

World Vision

1950 - 2000  
Fifty **50** Years  
Anniversary

# Today

Summer 2000

# Child Laborers

**tired of the toil**

page 12

**Why My Mother is Special** page 4

**Crisis Update on Africa** page 28



**Washington sponsor Barb Boswell meets Erick Cuba Paucar, 3, and his mother in Quiquijana, Peru.**

## Famine Fighter Visits Peru

For eight years, our youth group has participated in the 30 Hour Famine, raising more than \$37,000 to support World Vision projects. Each year new kids join, the majority from unchurched homes. While being introduced to the needs of children, they are also introduced to Jesus.

In September, I traveled to Quiquijana, Peru, to see World Vision's work. I saw women gaining marketable skills, and learning about healthcare programs, agricultural development, and through it all, the love of Jesus Christ.

In Quiquijana, I met a beautiful little boy named Erick who is now sponsored by our youth group. What a thrill to meet Erick's mom, to feel the gratitude in her smile and hug, and to visit her home. I no longer look at sponsorship advertisements with just a passing interest. I now see a child who laughs and cries; a child who needs air, food, and water; a child who is a masterpiece, created by God.

*Barb Boswell, Woodland Presbyterian Church, Woodland, Wash.*

## Healing Hearts in Rwanda

I can personally attest to the great value of World Vision's trauma treatment program ["Healing the Wounds of the Heart" Spring 2000]. In 1998, I was part of a team working with grief and trauma recovery for Christian groups in Rwanda and Burundi. The stories of women and children brought us face to face with evil itself. It is only through intensive work with each individual that this nation will be able to heal, forgive, and break the cycle of killing and evil.

While in Rwanda, our group was caught in a terrorist ambush. Eight people were killed. Through God's grace, we were spared. World Vision's trauma expert, Lincoln Ndogoni, did trauma debriefing with us before we returned to the United States. It helped us cope and probably spared us from carrying many burdens home. I hope World Vision will expand this important ministry.

*Gloria M. Halverson, M.D., Waukesha, Wis.*

## Christian Values?

I commend you for your ministry in which I have been privileged to share over the last several years. However, two things bothered me as I read *World Vision Today* [Spring 2000]. First, the chart showing educational versus defense spending overlooked the fact that U.S. education is almost entirely funded (and controlled) through local property taxes. My research shows that actual government (local, state, and federal) spending on education is 19.6 percent of the budget versus defense spending of 18.1 percent.

Second, I found it odd that a Christian organization's "to do" list didn't include the need for moral education or spiritual development in the Third World. The list mentions "freedom to believe," but there's no sense that what one believes really matters. Where is the eternal (and temporal) value of the Christian gospel? I don't expect UNICEF or Oxfam to value these things, but I am concerned that your Christian organization lacks the vision of how vital these are for raising happy, well-balanced, hopeful, and loving children.

The 10 urgent issues are truly exciting challenges. But please consider including explicit goals for pointing World Vision kids to Christ.

*Greg Weiss, Mamaroneck, N.Y.*

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### On the cover

Vey Thavara, 11, is one of the 500 children work as scrap collectors in the Stung Mean dump in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.  
 Photograph by Jon Warren

Corrections: The date for this year's National Day of Prayer was printed incorrectly in our Spring 2000 issue. The correct event date was May 15, 2000.

The essay entitled "Feed the Need" stated that 32,000 children die of hunger every day. In fact, 32,000 children die of preventable diseases more than half of which are attributable to hunger or hunger-related diseases.

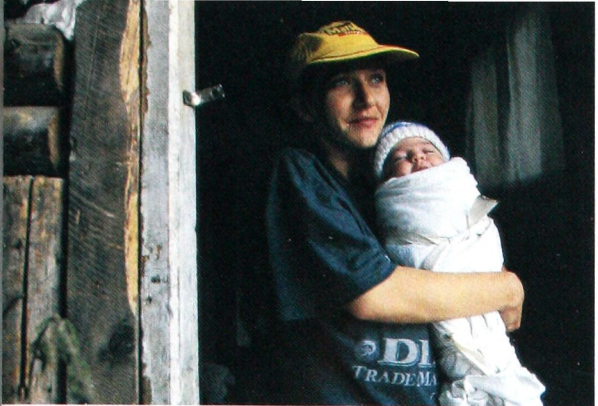
**World Vision Today**, a free quarterly publication, affirms people responding to God to care for the poor by providing information, inspiration, and opportunities for action. We are linking them with children and families in nearly 90 countries where World Vision operates. In an effort to be careful stewards of our resources, this publication costs less than 30 cents a copy to print and mail.

We welcome your comments and feedback. Let the Editor must include the writer's full name, address, and daytime telephone number, and send to: The Editor, **World Vision Today**, P.O. Box 1000, Federal Way, Washington 98063-9716, e-mail: [WVToday@worldvision.org](mailto:WVToday@worldvision.org) or faxed to (253) 815-1111. Letters may be edited for space and clarity. Subscriptions will not be returned. Please send address changes at least 30 days before moving and enclose the old label clipped from a current copy or return envelope.

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JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

# “They Have No Mothers”

*“Though my father and mother forsake me,  
the Lord will receive me.”* PSALM 27:10 (NIV)

**World Vision helps Romanian mothers keep their babies and reunites orphanage children with their parents, whenever possible.**

**I RECENTLY TRAVELED TO ROMANIA TO VISIT** the children housed in the world’s most notorious orphanage system. It was a trip I was not eager to take.

Before leaving the United States, I watched the “20/20” segment that first aired in 1990, exposing the American public to the horrors and abuses in Romania’s orphanages. I was shocked once again by the images of hundreds of children caged like animals in deplorable conditions.

A World Vision staff member interviewed by “20/20” commented that the conditions of the orphanage children were worse than those of children who starved to death in the 1984 Ethiopian famine. At least they died in their mothers’ arms, the worker explained. “These children have no mothers.”

How incredibly important mothers and fathers are. They love us before we are born. They are the first sight our eyes behold. Their arms are the first to hold us; their voices are the first we hear. They love us irrationally and unconditionally.

Child development specialists believe that intimate moments with loving parents in our first few years provide the crucial ingredients we need to become all God intended us to be. Deprive a child of their parents’ touch, tender words, and powerful love, and you take away something as precious as life itself.

Today, the number of institutionalized children in Romania is about the same as in 1990—about 100,000. The underlying factors causing parents to give up their children remain little changed. In a country where one-third of the population lives on less than \$1.50 a day, many mothers can’t afford to

keep their babies. Their desperate choices are to abort or give their newborns to the state. Sadly, both options are socially acceptable.

I discovered that orphanage conditions have improved since 1990 through the efforts of organizations like World Vision and reforms by the Romanian government. Yet, even as dedicated orphanage staff strive to provide quality care, they are overwhelmed by the number of children demanding their attention. I saw hundreds of babies lying unattended in their cribs. However, even if orphanage conditions were perfect, these kids would still lack a mother’s love.

World Vision is working to reunite orphanage children with their birth mothers where possible, or find foster parents for them. The highlight of my trip was visiting the modest apartment where 2-year-old Valentina and her foster mother, Ana Adone, live. Ana is a widow with a 17-year-old son. I could tell by the smiles and hugs Ana lavished on Valentina that the little girl is receiving the love of a mother, and Ana is rewarded by the special joy that comes from loving a child.

I pray along with our staff that in 10 years there won’t be any need for orphanages in Romania. I also pray for mothers around the world who work so hard to raise happy, healthy children—mothers like those depicted in this issue (see “Why My Mother is Special,” page 4). I hope the images of these women, photographed by their children, will remind you of the precious gift given to you by your own mother. Call her today, as I did, and thank her.



*Richard E. Stearns*



*"Mama teaches me everything she does, because she says she may die soon. I tell her my problems because she is my best friend. I admire her so much. I want to be like her when I am older."*

*—Julienne Nanzanya, 10, Kakunyu, Uganda*



Regina Namaganda, whose husband died of AIDS in 1994, is quietly preparing her daughter and siblings Jane, 13, and Joseph, 7, to cope without her.

why my mother is

# S P E C I A L

THERE'S SOMETHING UNIQUE ABOUT EVERY WOMAN THAT ONLY HER CHILDREN CAN TELL YOU. HERE, SPONSORED CHILDREN FROM SEVEN COUNTRIES SHARE WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT THEIR MOTHERS THROUGH THEIR WORDS AND PHOTOS THEY TOOK THEMSELVES



*“These are the flowers that my mother and I planted together. I love that she takes care of me as she cares for the flowers.”*

*—Ngoy Daravun, 14  
Kongpong Chheuteal,  
Cambodia*

Daravun is the fourth of five children of Ngoy Try, 51, a district education officer, and Kiet Naysim, 47, a farmer and housewife. The family lives in an area that was once jungle, populated by tigers, elephants, and wild boars.



Milagros Medina takes care of her three children alone after her husband abandoned the family two years ago. Roseida helps with housework and looks after her younger brother while her mom works in the field picking coffee beans.



*“I like taking pictures of my mom because she has the most beautiful smile in the world. When I grow up I want to be a good mother like my mom.”*

*—Roseida Cuevas Medina, 12  
Sampulín, Dominican Republic*

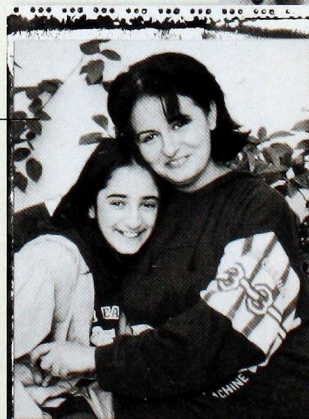


*"Mother wakes me early to go to school, so I'm never late. When I enrolled in nursery school, it was she who provided everything I needed such as text books. Many children have dropped out of school because they do not have these things. My mother is different from others in that she does not like sitting around with groups of women to gossip."*

—Naanyu Saaya, 6  
Oloika, Kenya



Susannah Saaya, 35, took in Naanyu three years ago when the girl's parents died of AIDS. Though Susannah never went to school herself (traditionally Maasai girls are not educated), she encourages Naanya, already first in her class, to aim high in academics.

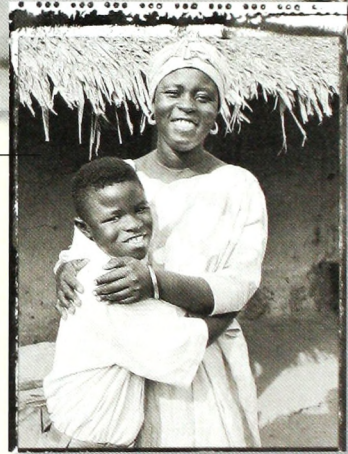
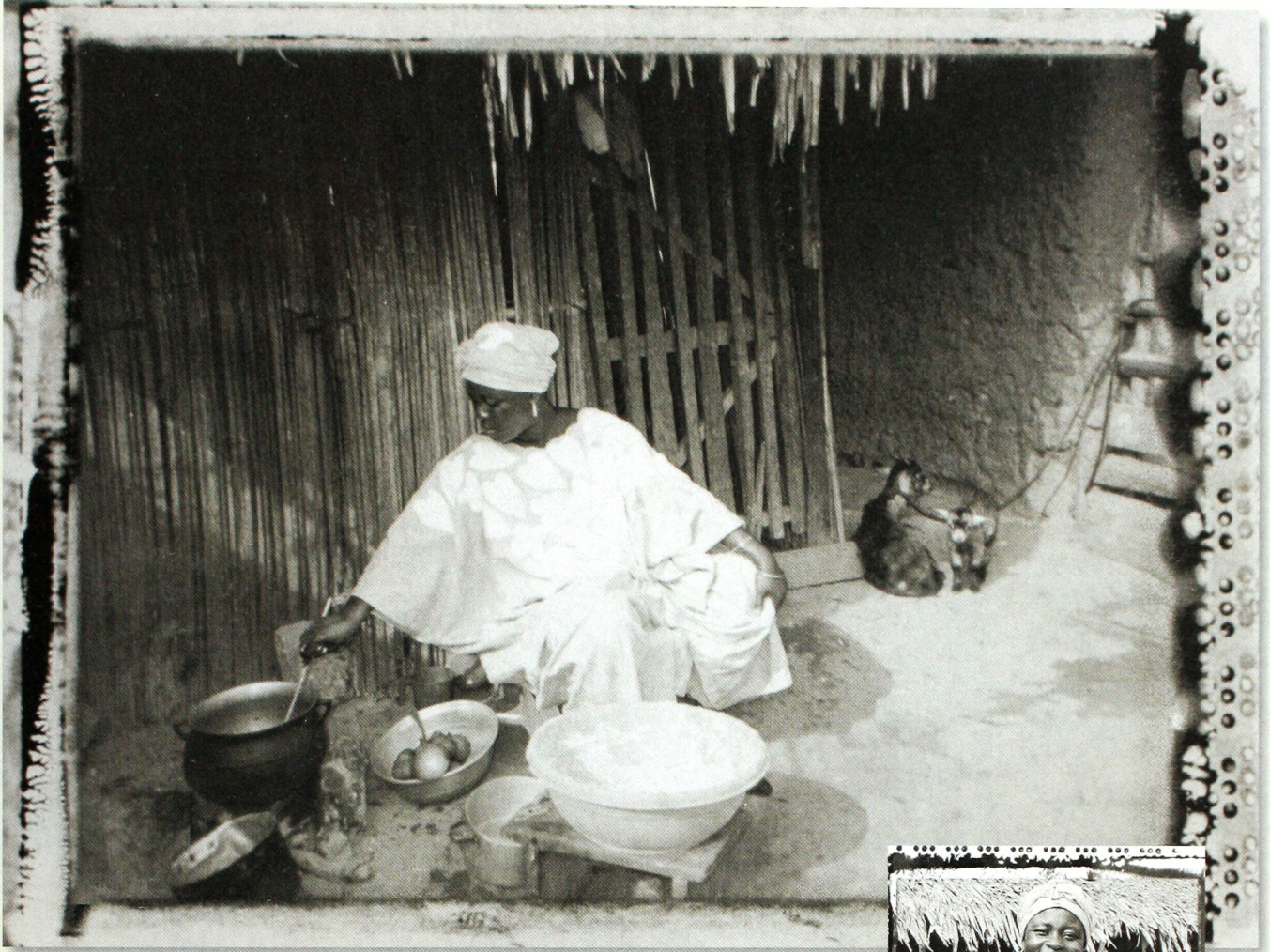


