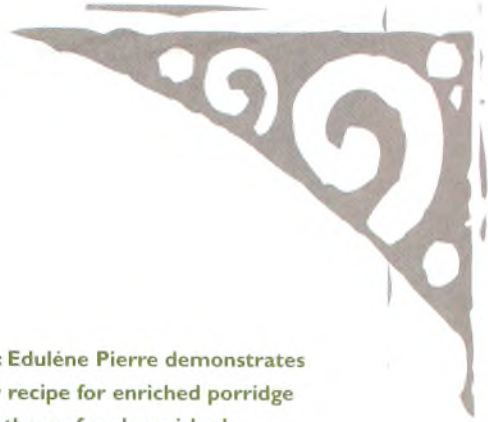
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**LEFT:** Edulène Pierre demonstrates a new recipe for enriched porridge to mothers of malnourished children. **BELOW:** Edulène challenges local myths, including one that says breast milk causes intestinal parasites. **BOTTOM:** Three-year-old Yvenord Sineus takes refuge in his mother's arms.



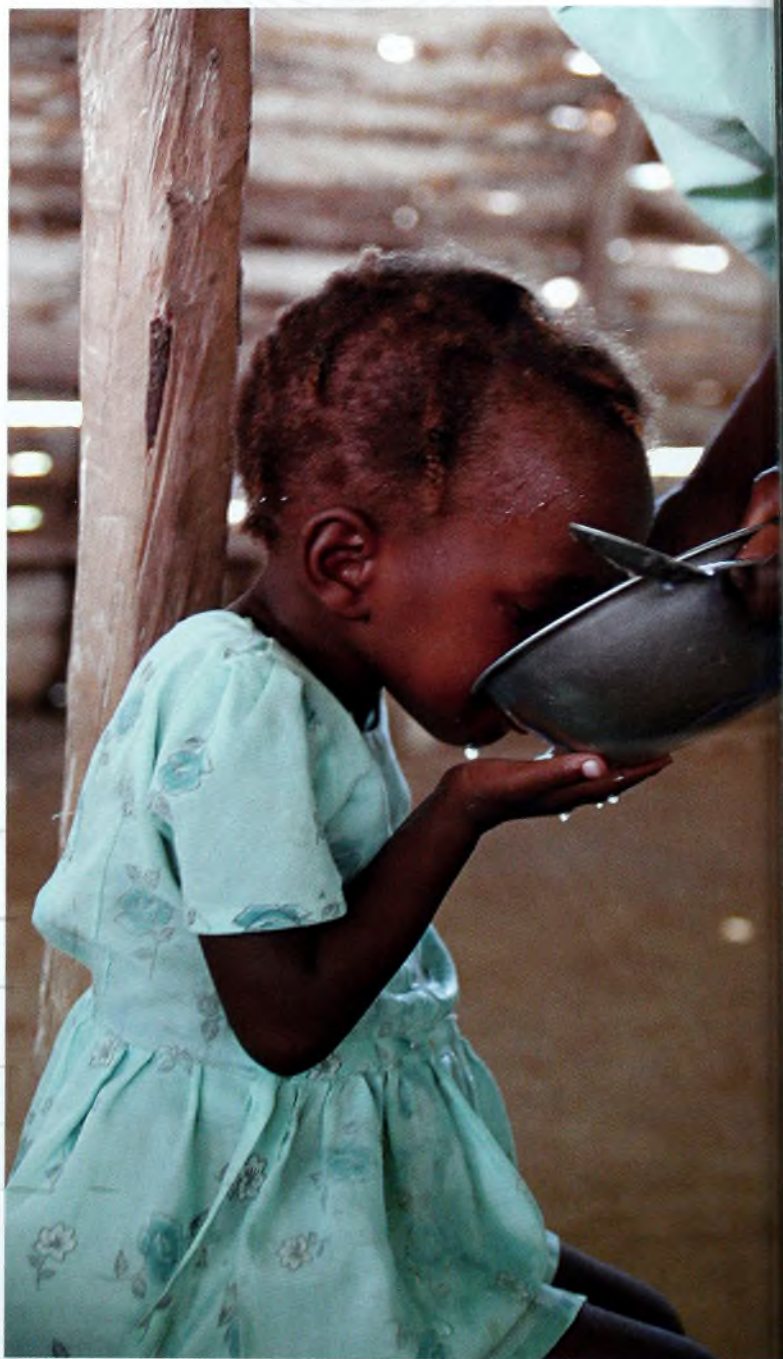




## WEB SPECIAL

Learn more about the plight of children in Haiti and World Vision's ministry there. Visit [www.worldvision.org/magazine](http://www.worldvision.org/magazine).