*"My mother's patience reaches limits that other mothers' do not. She does not spank us, and she talks to us as friends."*

—Clemence Zurub, 10  
Beirut, Lebanon



Atta, as the oldest child and only son, looks forward to his future responsibility of caring for his parents. He vows he'll build a house for his mother, Asantewaah Dick, 32, and even open a supermarket to ensure her needs are always met.



*"Some parents don't train their children well. My mother is not like that. She reprimands me and sometimes spansks me. I accept it in good faith because of my misbehavior."*

—Atta Emmanuel, Jr., 10  
Jamasi, Ghana



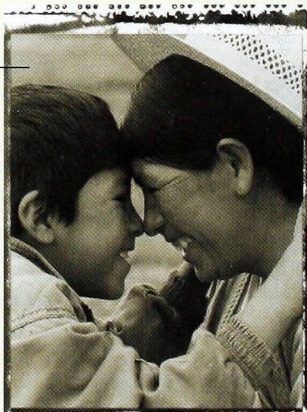
Clemence lives with her parents and 7-year-old sister, Michelene (pictured with mother), in a small apartment. Her father, Jean Zurub, a driver, works long hours, so Gladess Zurub, 33, spends time with the girls after school.



Francis, the youngest of eight children, spends all his free time with his mother, Hannah Samaa, 50. Asked if he thinks she is the most beautiful woman in the village, he responds, "What is beauty? You can't determine a good or nice person by physical beauty. My mother's beauty is determined by her love for me."

*"If an animal should attack my mother on the farm, if I can't kill it, I'll surrender myself to be killed too. I can't imagine being alone without my mother!"*

—Francis Agyeman, 11  
Nkwanta, Ghana



*"My mom and I think the same things; when she goes to the market she usually brings me what I wanted. I like my mother's hair. It is long, black, and very beautiful. I like to watch when she combs it."*

—William Leonardo Mamani Condori, 9  
Soracachi, Bolivia

**William helps his mother, Leonarda Condori, 34, tend their mountain sheep. Leonarda also runs a small store and works in the fields. William admires his mother's hardworking but cheerful spirit. "I have never seen my mother sad. She is a happy person," he says.**





*As World Vision celebrates its 50th year,*  
we praise God for our donors' generosity and compassion. In 1999, our income reached an all-time high, enabling us to care for more children and families than ever before.

# *Stand and Be Counted*

## Children Assisted by U.S. Sponsors



1999      1998      1997

577,579  
 565,733  
 526,694

# *Sponsors' Extra Effort*

\$120 million of the \$407.3 million raised for ministry in 1999 came from sponsors. Faithful sponsors provided education, health care, and other benefits to more than 577,000 children last year.

In addition to their monthly pledges, sponsors gave more than \$13 million toward special needs of children and families worldwide:

— **\$5,157,263** to the Childcare Ministry Fund, providing emergency medical care and other desperately needed assistance to both sponsored and nonsponsored children and their families.

— **\$5,109,250** to aid victims of natural disasters and crises such as Hurricane Mitch and Colombia's earthquake.

— **\$2,783,473** to fund birthday celebrations and special community gifts for sponsored children.

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## Success by the Numbers

	1999	1998	1997
Total number of U.S. donors:	697,985	666,343	656,535
Number of U.S. sponsors:	451,257	400,660	398,702
Number of children sponsored by U.S. donors:	577,579	565,733	526,694
Number of beneficiaries worldwide:	84,952,163	73,129,645	60,105,511
Total contributions and revenue:	\$407,371,000	358,351,000	348,357,000

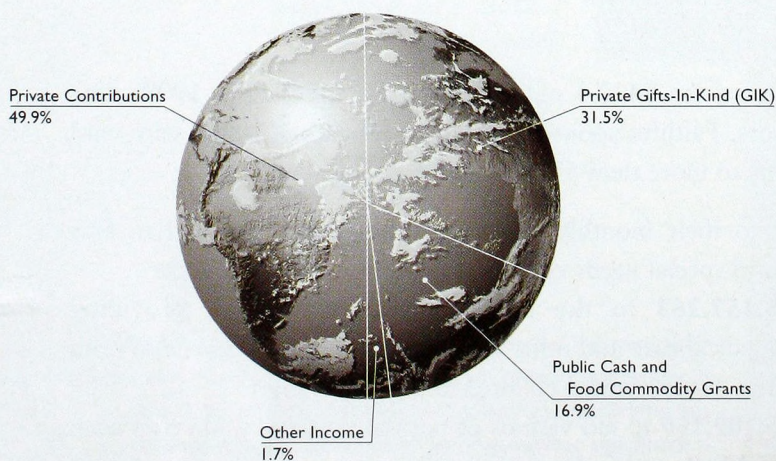
## Contributions and Revenue

49.9%	Private Contributors ..... Individuals, churches, corporations, and foundations	\$203,305,000
31.5%	Private Gifts-In-Kind (GIK) ..... Goods such as clothing, seeds, pharmaceuticals, and building materials received from corporations and other private donors	\$128,144,000
16.9%	Public Cash and Food Commodity Grants ..... Cash grants, bulk grains, and other commodities primarily from U.S. government agencies	\$69,038,000
1.7%	Other Income ..... Primarily annuity and investment income	\$6,884,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>\$407,371,000</b>

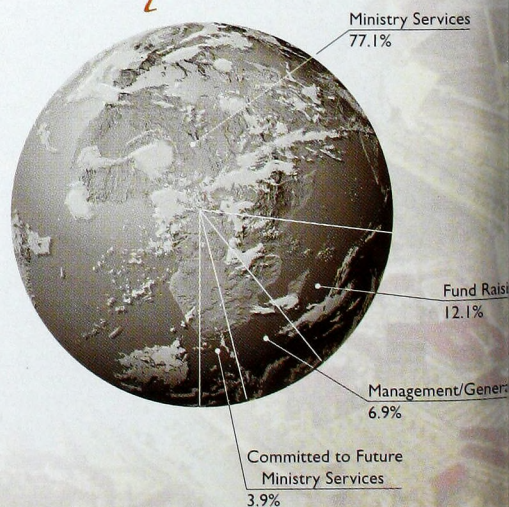
## Expenditures

77.1%	Ministry Services ..... Child sponsorship, relief, community development, Christian outreach, GIK, domestic programs, public awareness and education, and grants to other ministries	\$314,284,000
3.9%	Committed to Future Ministry Services .....	\$15,984,000
12.1%	Fund Raising ..... Cost of World Vision fund-raising efforts in the United States	\$49,043,000
6.9%	Management/General ..... Cost of administrative support for U.S. operations	\$28,060,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>\$407,371,000</b>

### Contributions & Revenue



### Expenditures



# what every mother knows

We may not speak the same language or eat the same food. Our skin may be different colors; our clothing worlds apart. Your home may be a tent through which the desert sand swirls, while my house is made of bricks, sturdy and secure.

You work with your hands, your back breaking each day, while my work is at a computer, mind-numbingly intense. I shiver in winter while you are glad

that the sun burns you a little less. You have experienced things I have only seen on television and even then, turned away. I have more possessions than you can imagine, although in some ways I have less.

But none of those differences matter at all. None of what divides us can keep us apart. We are both mothers, and that changes everything for you and me and the way we see the world.

I held you as you wept for a lost child. I cried tears of joy seeing your daughter learn to write her own name. We traded stories in sign language; made gestures that every mother understands.

I showed you photos of my boys. You gathered up your children so I could admire every one. You took my hand and walked me to the place where you buried a baby, digging her grave with your own hands. Language and skin color mean little when hearts ache together. A mother's pride is the same whether you are rich or poor. Identity the world over is lost to cries of "Mama."

Mothers of the world are more alike than different, more united by love of children than divided by borders or ethnicity. We touch each other in wordless ways and share smiles of understanding.

Mothers pray for the same things: peace and safety and a better life for their children. We pray because we know our children are not our own. ■

*Dale Hanson Bourke, publisher of Religion News Service and a World Vision board member, lives with her family near Washington, D.C. She has visited World Vision projects in Africa, Eastern Europe, and Latin America.*



**Hao Le Nguyen, 36, juggles her job and taking care of Nicholas and his baby brother. Nicholas, whose parents are from Vietnam, receives tutoring through World Vision's KidREACH program.**



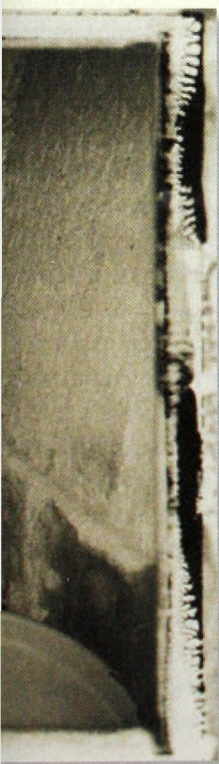
● *"My mom takes off work to take me to the doctor. If I forget something [for school], she drives all the way home to get it. She always says to do [well] at school."*

—*Nicholas Nguyen, 9  
Irvine, Calif., United States*

*Contributors: Faustina Boakye (Ghana), Pablo Carrillo (Bolivia), Geri Chaaya and Jean Salibi (Lebanon), Helen Dao (United States), Nigel Marsh and Jane Nandawula (Uganda), Winnie Ogana (Kenya), Kith Veasna (Cambodia), Jon Warren and Lorgia Garcia (Dominican Republic).*



KAREN HOMERWORLD VISION



Businesses and volunteers work together to provide school supplies for low-income

# Freebies For



**Dianna Sullivan, of Cascade View Elementary School in Tukwila, Wash., says supplies from the Kids in Need center are helpful in teaching abstract concepts to first graders.**

**“THIS IS THE MOST AWESOME MINISTRY,”** SAID FIRST-grade teacher Dianna Sullivan, piling boxes of free binders, pens, crayons, and paper into a teetering, overloaded shopping cart. “A lot of my kids show up in class without anything—not even a pencil. Thanks to the Kids in Need program, we can take care of them.”

Dianna, a teacher at Cascade View Elementary School in Tukwila, Wash., is one of 350 educators and 6,000 students benefiting from the Kids in Need Resource Center-Seattle. Since this warehouse opened in September 1999, about \$300,000 worth of donated classroom supplies have been distributed to 20 elementary schools in Seattle and Tacoma. To qualify for the program, 70 percent of the schools’ students must be from low-income families.

The Kids in Need Resource Center-Seattle is administered by Vision Northwest, a World Vision community partnership project, in cooperation with the School and Home Office Products Association (SHOPA) and the Boeing Bluebills, a volunteer association of 1,700 retired Boeing Company employees.

“The Kids in Need program helps kids get the supplies they need for a healthy start in education, and it supports teachers, letting them know that someone is pulling for them, that the community is interested in helping them educate our children,” said Kevin Hunter, director of Vision Northwest.

Most of the supplies are donated by 1,800 member companies of the SHOPA Foundation for Educational Excellence. Local businesses also give useful items such as video tapes and computer disks. The Boeing Company provided warehouse space, and 30 Bluebills (named after Boeing’s first aircraft) staff the center in coordination with World Vision.

“The program has been a remarkable success. Everyone pitches in,” said Bluebill Howard Syder. The volunteers stock shelves, manage inventory, and assist teachers who come to “shop” eight afternoons a month. Moved by the teachers’ stories

By Karen Homer

Photographs by Jon Warren

children through World Vision's Kids in Need program.

# Kids in Need

of children's needs, Howard says current Boeing employees donated 600 backpacks filled with school supplies, in addition to volunteering their time.

"The volunteers are so eager and helpful. They make it fun to come here," said second grade teacher Nancy Benson, loading her cart with 16 items from the resource center, including an Encarta educational software program that retails for \$60. Nancy says the 56-mile round trip from Boze Elementary School in Tacoma to the South Park warehouse is worth the trek. "I came for the first time in September, and it was so wonderful I've been back every month since. I've saved at least \$250 already this year," said Nancy, who annually forks out up to \$2,000 of her own cash to buy extra classroom supplies. "The more we can supply for the kids, the more it helps their families and creates a nicer atmosphere in the classroom."

Meeting children's needs and seeing the many "divine coincidences" makes this work particularly rewarding, says World Vision project manager, Jim Peterson.

"A teacher asked me if we ever receive shipments of socks because many of the children come to school with holes in their footwear or none at all," said Jim. "I took a look at the World Vision warehouse and discovered we had pallets and pallets of socks donated by L'eggs. That's the hand of the Lord at work."

The Kids in Need Resource Center-Seattle is the fifth location (the third partnership with World Vision) in a growing national network of facilities offering school supplies to needy children. In Chicago, the program serves 25 schools; in Los Angeles 30 schools benefit. The program plans to expand to seven locations, opening centers in Washington, D.C., and the Twin Cities. Currently, more than 2,000 teachers collect supplies each month from the five centers.

"The kids are very excited when I come back from the warehouse and can't wait to help me unpack the boxes," says Dianna,

**Every month, more than 2,000 teachers collect free supplies from five Kids in Need resource centers, including this Seattle warehouse.**



while her 24 students read from nursery rhyme books she picked up at the Kids in Need center. "Having hands-on materials to work with helps me explain abstract concepts and increases their learning retention by 90 percent."

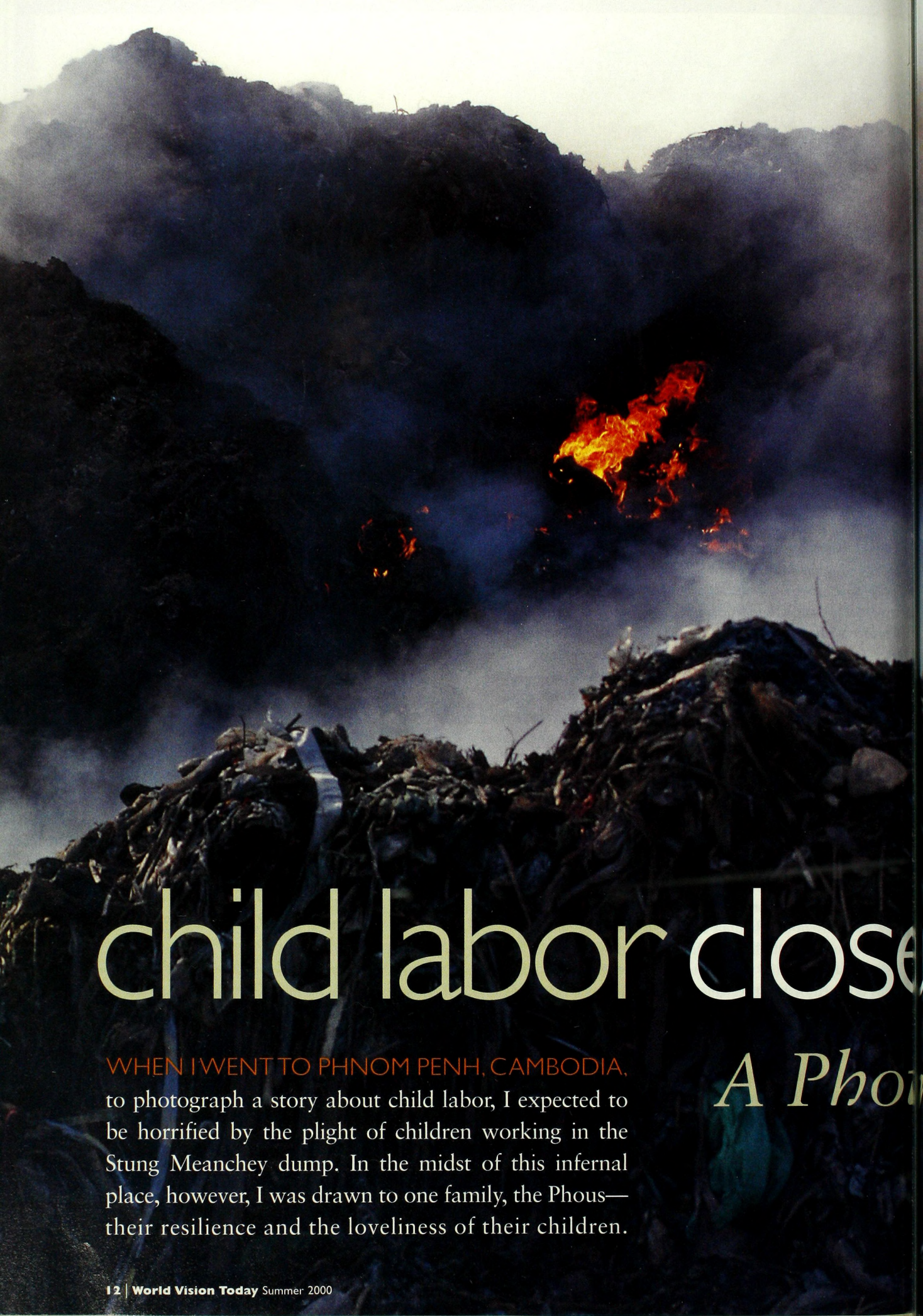
Dianna says she isn't surprised that World Vision, primarily known for its service overseas, supports local ministry in the Northwest. "World Vision is about meeting people's needs, especially young people. It makes sense that they're involved in this." ■

## **Kits for Kids**

**In addition to helping students in the United States, World Vision distributes school items in countries wracked by war or chronic poverty where goods are in short supply. This year, 100,000 school kits are needed for students in 20 developing countries. Each kit contains seven items costing a total of \$7.**

**Challenge children in your church's Sunday school class, Vacation Bible School, or youth group to compile "Kits for Kids" as a special project. It's an easy, fun, inexpensive, and effective way for kids here to minister to kids overseas.**

**For more information, contact Laura Fronko at (412) 749-1800 ext. 227, E-mail [schoolkits@worldvision.org](mailto:schoolkits@worldvision.org), or check our Web site at [www.worldvision.org/schoolkits](http://www.worldvision.org/schoolkits).**



# child labor close

*A Photo*

WHEN I WENT TO PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA, to photograph a story about child labor, I expected to be horrified by the plight of children working in the Stung Meanchey dump. In the midst of this infernal place, however, I was drawn to one family, the Phous—their resilience and the loveliness of their children.

*An End to Child Exploitation* | AN URGENT ISSUE  
Photos and Story by Jon Warren



P  
*ographer's Journey*

I fell in love with the Phou family: Kayrith, 14, incessantly hungry and quietly responsible. Ratha, 12, a whiz at math and an ace at marbles. Delicate, artistic Minea, 10, light enough to lift her over my head with one hand. Srey Yaan, 5, always singing. Srey Yan, 4, the silent sibling. Little 10-month-old Sam Naang, constantly held by someone. And their husky-voiced cousin Thavara, 11, whose parents sent her to the city for better opportunities. The mother, E Sam On, toils tirelessly: fishing, scrap collecting, or “coining,” a traditional healing treatment. Her husband, Bo, used to work on a garbage truck before he got malaria and lost his job. The family earns less than \$2 a day even with the parents, three oldest children, and Thavara all working.

The dump provides the majority of the Phous’ income, as well as some of their clothes, school supplies, and housing materials. It’s a vital part of their lives and community. To me, it’s a foul place. Imagine



**Top: Snacking on discarded food sometimes gives Kayrith stomach aches.**

**Bottom: Scrap collectors keep their own hours—enabling Kayrith and Ratha to goof off now and then.**

emptying your garbage can and adding all your neighbors’ trash until you’ve covered a football field 20 feet deep. Add animal and medical waste. Deluge it with water, creating quicksand that you can sink into up to your thighs. Don’t forget the flies, snakes, and dogs. Wearing flimsy sandals, wade in. Be careful to avoid bulldozers and trucks that have crushed children in the past. Hunt for soft plastics like bottles and syringes, pieces of metal, and electric wire. Don’t let

the smoke from garbage fires (set to reduce the stench) stop you from seeing that prized aluminum pop can half-buried by bulldozer treads. Use your metal pick, fashioned out of a paint roller holder, to pierce objects. Otherwise, use your hands. If you see any salvageable food, eat it on the spot.

In the United States, we don’t even allow adults into such a place without protective boots and hard hats. But my kids, as I came to think of them, worked here every day just to earn a few cents for school fees and food. To them, the risks are acceptable for the money they need to survive.

Despite their difficult work, these kids are kids. They goof off when they’re supposed to be picking. They knock off early to go swimming when it’s hot. Sometimes they see working in the dump as a treasure hunt. Thavara’s face lit up when she discovered a plastic hair clip. Kayrith found soggy currency bills three days in a row.

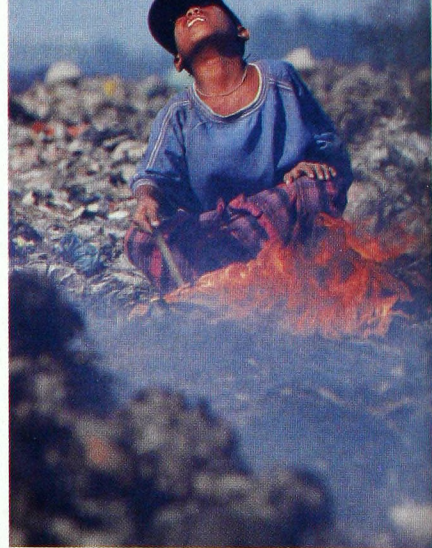




**Clockwise:** More than a dozen types of recyclable items provide income for scrap collectors like Thavara and Minea.

- As trucks roll in with fresh loads, Kayrith (by wheel) competes to get the first pick.
- Thavara on a rare break.
- Dump workers risk exposure to ubiquitous medical waste.





Clockwise: Ratha finds a frog for dinner.

- Kayrith nearly burns himself while removing insulation from copper wire.
- The boys cool off, playing with some discarded styrofoam.
- Ratha finds that bulldozer treads can uncover valuables.



The children take pride in having their own spending money for small snacks.