**TOP:** The mothers' club has become a family for Joceline Dessables and her malnourished daughter, Roseline. **ABOVE:** Edulène Pierre leads mothers in a song about nutrition. **RIGHT:** With monthly food supplies from World Vision, Roseline is getting stronger.





"She was almost 13 months and she couldn't walk. She was very sick. But now I can say she is saved." —JOCELINE DESSABLES

*-continued from page 24*

The most important part of this job for me is when the child comes to us very emaciated, and then you slowly watch the child recuperate. It's very rewarding," she says.

## FINDING A FAMILY

Single mothers like Joceline Dessables benefit from the mothers' club. The moms sing, laugh, eat together, and support one another. "In the mothers' club, I found a family," says Joceline, whose thin hair and weathered skin make her look closer to 50 than her true age of 28.

She also found hope for her daughter. "When I saw she was very thin and her hair was getting reddish, that's when I decided to come to the World Vision health post to see what was wrong," she says.

"She was almost 13 months and she couldn't walk. She was very sick. But now I can say she is saved."

Though Roseline's hair remains discolored, she is able to stand, walk, and run. She can feed herself and she has a huge appetite.

"Before, she did not eat well," says Joceline. "I did not know about food. I just gave her the food I was used to. But when I started coming to the mothers' club, I gave her a variety of foods, and she started eating more."

Joceline learned how to cook enriched porridge with protein and essential nutrients for Roseline and her three other children. Like Jonise and Monise, she receives monthly provisions of food from World Vision for her whole family.

"Thanks to God and World Vision, I still have my daughter, because I thought she would pass away," she says. Turning to Roseline, she adds, "Please say 'Thank you, God, for sending World Vision.'"

Roseline, who is eating a bowl full of enriched porridge, smiles shyly. If she continues eating well and fully regains her health by age 2, not only will she survive, she will avert the lasting imprint of hunger.

For Eduléne Pierre, there is nothing unusual about Roseline's case. "I see cases of malnutrition all the time, but we recuperate them all. There are no more children dying. We could look for it, but we wouldn't find it."

Haiti's empty bags are being filled. ■

*Andrea Dearborn is a photojournalist for World Vision based in Seattle. World Vision's communicator in Haiti, Anathalie Durand, also contributed to this story.*



## Q+A with A WOMAN OF ACTION

**World Vision health worker Eduléne Pierre can be found giving cooking lessons, weighing babies, distributing food, leading women in song, or hiking the hills to visit homes.**

**Q: Describe a typical day in your job.**

When there are no health post and clinic duties, we do home visits. I walk there. There are some very far places that we have to reach. You go up hills, down hills. You're sweating, but it's the visit you have to do. It takes all day.

**Q: Why is it important to visit people at home?**

It's important because it's complementary to the [work of the] health post. You have to go to the child's house to make sure the parents are following instructions and the child is being properly nourished with a balanced diet.

**Q: What motivates you?**

If this program goes away, we will lose many children again and lose the country's future.

**Q: Do you know of children who have died of malnutrition?**

Yes. Two of my sister's children died of malnutrition. The children were 2 years old and 18 months old.

**Q: How does your faith impact your work?**

I pray for the children, and I pray with them. The first thing we do when we gather is bring everything to the Lord. Everybody prays together.

**Q: What would you like to say to World Vision donors?**

May God always provide for them, because those donors give out of a good heart. We cannot repay. Only God can repay that for us.

—Andrea Dearborn





**LEFT:** Yongae relives memories with daughter Sarah. **FACING PAGE:** A cherished photo of the original Korean Orphans Cho

During the choir's international tours, Yongae Kim lived a more exciting life than the richest, most privileged children in Korea. She visited more than 15 countries performing for royalty, heads of state, and some of the world's top entertainers.