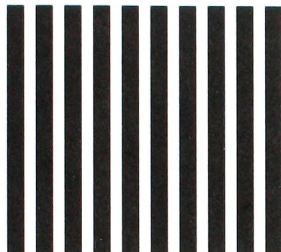
“Our family is very poor,” E Sam On told me, “but I want my children to be educated. Many people advise me to stop

the children’s vital role in contributing to family income. Instead of condemning dump work, World Vision helps provide alternatives through credit and money-management advice. E Sam On received

**Below: Thavara, who couldn’t afford school fees before World Vision’s assistance, wistfully watches a class in session.**

**Below right: Ratha (middle) holds up his vocabulary assignment for his teacher’s approval.**

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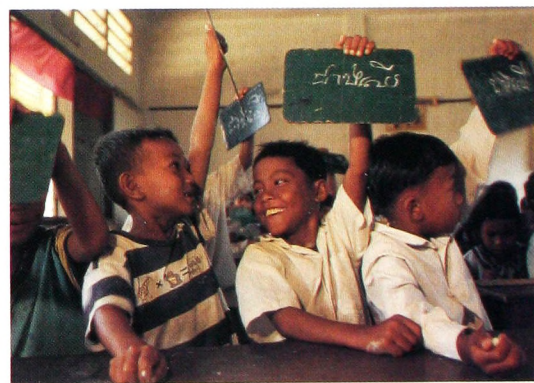
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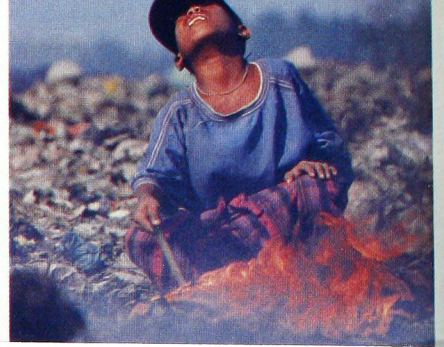
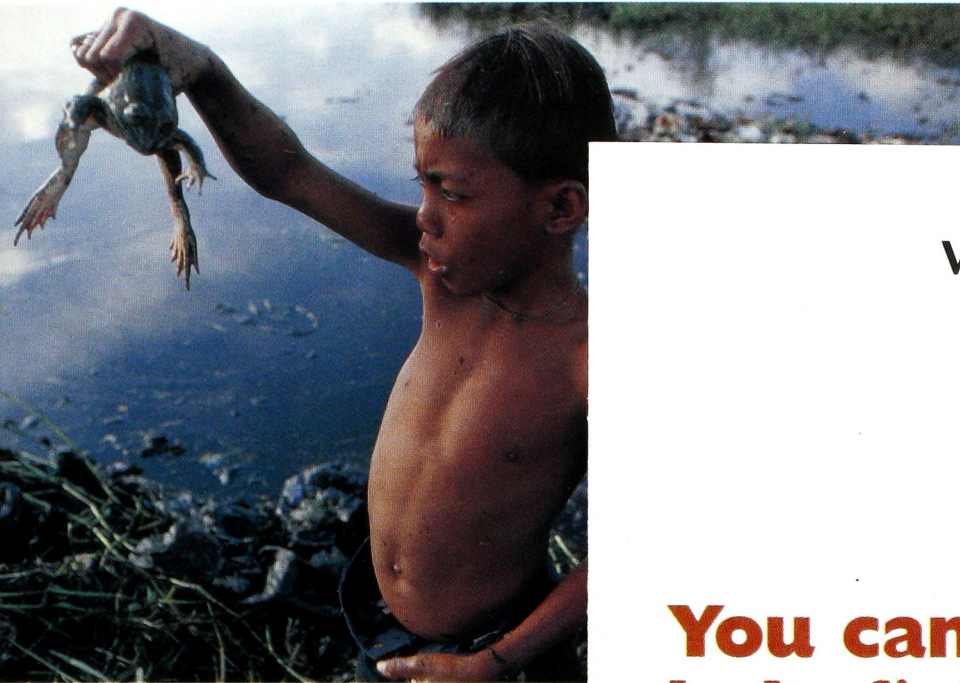
WORLD VISION  
PO BOX 7008 I  
TACOMA WA 98471-0081



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World Vision 

## You can help fight child labor.

Clockwise: Ratha finds a frog for dinner.

- Kayrith nearly burns himself while removing insulation from copper wire.
- The boys cool off, playing with some discarded styro-foam.
- Ratha finds that bulldozer treads can uncover valuables.



Millions of children worldwide work in menial, dangerous, or dehumanizing jobs. The best response is to attack the chief cause of child labor: poverty. Sponsorship provides education for 1 million children who otherwise couldn't afford it. World Vision programs also help families increase their income so their children can go to school instead of to work.



The children take pride in having their own spending money for small snacks.

"Our family is very poor," E Sam On told me, "but I want my children to be educated. Many people advise me to stop

the children's vital role in contributing to family income. Instead of condemning dump work, World Vision helps provide alternatives through credit and money-management advice. E Sam On received

with which she When she sells profit, plus sav- ly.

n center, open 7 e drop-in educa- ing sessions con-

**Below: Thavara, who couldn't afford school fees before World Vision's assistance, wistfully watches a class in session.**

**Below right: Ratha (middle) holds up his vocabulary assignment for his teacher's approval.**

# Yes, I want to help children in need around the world

I want to support World Vision projects that assist child laborers and their families.

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
8817/H5CMOA

I want to support World Vision's assistance to flood victims in Southern Africa or to families battling drought-induced famine in East Africa.

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
2200/H5CMOB

I want to sponsor a child for \$22/month.

1800/H5CMO2

a girl  a boy living in

Africa  Asia  Latin America  Middle East

where most needed

I want to sponsor a child in Swaziland, Africa, where World Vision recently started sponsorship activities.

I want my donation to go where it's most needed.

0000/H5CMO3

Check payable to World Vision

Credit card payment

Card no.     -     -     -

Exp. Date

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

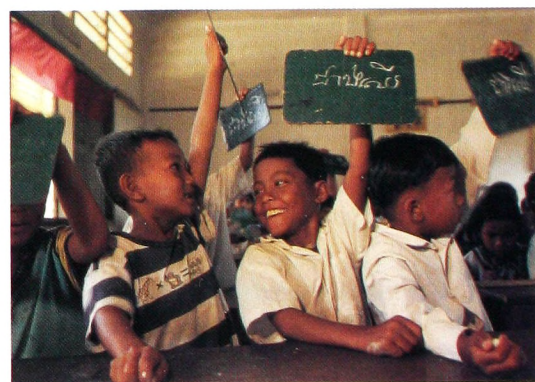
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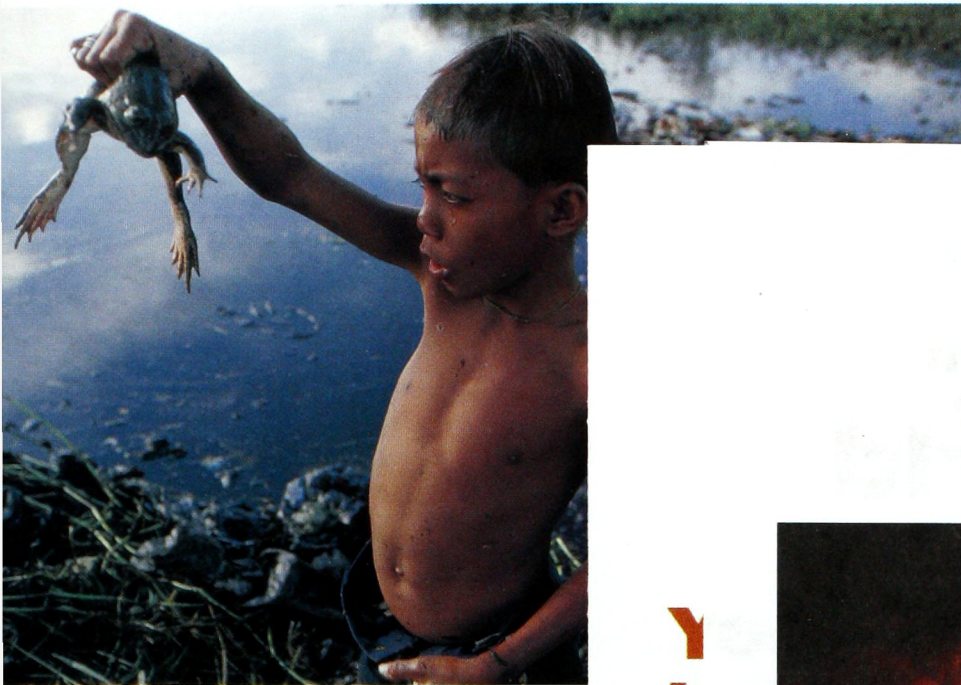
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Visit us at: [www.worldvision.org](http://www.worldvision.org)



iversity students. g youth. Kayrith n other up and slide. The boys, written material specially enjoyed in the library. n World Vision's who once worked valuable business id soft drinks in ning more than llecting. The ven- to school part ira, who yearned ses held in World plenty of one-on- s. n's assistance, the wonder if the kids ). They're diligent o few opportuni- with her business





Clockwise: Ratha finds a frog for dinner.

- Kayrith nearly burns himself while removing insulation from copper wire.
- The boys cool off, playing with some discarded styro-foam.
- Ratha finds that bulldozer treads can uncover valuables.



## Y h c



“The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me,  
because the Lord has anointed me to preach  
good news to the poor. He has sent me  
to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim  
freedom for the captives ...”

ISAIAH 61:1

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The children take pride in having their own spending money for small snacks.

“Our family is very poor,” E Sam On told me, “but I want my children to be educated. Many people advise me to stop the children’s education, that it’s too expensive, but I don’t agree.” Kayrith, Ratha, and Minea go to school half-days, six days a week. Scrap collecting enables them to pay the additional daily fees, about 6 cents, demanded by teachers to supplement their low salaries. Even the school principal earns only \$30 a month. He runs a side business reselling recycled goods from the dump.

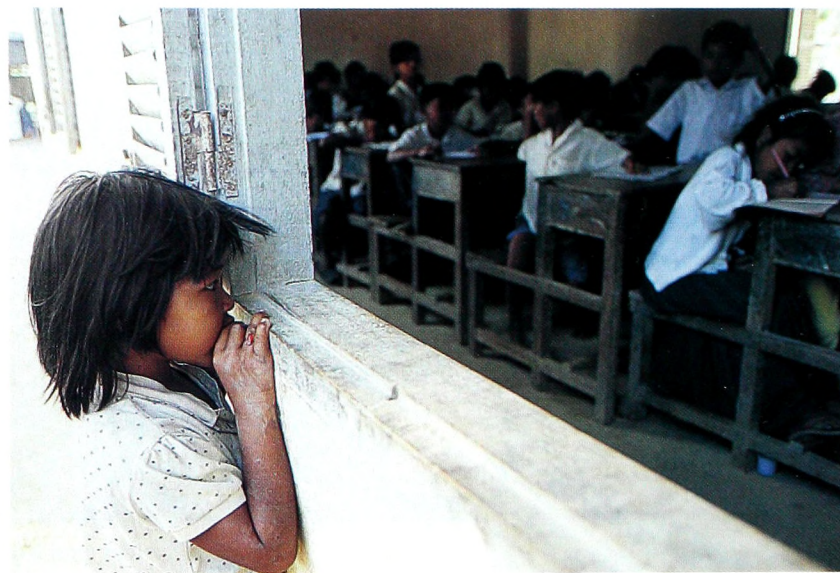
I was impressed with World Vision Cambodia’s work here. The staff understand that families like the Phous regard the dump as their most accessible income source. They respect parents’ ability to provide for their families and recognize

the children’s vital role in contributing to family income. Instead of condemning dump work, World Vision helps provide alternatives through credit and money-management advice. E Sam On received an interest-free loan with which she bought 24 ducklings. When she sells them, she will have \$30 profit, plus savings—a first for the family.

World Vision’s children center, open 7 days a week, provides free drop-in education programs and tutoring sessions con-

**Below: Thavara, who couldn’t afford school fees before World Vision’s assistance, wistfully watches a class in session.**

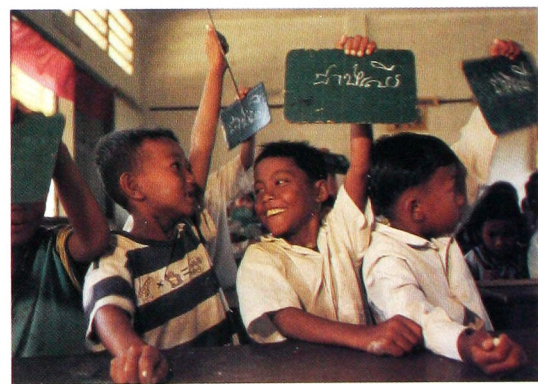
**Below right: Ratha (middle) holds up his vocabulary assignment for his teacher’s approval.**



ducted by volunteer university students. It’s a haven for working youth. Kayrith and Ratha chased each other up and down the playground’s slide. The boys, who eagerly read any written material they find in the dump, especially enjoyed reading Khmer folk tales in the library.

Thavara benefited from World Vision’s vending program. Girls who once worked in the dump now learn valuable business skills by selling cakes and soft drinks in the market, usually earning more than they could from scrap collecting. The vendors are required to go to school part time. This thrilled Thavara, who yearned to get an education. Classes held in World Vision’s centers provide plenty of one-on-one attention for students.

Even with World Vision’s assistance, the Phous live on the edge. I wonder if the kids will ever escape the dump. They’re diligent students, but they have so few opportunities. I thought Thavara, with her business





## Cambodia's Child Labor

**Top left: Sam E On rubs a coin over Kayrith's skin as a traditional healing treatment.**

**Top right: Kayrith prepares a cooking fire for dinner.**

**Above: Every night the children study together, the older kids helping the younger ones.**

training, had the best chance. But recently I learned that her mother, jealous of World Vision's assistance to the Phous, took Thavara back to their rural community near the Laos border.

Close-up, child labor is a frustratingly complex issue. The Phou children have so much going for them—caring parents, friends, some education, and a sense of accomplishment by contributing to the family's survival. Why must they work in the dump to enjoy these things? World Vision's programs are gradually helping needy children and their families in Phnom Penh. But when I think of Kayrith's grin or Thavara's infectious laugh, I wish there was a faster way. ■

*Jon Warren photographed the Phou family for a documentary project, "Child Labor and the Global Village: Photography for Social Change." The project raises awareness about children working in exploitative or hazardous conditions worldwide. Jon's photographs are published with the project's permission.*

In Phnom Penh's Stung Meanchey district, 500 children aged 4 to 18 work in the dump or collect scraps on the street. Most wear no protective clothing and often incur scrapes and cuts. The children work an average of six hours, six days a week, earning about 30 cents daily. Up to 45 percent have either never attended school or dropped out.

An estimated 275,000 children between the ages of 5 and 14 work in Cambodia. Young laborers are not uncommon in a country where almost half the population of 10 million are under age 18. Cultural attitudes encourage children to contribute to the family income.

Laws prohibit children younger than 18 to hold jobs, and the government's Child Labor Unit monitors underage working. But the majority of children work in unregulated jobs like domestic labor, prostitution, or scrap collecting. ■





# understanding

**The estimated global count of working children, 250 million, does not include millions of children toiling in unregulated jobs like domestic labor, agriculture, or small-scale manufacturing.**

## **IT HAPPENS ALL THE TIME, IN SO MANY COUNTRIES. I**

look up, and there's a child, working. In Mexico I saw a dozen children, some with their parents, piled onto the back of a truck bound for a tomato field. Down the road, a school had just started classes, but the students fortunate enough to attend would head off to the packing plant after school.

And I'll never forget the girls squatting in a fetid Bangladesh slum, pulling apart size-D batteries. The small carbon rods inside fetch a few pennies on the recycling market. A film of black carbon dust drifted through the air, turning the girls as grimy-faced as coal miners.

The International Labor Organization (ILO) estimates that 250 million children worldwide between the ages of 5 and 14 work part time or full time, a figure that includes every kind of labor from delivering newspapers to making fireworks. At least 120 million of those children do jobs that are hazardous or exploitative. Concern for working children has grown over the last 20 years. An international movement to eradicate the most oppressive situations has generated a new body of knowledge about the issue that challenges old assumptions and suggests new solutions.

### **What is child labor?**

While definitions vary, child labor can be defined as any exploitative work done by children under age 15, set by the ILO as the legal working age (with the exception of apprenticeships in some countries that can begin at age 12). This includes jobs that are excessively time-consuming; that undermine children's dignity and self-esteem; that inter-



# child labor

By Sarah Bachman

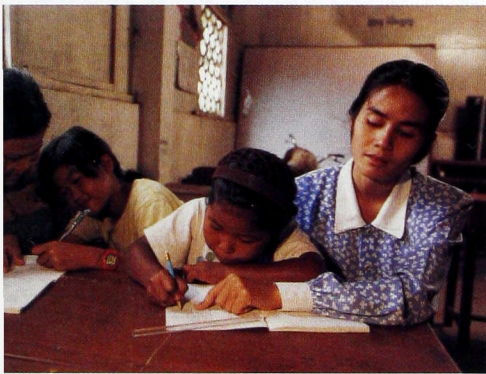
ferre with education; and that endanger their physical, mental, or moral health. Last year's ILO Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labor notes some of the most grievous forms of work are prostitution, drug running, combat, and mining.

### How big a problem is child labor?

The ILO recognizes that its estimate of 250 million working children doesn't include jobs in the informal economy. Thus, millions of children who work in agriculture, at home or in other people's houses, or in small-scale manufacturing are not counted. As these workplaces are generally unregulated by national laws, the risk of exploitation is high. Many young girls working as maids, for example, are cut off from their families and are vulnerable to physical or sexual abuse.

### What's the harm in children working?

Not all work for children is harmful. But in some jobs, children can suffer lifelong physical damage from workplace acci-



**For children who must work to pay for school fees and materials, skills training combined with part-time education—as provided by World Vision's program in Cambodia—is best.**

dents, excessive exertion, or long hours spent in cramped positions. They can contract illnesses from exposure to toxins and other harmful substances in industries such as mining. Degrading or dehumanizing work can irreversibly change a child's self-image and view of the world. Even jobs that aren't dangerous can be harmful if children fail to receive an education and the skills to earn a decent wage as an adult.

### Where does child labor exist?

The vast majority of child laborers, 61 percent, are in Asia. Thirty-two percent live in Africa and 7 percent in Latin

America. Despite the high numbers in Asia (where the bulk of the globe's 6 billion people live), the greatest percentage of children as part of the overall workforce—40 percent—is in Africa. Hundreds of thousands of children also work in the United States and European countries.

### Is child labor increasing?

Global economic trends have a strong impact on child labor. Since 1950, for example, child labor rapidly decreased in China, Italy, and India as economic growth pulled millions above the poverty threshold. The ILO estimates that in Africa, however, the number of child laborers could swell from the current 80 million to 100 million in 15 years, due to population growth and deepening economic woes.

Child labor often increases when poor countries suffer sudden economic downturns, such as the depression following Mexico's disastrous currency devaluation in 1994. According to UNICEF, the Asian currency crisis of 1997 resulted in a surge in child labor in Thailand and Indonesia.

When poor parents lose their jobs, they frequently pull their children out of school and put them to work to earn money for food. Even if countries and regions begin to bounce back after an economic shock, it usually takes more time for family incomes to recover.

### Should we take children out of work?

Millions of families worldwide would suffer without the money their children bring home. Many children work to pay for school fees and supplies. Removing these children from their jobs might actually hurt them, unless they have some other way to pay for school or get training in skills they need to become productive adults.

However, regardless of income needs, children should never be allowed to work in heinous roles such as prostitution and drug running. As UNICEF asserts in *The State of the World's Children 1997*, "Intolerable forms of child labor are so grave an abuse of human rights that the world must come to regard them in the way it does slavery—as something unjustifiable under any circumstances."

### Does it help if American consumers boycott certain products?

Boycotts have had mixed results. Some have forced businesses and governments

to make productive changes, such as putting up money for schools for underage workers. But boycotts that merely punish, that do not lead to specific plans to improve children's lives, can hurt as much as help. That is what initially happened in Bangladesh when the garment industry panicked over the threat of the Harkin Bill in the U.S. Congress, which proposed a ban on child-produced imports. Child workers were subsequently fired from the factories. Too poor to go to school, many children ended up in worse jobs, including prostitution.

### What export products are produced by children?

Only about 5 percent of child laborers produce export goods; the rest work in services, homes, or local farming—beyond Americans' consumer influence. But it's important to recognize products known to be made by children. The U.S. Department of Labor provides a list including soccer balls, carpets, fireworks, glassware, and garments. Some industries have come under criticism and have taken measures to help children. Bangladeshi garment manufacturers and Pakistani carpet makers and soccer ball producers, for example, adopted programs to get children out of work and into schools. These and other industries put labels on goods not made by children.

Even with labels, it's difficult to know if companies are effectively monitoring working conditions in their overseas factories or if they're financially contributing to programs benefiting children. While corporate responsibility is improving, consumers must seek out retailers' codes of conduct if they want to know how the goods they're buying should be produced. Organizations such as the National Consumer League, Co-op America and the Council on Economic Priorities can help consumers join together to protest objectionable labor practices.

### What can be done to help child laborers?

Many countries already have child-labor laws but do not effectively enforce them, especially in rural areas. Closer labor inspections combined with police work could reduce working violations and better protect children by improving the working environment when they must work.

Governments need to provide affordable and accessible schools, putting education within reach of even the poorest families. Informal education programs and vocational schools can meet working children's need for flexible schedules. In addition, governments must close the gap between the rich and poor through building up health care and other social services for low-income families.

### How can children and families contribute to solutions?

Leaders and legislators can't do all the work. A bottom-up strategy should occur simultaneously that empowers families to take their children out of work and put them into school. For example, many families can't access credit because banks often won't deal with poor people. Local money lenders charge sky-high interest. One solution is microcredit, such as the millions of small loans given out by the Grameen Bank to the poor—mostly women—in Bangladesh for starting businesses. As the enterprises make money, parents are able to send their children to school.

Sometimes the solution isn't a new program. What's needed are ideas for improving schools, health systems, and other social programs already in place. Often the most effective solutions are not imposed from above but are developed in collaboration with children and their families.

It's also important to talk to child laborers themselves. They know what their problems are and have good ideas for fixing them. They have dreams. Fifteen-year-old Anne Sabatia dreams of becoming a mechanic—much better work than begging or selling plastic bags on the streets of Nairobi, Kenya, which she started at age 8 to help support her four siblings and mentally ill mother. Participating in the Global March Against Child Labor in Geneva in 1998, she was hopeful about her future. "When I came to Europe, I saw that children are happy in their families and homes," she observed. "In my country you see children who are sad." With a brilliant smile she added, "I want to be as happy as a peacock, but as brave as a lion." ■

*Sarah Bachman, a visiting scholar at Stanford University, is writing a book about child labor and the global economy.*

# World Vision's Response to Child Labor

Working on poverty's front lines, World Vision staff all too frequently encounter enslaved children: girls forced into prostitution; young cigarette-makers in chains; children toiling in fields when they should be in school. World Vision programs attack child labor at its roots, addressing the poverty that prompts parents to put their children to work.

**Scholastic solutions:** Sponsorship brings education within reach for more than 1 million children by paying school fees

and other expenses their families can't afford. "If not for World Vision, I would have ended up a child laborer," says former sponsored child Rajendran Raja, now a customs officer in India. "World Vision helped me find an education. It was like a light which guided me through a dark tunnel."

World Vision also helps children who juggle jobs and part-time studies. Guatemala's Alternative Schools for Working Children provide weekend classes for 300 kids who are hungry to learn after working all week in a fireworks factory. Students receive academic instruction as well as spiritual guidance and leadership training.

**Budget boosts:** World Vision provides loans and skills training for parents to start or expand

small businesses, enabling them to afford school fees for their children.

**Rural results:** In Southeast Asia, poor, rural girls are particularly vulnerable to the lure of work in the cities where they often end up in prostitution. An effective project in northern Thailand provides sponsorship, loan programs, and skills training to improve the quality of life in small communities, enabling families to keep their daughters at home. ■

*To support World Vision's projects helping child laborers and their families, see the envelope at the center of this magazine.*



Girls in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, learn valuable business skills through World Vision's vending program, which includes part-time classes.

# southern africa

rescue, relief, and recovery

By Karen Homer, with reports from Steve Matthews



ROBERT MICHEL/WORLD VISION (2)

World Vision delivered emergency kits to more than 28,000 flood victims in Mozambique.

## FOR THREE DESPERATE DAYS, MARIA MARCO TSAMBA CLUTCHED HER

7-month-old twin daughters, Rafa and Gloria, as the family sat marooned on their hut's tin roof. Below, the worst flooding in 50 years deluged their village in Mozambique's southern Gaza province. Between her babies' wails, Maria worried about her four other daughters whom she had sent to an aunt's home for safety.

When a rescue boat finally arrived, Maria, weak from exposure and lack of food and water, had to be lifted into the craft. She whispered and pointed to the roof of a nearby building where her mother and grandfather remained stranded. The boat driver promised to return for them. When he did, it was too late.

The roof had collapsed. Five people, including her relatives, drowned. Hearing the news, Maria allowed herself to cry for the first time during her ordeal.

Maria is among the estimated 1 million Mozambicans who lost their homes in February. Floods also ravaged neighboring countries, South Africa,

Swaziland, and Zimbabwe. At least 1,000 people died in the disaster.

During the crisis, World Vision ran a helicopter rescue operation, plucking thousands of people from trees and rooftops and delivering them to shelter camps on higher ground. More than 28,000 survivors, including Maria and her daughters who were reunited, received emergency kits containing blankets, clothing, cooking pots, dishes, and hygiene products. Some 64 tons of food were distributed to 20,000 needy people.

World Vision is now helping families return home to begin to rebuild their lives. The recovery, however, may take years. Schools, hospitals, homes, and roads will have to be rebuilt.

"It's hard to determine how much progress has been lost, but thousands of families are back to square one," said Martha Newsome, director of World Vision Mozambique. "They have lost everything and have no





# Giving more than food and water

***"I am the bread of life. No one who comes to me will ever be hungry again. Those who believe in me will never thirst."***

*John: 6:35*

**More than 1 million Mozambicans lost their homes in recent floods.**

choice but to start over."