"The choir would sing gospel songs for the first part, and then Pastor Bob Pierce would do a sermon," she recalls. "We sang Korean folks songs for the second half of the performance. I remember the audience crying and being touched and giving a lot of offerings."

The event she remembers the most was in Hollywood, where she sang for an audience of stars, including Kim Novak. "They were all crying, and it was funny because the women would blot their eyes so carefully in order to not mess up their makeup," Yongae laughs, dabbing her eyes just like the stars did.

She proudly displays photos of her extraordinary life in the choir. One photo, discolored by time and crinkled by years of handling, shows Yongae standing on the banks of the Jordan River with World Vision founder Bob Pierce—he baptized her there.

Yongae sang with the choir until she went to high school. She later attended the top women's university in Seoul, where she earned a bachelor's degree in pharmaceuticals, leading to a successful career.

But in 1991, Yongae and her husband, Taeho, decided that they should move to the United States for the sake of their three young children. "We had a really good life in Korea," Yongae says, "but it was the best opportunity for my children."

Yongae and her family settled in Orange County, Calif., where they own and manage a fast-food restaurant. Their sac-

## Looking Back on Love»

*A member of the original, world-famous Korean Orphans Choir reflects on her extraordinary life.*

*By Wendy Chin*

**M**y brother and sister could sing, but they just took me because I was cute," says Yongae Kim, 53, with a laugh. Forty-seven years ago, visitors had come to the orphanage in Korea where 6-year-old Yongae and her siblings lived after being left behind by their parents. The adults were looking for singers for the first-ever World Vision Korean Orphans Choir. Yongae remembers that day as pivotal for her, her brother, Chong Man, and her sister, Young Sook.

"Out of all the orphans in Korea, all three of us were picked," she says. "I believe God handpicked us and had this planned for us all along."

They moved from the orphanage into a World Vision dormitory, joining 30 other young choir members. The group attended school during the day and rehearsed at night. "I used to get in trouble," Yongae confesses. "I would always nod off during the evening choir practice."



The choir would sing gospel songs for the first part, and then Pastor Bob Pierce would do a sermon.

ce has paid off for their children. Eldest daughter, Sarah, 28, earned a master's degree in education and is now a third-grade teacher. Paul, 20, is studying psychology at the University of California, Irvine.

Daughter Yeri, 26, earned a master's degree in international relations and now works for World Vision, in the program office serving the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Yongae's brother and sister also enjoyed successful careers in Korea, and later, they resettled in the U.S. as well.

Chong Man, 59, is a conductor for Bethel Korean Church in Irvine, Calif. Young Sook, 55, is married to a pastor at First Korean Baptist Church of Tustin, Calif.

While Yongae, Chong Man, and Young Sook never knew their birth parents, they were not without caring adults. The woman they consider their unofficial mother is Virginia Ruth Bunner, a woman from Indiana. Virginia met Chong Man when he was in college and she was teaching English at Seoul Foreign School.

After hearing his and his sibling's stories, Virginia took the young people under her wing.

"We call her 'mother,'" Yongae says, "and our children call her their 'American Grandma.'" Virginia supported the siblings in Seoul until she retired and moved back to the United States. But she returned every year to Korea to see her three "children." When Yongae, Chong Man, and Young Sook moved to America, she frequently visited them in California until her death in 2000.

Looking back on the life God planned for her, Yongae says, "I'm just thankful for everything that God has done." She is quick to mention how God has shown his favor to the other choir members as well. "God handpicked all the choir members," she adds. "God didn't forget all the time they spent praising him when they were young—they are all doing well now." ■

» **Wendy Chin** is a freelance photojournalist living in San Francisco.



## About World Vision

**WHO WE ARE** | World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to helping children, families, and their communities worldwide reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice.

**WHOM WE SERVE** | Motivated by our faith in Jesus Christ, we serve alongside the poor and oppressed—regardless of a person's religion, race, ethnicity, or gender—as a demonstration of God's unconditional love for all people.

**WHY WE SERVE** | Our passion is for the world's poorest children whose suffering breaks the heart of God. To help secure a better future for each child, we focus on lasting, community-based transformation. We partner with individuals and communities, empowering them to develop sustainable access to clean water, food supplies, health care, education, and economic opportunities.

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

**YOU CAN HELP** | Partnering with World Vision provides tangible ways to honor God and put faith into action. By working together, we can make a lasting difference in the lives of children and families who are struggling to overcome poverty. To find out how you can help, visit [www.worldvision.org](http://www.worldvision.org).





## Sharing Meals, Sharing Love >

In the beginning, God created the food chain, and it was good. Before he made humans, he created the ecology that would sustain them and gave them dominion over it all: “the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the cattle, and every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth” (Genesis 1:26).

Human beings have broken that divinely formed food chain by doubting God’s goodness. We assume God is unwilling or unable to provide “our daily bread,” so we disregard him and look elsewhere.

When Adam and Eve took matters into their own hands by eating the forbidden fruit, a great divide opened up between God and humankind. From then on, food production entailed toil. Instead of being a readily accessible source of sustenance, the struggle to get food became a metaphor for the fallen, imperfect state of humanity.

These days we look to science, economics, and politics to meet all our needs. Yet genetic engineering, information technology, free trade, democracy, and every other human advance cannot eliminate hunger, because none address its underlying cause: sin.

As long as humanity refuses to accept that without God, we “can do nothing” (John 15:5), we will fall short of the ideal of a world without hunger. Until we realize that we “do not live on bread alone” (Matthew 4:4) and that we need Jesus, the Bread of Life, sin will block the blessings of God. The rich will continue to hoard while the poor suffer. Profit-motivated people will go on planting fields

*Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ” —Matthew 4:4*

with crops to make cigarettes, alcohol, and drugs that harm millions, instead of producing cereals that could feed billions.

As Christians, our identity and strength in Christ give us an opportunity to use food the way it was originally intended: to connect humans to God and to each other. The curse of hunger can be overcome by love. If we love our neighbors across the ocean as much as we love our children and ourselves, we would never stand by and watch them starve. We would be compelled by compassion (which literally means “with in suffering”) to ensure that no child goes to bed hungry.

Hunger and poverty are ultimately about marginalization—a helpless sense of separateness. Sharing food with someone who is



**Edward Brown with a conservation farmer beneficiary in Zimbabwe.**

poor not only fills their stomach, but also fulfills their equally urgent need for acceptance and connectedness. Food brings us together in community, with each other and with God.

Some say that food aid creates dependency. But rather than assuming the worst let us emphasize the best that a free meal offers: an expression of unity and love. Breaking bread with someone breaks barriers of religion, ethnicity, culture, and class. It was a common practice of Jesus to eat with outcasts—demonstrating that he came to overturn the world’s social norms and usher in a new era.

I encourage you to partner with World Vision in feeding the hungry. Last year World Vision’s donors ensured 10 million people in 36 countries were fed with 647,000 metric tons of food. Food is our God-given means of sharing the love of Christ with a hungry world. ■

» **Edward G. Brown** leads the Consortium for the Southern Africa Food Emergency (C-SAFE) program in Zimbabwe. He is the author of *From the Forbidden Fruit to the Final Feast*.



# RETROSPECT



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

## K E N Y A

The children of Katito, Kenya, celebrate the appearance of rain clouds. The rain will provide the water to grow their food for the upcoming year. But they are also wary, because last year, like many years, severe flooding destroyed crops and homes—and put a damper on Christmas celebrations. World Vision is working to provide children and families with access to wells for clean water in the dry season, in addition to building homes and schools that can withstand flooding in the rainy season. So now, even when the storm clouds roll in, these sponsored children can see the glimmer of a silver lining. ■



# use your voice for children

You can spread the joy of child sponsorship simply by giving your church, small group, or adult education class the opportunity to become child sponsors.

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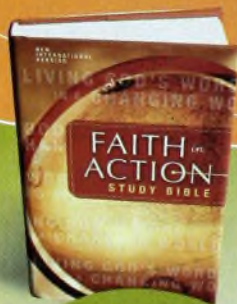


Building a better world for children

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

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