The floods wiped out almost 400,000 acres of crops and 30,000 cattle in this impoverished southern African country which was recovering well from a crippling 16-year civil war that ended in 1992. According to World Food Programme estimates, \$27 million will be needed to feed some 650,000 people for six months until next season's harvest.

To help farmers recover, World Vision distributed seeds and tools to some 80,000 farmers living in the Save River basin area in time for the April planting season. In 1998, Mozambique had a crop surplus for the first time, which was repeated last year. Agriculturalists are hoping that the flooding hasn't destroyed this positive trend. They are concerned about thousands of land mines planted during the war which may be exposed in fields as flood waters subside. Over the past few years, villagers have painstakingly marked mine locations. Now they must begin their work from scratch.

World Vision is also assisting thousands of flood victims in South Africa, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe. Staff distributed some 40,000 family survival packs as well as agricultural recovery kits aiding more than 72,000 people.

"I want to truly praise God for his goodness, mercy, and grace as we responded to the floods," wrote Sheldon Rankin, World Vision's Southern Africa regional director. "Our staff are amazed at the generosity, benevolence, and support we received."

Sheldon notes, however, that ongoing support is still desperately needed to help people like Maria and her family to regain even the little they had before the disaster. ■

*If you would like to help crisis victims in Africa, please see the envelope in the center of this magazine.*

Life's essential elements for survival seem so simple: food, water, and shelter. Yet in many communities worldwide, children and their families suffer from a severe lack of such basic resources. Every day people die from diseases caused by unclean water, malnutrition, and exposure.

By participating in World Vision's Love Loaf program, your church families will be inspired to step out in faith to do what they can to make a difference in the lives of others. By dropping a few cents a day into the loaf, your families can change the futures of needy people.

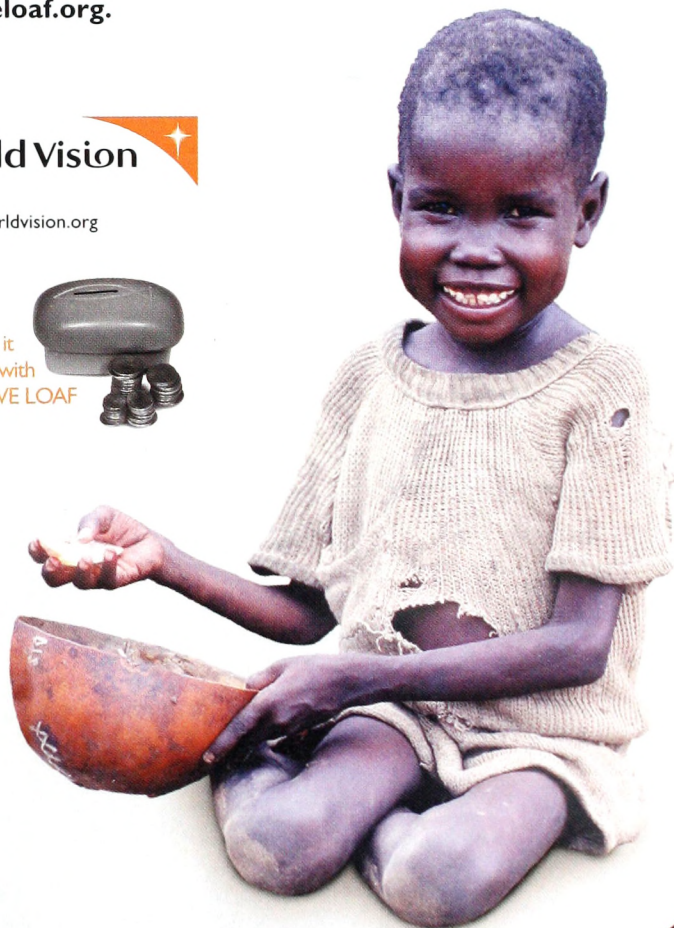
**Contact us today and find out how you can start bringing health and hope to children and their families—the impact will change your life too! Please call 1.877.4LOAVES or visit our website at [www.loveloaf.org](http://www.loveloaf.org).**

**World Vision**



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

making it possible with LOVE LOAF



15Q154

# News

► One child born in New York City, Paris, or London will consume, waste, and pollute more in a lifetime than as many as 50 children born in the average developing country. (United Nations Development Programme)

Compiled by Karen Homer with re

## CRISIS UPDATE

### Good News

#### Child soldiers released in Uganda

Ugandan teenager Pamela Adyer hugged her mother and wept after being recently released from three years of rebel captivity. Pamela and 28 other people, were freed under a peace agreement between Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni and President Omar el-Bashir of Sudan. Officials hope they will be the first to be released of some 2,000 children believed still in rebel hands.

"This is a historic and emotional moment. We have been waiting for this for a long, long time," said Robby Muhumuza, national director of World Vision Uganda, among officials who welcomed the children as they disembarked from a charter flight from Khartoum, Sudan.

Pamela was among an estimated 10,000 Ugandans kidnapped since 1995 by the Lord's Resistance Army, a rebel group which has waged war against Uganda from neighboring Sudan for 13 years. Many captives have died in battle or from disease. The rebels subject abducted children, some as young as 5, to forced labor, rape, and physical abuse. Many are required to kill others, including fellow captives, or be executed themselves.

World Vision's Center for Children of War in Gulu, northern Uganda is providing food, clothing, medical care, trauma counseling, and vocational training for returning children. The center has assisted 5,340 former child soldiers since opening in 1995.



#### Philippines

World Vision rushed food and supplies to families fleeing the Feb. 24 eruption of Mount Mayon, a volcano on the island of Luzon, the Philippines. Some 60,000 people were forced to abandon their homes. Officials are preventing people from returning to their communities until July, fearing further destruction from mudslides of volcanic ash which settles like concrete, destroying houses and farmland.

#### Kosovo

World Vision helped 300,000 Kosovars resume their lives since last year's conflict. More than 65,000 families received emergency shelter kits. After World Vision helped repair their tractors and combines, 500 farmers were able to produce enough wheat for 46 million loaves of bread. Training in trauma and grief counseling enabled 1,400 leaders to care for people in 120 communities.

#### Venezuela

Cleveland Indians' shortstop Omar Vizquel, a native of Venezuela, is helping World Vision raise \$500,000 for victims of flooding and mud slides that killed an estimated 50,000 Venezuelans and left 250,000 homeless in December. La America's worst-ever natural disaster claimed more lives than Hurricane Mitch in 1998. Losses surpassed \$1 billion.

Omar visited flood-ravaged areas and hosted a charity softball game in Caracas, supported by players from nine Major League teams. Donations to the "Lend a Hand to Venezuela" fund provided much-needed relief supplies to thousands of families who lost homes and possessions. World Vision also shipped more than \$310,000 worth of shoes, clothing, and medical supplies donated by American companies to Venezuela.

Funding is still needed to repair destroyed water systems, dig new wells, and construct housing for 1,000 families.



Omar Vizquel surveys flood damage

## CHILD SPONSORSHIP

World Vision United States recently opened a new sponsorship project in Swaziland, assisting 1,500 children in the impoverished, drought-prone Mhlosheni region. Families here cite lack of water, food shortages, and nonexistent medical services as major problems.

World Vision began serving in Swaziland, a small, landlocked country in southern Africa, in 1975. Today, more than 13,500 sponsored children and their families benefit from improved schools, health care services, potable water, agricultural education, and small business skills training. To sponsor a child in Swaziland, please see the envelope in the center of this magazine.

Join the 5,000 people each day who visit  
 /ORLD VISION on the WORLD WIDE WEB!

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

Visit World Vision's Web site to find out all the  
 new things you can do—including doing good.

**SPONSOR A CHILD ... ONLINE.** Ever wish  
 you could thumb through a stack of children's  
 picture folders? Now you can click on the  
 interactive "Child Sponsorship" link for a searchable  
 database of children available for  
 sponsorship. All you need is your credit card.

**HELP OUT IN AN EMERGENCY.** When a flood,  
 earthquake, or famine hits, quick action can save  
 thousands of lives. Check World Vision's Web site  
 for news and updates. You'll find photos, video,  
 stories, and lots of opportunities to help.

**READ UP ON THE NEWS.** Save a tree! Browse  
 articles from recent and past issues of *World Vision*  
*Today* magazine. Check out our current press releases.

**GET CONNECTED.** Register for our E-mail  
 update service. Click "Log In" and you will receive  
 occasional E-mails on topics that interest you. You  
 can change your profile or unsubscribe at any time.

**ONLINE SHOPPING.** Click "Gift Mall" to go to dozens  
 of popular online shopping sites such as eToys,  
 TargetKids.com, Amazon.com, and 1-800-Flowers.

Purchase online at one of these vendors linked  
 from our site, and World Vision will receive up to 25  
 percent of your purchase price. Or you can buy  
 a unique gift for a child or family in the developing  
 world in honor of a loved one from our  
 "International Gifts of Joy and Hope" catalog.

**GET INVOLVED.** Do the 30 Hour Famine.  
 Get ministry resources for your church. Volunteer  
 your time. Learn about World Vision's associate  
 artists and help out at a concert. Pray for  
 World Vision. Find current career opportunities.

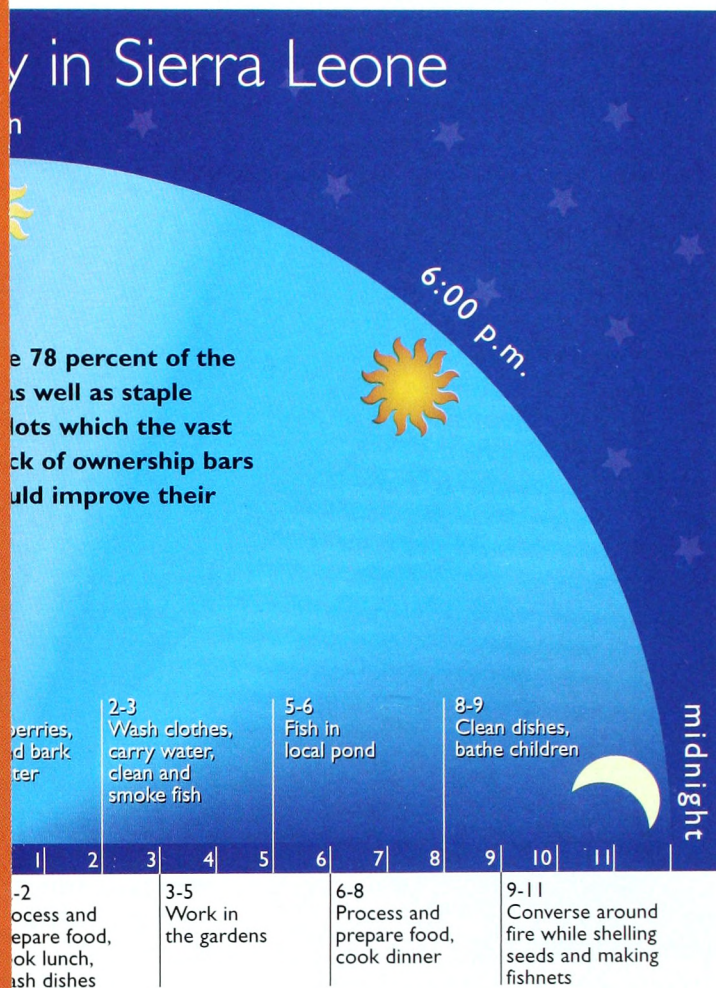
Visit [www.worldvision.org](http://www.worldvision.org)

In 1998 caused more  
 6 percent of which  
 ng countries.

▶ Global currency trades total \$1.5 trillion  
 daily; 600 million children live on less than  
 a dollar a day.

(UNICEF)

Kalebbo, Alison Preston, and Sheryl Watkins.



## Convenient Giving

World Vision's Easy Giving Plan can simplify your sponsorship payments. Join the tens of thousands of World Vision donors who pay by automatic bank deduction or by debit/credit card. Consider the advantages:

- ▶ No more time-consuming checks to write, envelopes to stuff, or stamps to lick.
- ▶ No risk of lost mail.
- ▶ Lower costs for World Vision, which helps us be better stewards of your donations.

The Easy Giving Plan ensures that support for your sponsored child continues without interruption. To enroll by phone (for debit/credit cards only), call toll-free (888) 511-6555.

# News

## Good News

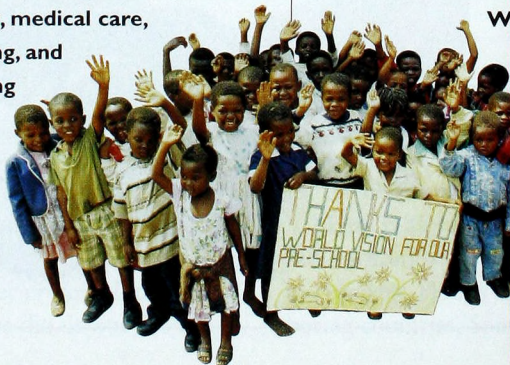
### Child soldiers released in Uganda

Ugandan teenager Pamela Adyer hugged her mother and wept after being recently released from three years of rebel captivity. Pamela and 28 other people, were freed under a peace agreement between Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni and President Omar el-Bashir of Sudan. Officials hope they will be the first to be released of some 2,000 children believed still in rebel hands.

"This is a historic and emotional moment. We have been waiting for this for a long, long time," said Robby Muhumuza, national director of World Vision Uganda, among officials who welcomed the children as they disembarked from a charter flight from Khartoum, Sudan.

Pamela was among an estimated 10,000 Ugandans kidnapped since 1995 by the Lord's Resistance Army, a rebel group which has waged war against Uganda from neighboring Sudan for 13 years. Many captives have died in battle or from disease. The rebels subject abducted children, some as young as 5, to forced labor, rape, and physical abuse. Many are required to kill others, including fellow captives, or be executed themselves.

World Vision's Center for Children of War in Gulu, northern Uganda is providing food, clothing, medical care, trauma counseling, and vocational training for returning children. The center has assisted 5,340 former child soldiers since opening in 1995.



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▶ The global number of polio cases fell from an estimated 350,000 in 1988 to 6,000 reported cases in 1998, thanks to eradication campaigns.  
(World Health Organization)

▶ Natural disasters in 1998 caused more than 50,000 deaths, 96 percent of which occurred in developing countries.  
(Red Cross)

▶ Global currency trades total \$1.5 trillion daily; 600 million children live on less than a dollar a day.  
(UNICEF)

Keirsten Giles, Cathy MacCaul, Geoffrey Denye Kalebbo, Alison Preston, and Sheryl Watkins.

## One Woman's Day in Sierra Leone

noon

6:00 a.m.



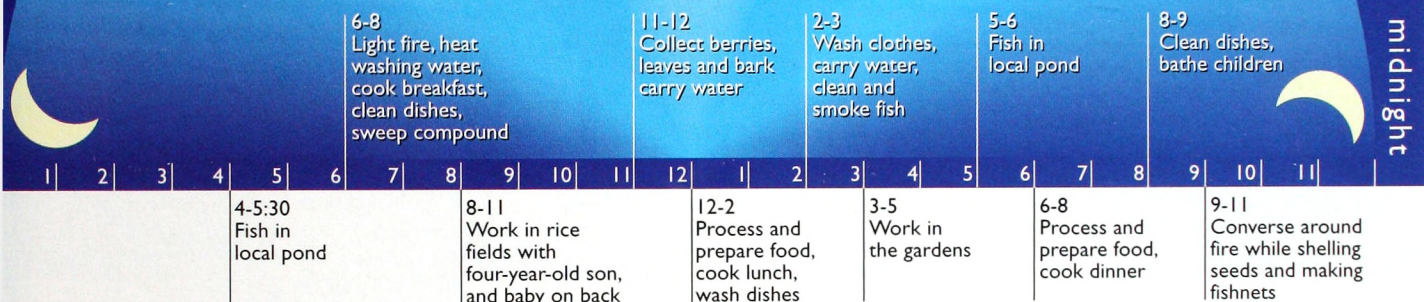
In Africa, women produce 78 percent of the continent's food—meat as well as staple grains—on subsistence plots which the vast majority do not own. Lack of ownership bars them from loans that could improve their small, marginal fields.

6:00 p.m.



midnight

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS



## Resources on Child Labor

International Labor Organization child labor Web site:  
<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/comp/>

The Sweat and Toil of Children, Vol. 1-5, by the U.S. Department of Labor:  
<http://www.dol.gov/cgi-bin/consolidated/reports>.

- ▶ [www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org)
- ▶ *Good News About Injustice*, by Gary A. Haugen, Intervarsity Press, 1999. (Book, accompanying study guide, and video available from World Vision for \$25.99 plus shipping and handling. To order, call toll-free (888) 511-6484.)

## Convenient Giving

World Vision's Easy Giving Plan can simplify your sponsorship payments. Join the tens of thousands of World Vision donors who pay by automatic bank deduction or by debit/credit card. Consider the advantages:

- ▶ No more time-consuming checks to write, envelopes to stuff, or stamps to lick.
- ▶ No risk of lost mail.
- ▶ Lower costs for World Vision, which helps us be better stewards of your donations.

The Easy Giving Plan ensures that support for your sponsored child continues without interruption. To enroll by phone (for debit/credit cards only), call toll-free (888) 511-6555.

Do you have a World Vision? Rate your vision on international issues and events by taking our fun "World Vision Check-up" quiz during May and June on our Web site [www.worldvision.org](http://www.worldvision.org).

# hope in the hollows

B Y D E N I S E C . K O E N I G

"It's not the visible that counts," says Larry Stutler, 47, of Flemington, W.Va., with his grandson, Tristen, 2. He says World Vision's work helped renew his faith.



World Vision's  
Appalachia Initiative  
revitalizes communities  
in a forgotten corner  
of America.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANDREW RUSH

**THE DRIVE ALONG WEST VIRGINIA'S PAVED, COUNTY-**maintained roads assails visitors with impressions of idyllic, rural America: picket fences, well-kept Craftsman homes, farm animals at pasture, rolling hills, and stands of beautiful hardwood trees.

But this picturesque scene masks a harsher, underlying reality. Closed coal mines on dead-end roads. Isolated hollows with ramshackle, abandoned houses. Teenagers milling on street corners with nowhere to go and nothing to do.

Larry and Sherry Stutler call this corner of Appalachia home. Their families have lived here for generations. The Stutlers' tiny house with thin, water-damaged walls makes for crowded living for the couple, their daughter Karrie, 18, and grandson, Tristen, 2. The family is fortunate to have electricity and water. Some of their neighbors cannot afford even these basic utilities.

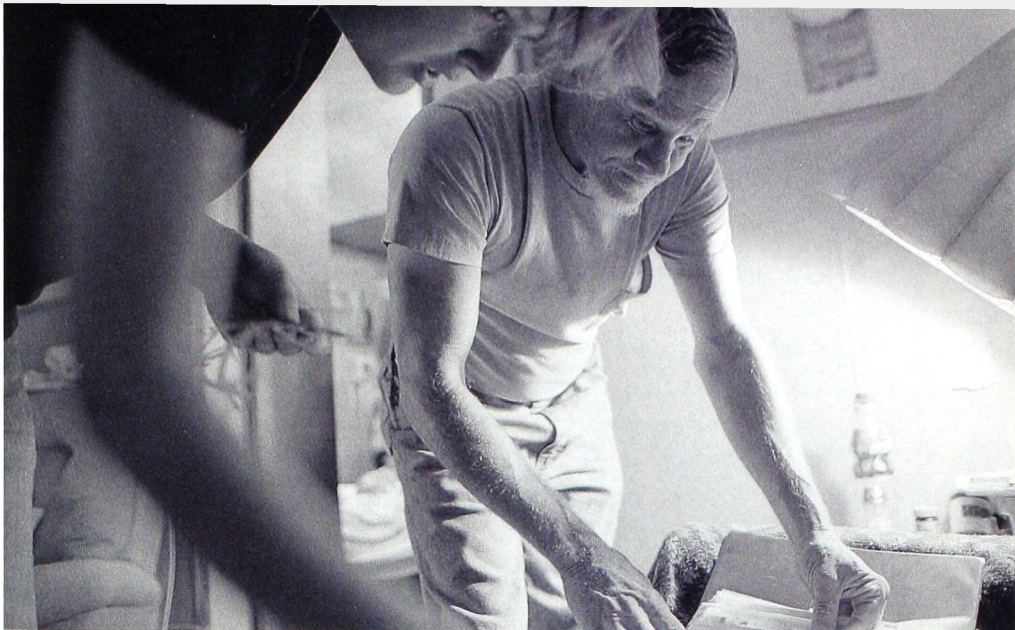
An unemployed iron cutter, Larry, 47, is among the 18 percent of West Virginia's population without work—more than four times the

national rate of 4.1 percent. "There's no work around here," says Larry. "Some [employers] have offered me jobs paying \$2 an hour. I took them because they put bread on the table." The U.S. minimum wage is \$5.15 per hour.

Instilling hope in people like Larry is challenging, says Ruston Seaman, director of World Vision's Appalachian Initiative, a program assisting communities around Philippi, W. Va. "I've witnessed the loss of two-thirds of the coal mining jobs in our area over the past 20 years," says Ruston. "With the elimination of many government assistance programs, communities are left to find ways to support one another."

Communities here contend with serious social obstacles. Some 40 percent of the over-25 population has not finished high school. And while family is a strong value that keeps relatives geographically close, it also dampens support for education that often siphons the brightest minds to schools and jobs in other states.

World Vision is promoting positive models of community life in Appalachia, working with World Servants and Appalachian Community Care. The partner organizations facilitate a variety of ministry activities among the county's 100 churches, most of which have only 40 members. "Churches here are being called upon to play an increasingly greater role in the support and development of communities," says Ruston.



**World Vision's Appalachia Initiative encourages community members to work together, pooling their time and talents.**

computer skills during after-school tutoring sessions. Three new community centers in Chestnut Ridge, Brownton, and Flemington house these activities.

The Stutlers are among more than 450 families benefiting from the Appalachia Initiative. In 1997, a team of World Servant Christian volunteers helped Larry repair his home's badly leaking roof and add a small porch that provided a few more feet of precious living space. Larry obtained building materials from the Initiative's Transformation Station, a warehouse that stocks donated supplies. He also uses warehouse materials to produce hand-crafted wood items that he sells to help make ends meet. Larry and other recipients "pay" for the goods by volunteering their time on the community center construction or other service projects.

Larry now serves on the Brownton community center's leadership team, having completed a two-year leadership training program, another aspect of the Appalachia Initiative. Larry sees signs of change through the Initiative's efforts, insisting, "It's not what's visible that counts." He believes this work has brought renewed faith to the community.

"People here may be resource- and opportunity-poor, but they are asset-rich in what they are willing to give in terms of their time," said Ruston. "It is wonderful to see Larry and so many other neighbors becoming hopeful once more, catching a vision for the redevelopment of their community." ■

### world vision staff: walking the walk

World Vision employees intend to raise \$80,000 to aid Appalachia this year through their annual campaign. The funds will help provide housing, clothing, and children's programs, and support local churches in Christian outreach.

Each year, World Vision employees support one of the organization's 2,917 projects by raising money through charity events and payroll deductions. Since 1987, the employee campaign has collected more than \$1 million for children and families in Mali, Romania, Peru, Mongolia, and the United States.

The employee campaign began in 1987 when staff responded to an urgent appeal from World Vision Mali. Donation income had dropped drastically following the public's unprecedented response to the 1984-86 famine in Ethiopia and sub-Saharan Africa. Projects aiding thousands of drought victims in Mali faced closure. Funds raised by World Vision staff enabled the work to continue.

"The Employee Campaign shows that our staff are 'walking the walk' themselves while encouraging our donors to care for the poor," says Richard Stearns, president of World Vision. ■

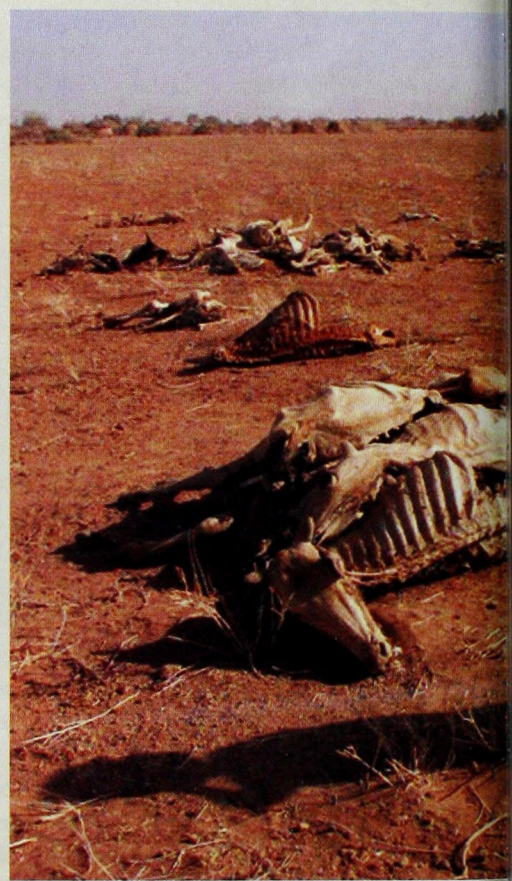


**Larry produces hand-crafted items from donated wood he finds at World Vision's Transformation Station warehouse.**

World Vision also supports a youth program that reaches out to teens. Through the KidREACH ministry, volunteers from churches and high schools help children increase their academic and

# *averting* famine *in the horn* of africa

*Fifteen years after the devastating famine that left 1 million people dead in Ethiopia, hunger is stalking the region again. This time, up to 16 million people in the Horn of Africa are at risk of starvation after three years of prolonged drought and failed crops.*

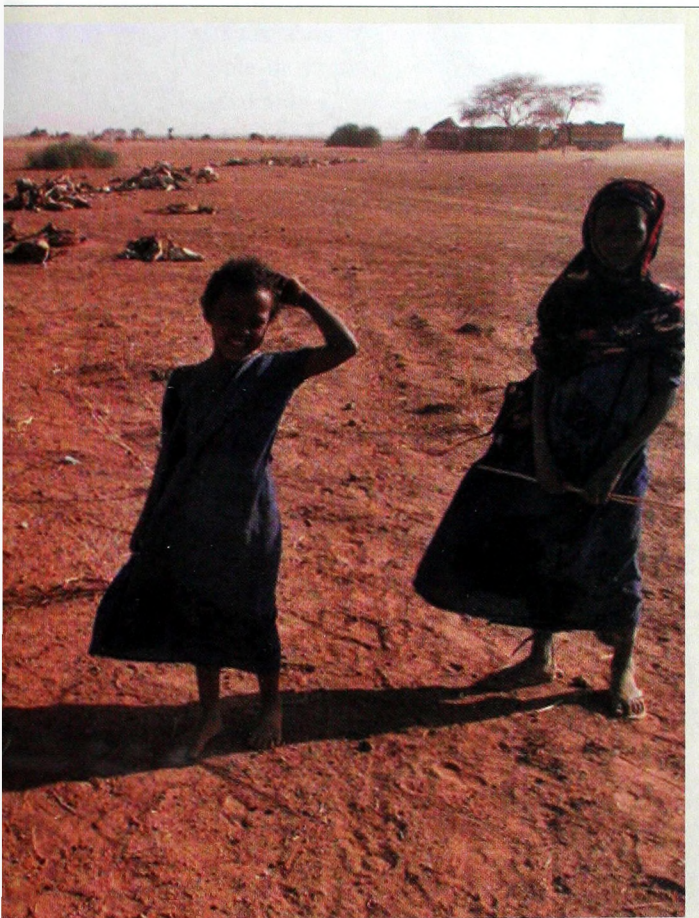


**In Gode, southeastern Ethiopia, nomadic people have lost up to 90 percent of their cattle and goats—their principal source of income and food.**

**ONE-YEAR-OLD FATI IS AMONG 1,300 SEVERELY malnourished children at a locally run feeding clinic in Gode, Ethiopia, in the worst-affected southeastern region. She lies motionless on a plastic mat under a makeshift twig roof sheltering her from the relentless sun. Her mother, Korat, 25, coaxes her to take a spoonful of high-protein porridge. The child weighs half of what she should. But Fati is beyond hunger. She is weak from dehydration, diarrhea, and multiple infections.**

To get help for her daughter, Korat walked for two days, covering 30 miles. But she may have arrived at the center too late. After three days of care, Fati shows little improvement. All Korat can do is wave the flies off Fati's face with her cotton shawl and hope.

Desperate parents like Korat can't provide enough food for their children after three years of diminished rainfall. Crops have dried up. Grazing land is turning to dust. Many nomadic herders lost their livestock or were forced to sell them at a loss. Some 75,000 people have flocked to Gode in search of



(C) CORBIS

help. Many say they had to leave sick and elderly relatives behind. Thousands more are believed to be out in the vast, flat semidesert, too weak to move to the town.

“What we are seeing here is a foretaste of what will happen in the rest of Ethiopia if we do not act quickly,” said World Vision senior official, Wilfred Mlay, reporting from Gode. He said up to 12 million Ethiopians may need food aid in the next few months if spring rains fail again. Ethiopia has two rainy seasons—the short *belg* season beginning in mid-February, and the long, summer *mehr* rains. The *belg* rains are vital—

## lessons learned in Ethiopia since the 1984-86 famine

- **Early action can avert disaster. Governments and aid agencies, including World Vision, have developed community-based famine early warning systems to predict and prepare for impending crises.**
- **Drought need not necessarily lead to famine. When poor families have some savings, they can buy food even if crops fail. World Vision has helped farmers to start small, non-agricultural**
- income generating activities to provide cash for emergencies.**
- **Introducing water and soil conservation programs, including irrigation and reforestation, enables farmers to grow more crops per year, providing a surplus that can be stored or sold. Providing improved seed varieties of drought-resistant vegetables means farmers can diversify their crops.**

contributing to 50 percent of crop production in some areas. But they have been severely lacking for the past three years, and have not arrived at all this year.

World Vision staff have closely tracked and prepared for the pending crisis. The health status of sponsored children, including more than 57,000 children supported by U.S. donors, is being monitored. People in 10 of World Vision's 14 project areas are suffering from the drought and will require food aid. In response, World Vision has launched a \$12 million famine relief effort in Ethiopia. Some 43,000 tons of food is already being distributed to 400,000 at-risk people. Emergency aid is also being rushed to famine victims in Gode, a new area of operation for World Vision.

Agriculturalists report that prevention programs have buffered many World Vision project communities from the drought's most devastating effects. During the 1984-86 famine, the Antsokia valley was described as an uninhabitable “moonscape.” Many people starved to death here. Today, Antsokia is a lush pocket of green thanks to irrigation systems, reforestation, and swamp reclamation projects initiated by local farmers with World Vision's assistance.

World Vision is also responding to the crisis in neighboring Kenya where the government is appealing for \$62 million to feed 1.8 million people in the northern Turkana region. World Vision Kenya has already distributed 45 tons of high-protein food, donated by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), to severely malnourished children. Plans are underway to rush aid to an additional 210,000 hungry people.

“We have the opportunity to avert a major famine disaster in the Horn of Africa but we must act now,” said Rich Stearns, president of World Vision. “If we don't, thousands of children may die.” ■

*If you would like to help crisis victims in Africa, please see the envelope in the center of this magazine.*

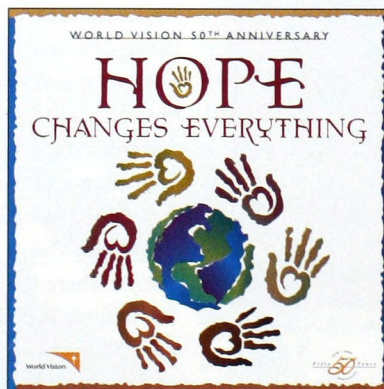
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# Forgive Us Our Debts

*Debt. Whether it's the home mortgage, car payment, college loan, or credit card, debt is an almost inescapable part of American life.*

**THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS PAID DOWN ITS** national debt for nearly a decade because of a robust economy. But while North Americans and Western Europeans live in an expanding global economy, people in 41 developing countries (including 33 in sub-Saharan Africa) are enslaved by crushing debt to international governments and banks. In sub-Saharan Africa, for instance, governments owe foreign creditors almost \$400 for every man, woman, and child—more than most Africans earn in a year.

The debt of many developing countries was often incurred by leaders long since out of power, but the poor continue to suffer for past governments' mistakes. The burden especially weighs on children. More than a third of children in heavily indebted countries are not immunized. Debt repayments leave very little cash for much-needed poverty reduction programs and social services.

How did heavily indebted nations get in this crisis? In the early 1970s, Western banks overflowed with profits from oil-producing countries as oil prices rose. Both banks and rich governments encouraged developing countries to take low-interest loans, often for grand government projects that failed. Some borrowed money was pocketed by corrupt officials or spent on military buildup. The poor rarely benefited.



**Serge Duss is World Vision's Director of Public Policy and Government Relations based in Washington, D.C.**

When the global recession hit in the late 1970s, demand for exports from developing countries dropped; prices for agricultural products and minerals plunged. Debtor nations borrowed more money at skyrocketing interest rates. Many went bankrupt. Since nations cannot declare bankruptcy, they rescheduled their loans. As a 1999 UNICEF report notes, indebted developing countries repaid the staggering amount of \$1,000 bil-

lion between 1983 and 1990. However, with interest compounding, their debt escalated well beyond their ability to pay. Today, if the money that Africa's poorest countries alone pay for debt servicing was invested in health care, it could prevent the deaths of 21 million children.

What are Christians doing to help reduce the burden of debt on the poor? A growing, global movement of people of faith, including the Rev. Billy Graham, South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and Pope John Paul II, has called for debt cancellation for the poorest countries. Known as Jubilee 2000, the movement is based on the biblical principle of jubilee. According to Leviticus 25, every 50 years God's people are required to forgive their debtors and free the enslaved, as a reminder that everything comes from God.

The United States and six other nations have made a commitment to debt relief, designed to help the 41 heavily indebted poor countries. Last year, with bipartisan support, Congress appropriated \$123 million toward President Clinton's request for debt relief funding. He asked for more this year.

Uganda, the first country to get relief, is already educating another 2 million children; Bolivia, the second, will now be able to fund a national program to reduce rural poverty.

Forgiving debtor nations will cost each American citizen only \$1.20 per year, according to Rep. Spencer Bachus (R-Ala.), a practicing Christian, who addressed a congressional committee hearing on debt relief last year. "Never in our history has one country had so much progress, wealth, and luxury. ... The responsibility is ours to act and act right and act morally."

Important strides have been made but more needs to be done in this year of jubilee if the children of the new millennium are to be freed from the chains of debt. ■

*If you would like to learn more about debt forgiveness, see World Vision's Web site at [www.worldvision.org](http://www.worldvision.org), Bread for the World's Web site at [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org), and the Jubilee 2000 U.S.A. Web site at [www.j2000usa.org](http://www.j2000usa.org).*

# light the way

for a needy child and receive Thomas Kinkadee's "Bridge of Faith" free.

"Bridge of Faith" is one of Thomas Kinkadee's most inspiring paintings. And now, the renowned Painter of Light™ is making this 12" x 16" commemorative print available as a "thank you" to sponsors who reach out to another child through sponsorship.

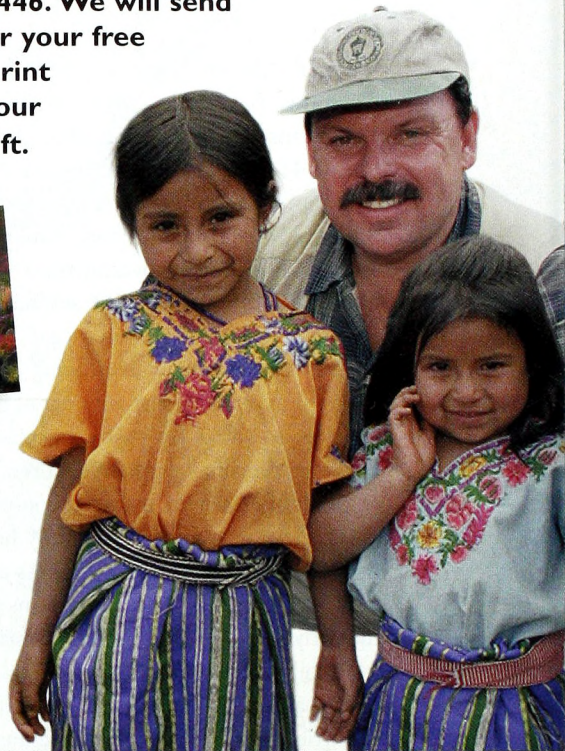
As a child sponsor, you already know the difference just \$22 a month can make in the life of a child. This is your opportunity to light the way for another child and his or her community.

**To sponsor another child, return the coupon today or call 1-888-511-6446. We will send you a certificate for your free Thomas Kinkadee print when we receive your first sponsorship gift.**



"I pray that this painting will remind you that you are a bridge of faith and hope to children in need."

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We will send you a certificate for your free "Bridge of Faith" print when we receive your first payment.

- I would like to sponsor a  boy  girl living in
- Africa  Asia  Latin America  Middle East  where the needs are greatest
- Enclosed is my first monthly payment of \$22 to help a needy child and his or her community.
- Check (made payable to World Vision).  
 Bill me later.
- Bill my monthly sponsorship payment to my credit card:  Visa  MasterCard  
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Card no. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

- Instead of or in addition to my sponsorship, I would like to give a gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to help children in need. (1400)

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