



World Vision

Today

SUMMER 2002

**THANKS
TO YOU**

Your gifts at
work in 2001
page 29

**A TIME TO
CELEBRATE**

Healing hearts
after Sept. 11
page 30

left Children of a
lost generation
behind

page 10

contents



8



14



24

features

10 on the cover **Left Behind**

14 **The Hope Bearers**

World Vision's progress in Senzani, Malawi, is severely threatened by the toll of AIDS. A renewed strategy involves teachers, health professionals, and community and church leaders fighting against staggering odds. *With commentary by Charles Colson, Tony Campolo, Luci Swindoll, and James Dobson*

21 **World Vision's Hope**

World Vision is uniquely positioned to bring God's love and tangible care to AIDS-affected families.

24 **The Path of AIDS: A Child's Journey**

How AIDS creates orphans and wreaks havoc on families and communities.

26 **On Topic With Stephen Lewis**

The special envoy to the United Nations for HIV/AIDS in Africa explains the complexities and challenges of the pandemic in sub-Saharan Africa.

29 **Thanks to You**

Through your generosity, World Vision increased its impact on children's lives in 2001.

30 **A Time to Celebrate**

The Dominican community in New York City was hit hard on Sept. 11. World Vision gave them a reason to smile.

32 **Seattle & Tacoma: An Unbeatable Team**

The motivation for these volunteer Boeing retirees is to help disadvantaged kids learn.

departments

6 **Where Are They Now?**

Ruth prefers the country, but the former sponsored child agrees to live in a crowded city in her native India so she can help children.

8 **Amazing Staff: Tempered by the World's Tantrums**

Dineen Tupa's specialty is creating stability in unstable places. Her new assignment: Afghanistan.

37 **Guest Essay: Anne E. Barber**

What happened in the pigpen one day changed this Florida minister's life.

in every issue

3 **From the President**

4 **Glad You Asked**

5 **Letters**

34 **News**

36 **Reader Services**

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Sr. Vice President **Atul Tandon**

Editor **Shelly Ngo**

Senior Editors **Jane Sutton-Redner**

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Photo Editor **Jon Warren**

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Memory, a 6-year-old girl in Senzani, Malawi, lost her parents and may also lose her grandmother to HIV/AIDS.

Photograph by Jon Warren

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From the President | Richard E. Stearns

Who is my neighbor?

A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man he passed by on the other side.
—Luke 10:31

I GREW UP DURING THE TURBULENT TIME

of the civil rights movement. Like many young people, I was incredulous that blacks in the South were denied the right to eat in restaurants, drink from water fountains, or sit on buses with whites. It was inconceivable to me that an America founded on the premise of equality would deny basic rights to people simply because of their skin color. Yet my parents' generation was seemingly blind to this injustice. Worse still, thousands of American churches passively accepted racial discrimination, and some actively perpetuated it. This "plank in the eye" of the Church prevented it from seeing its own serious sins with regard to racism. Today it's clear that the sin of my parents' generation was allowing racial discrimination to flourish unchallenged.

Fast-forward to the 1980s. When HIV/AIDS burst into our consciousness, its transmission was almost exclusively associated with homosexual behavior and intravenous drug use. The Christian community reacted mostly by condemning the sins that led to AIDS. Since then, AIDS has spread worldwide in dimensions that can truly be described as apocalyptic. It has brought more suffering and death than perhaps any other event in human history. Yet this tendency to see AIDS through the lens of judgment has prevented us from seeing AIDS through the lens of compassion. Once again, a "plank in our eye" has found us deaf to the cries of the suffering.

Today, AIDS statistics are staggering. More than 60 million people have been infected with this virus, for which there is no cure. Twenty-two million have already died. Forty million are living with a disease that will slowly ravage their bodies and ultimately take their lives, leaving millions of widows, orphans, and loved ones to suffer grief, economic loss, social stigma, and often their own death by the same disease. Most heartbreaking are the more than 13 million children who have lost

parents to AIDS. Through World Vision I have met many of these widows and orphans, heard their stories, and felt their heartbreak and despair.

This can be a golden moment for Christians. Who better to offer comfort to the dying, to care for the orphans and the widows? Who better to bring hope to the hopeless? What an opportunity to show the world what it means to love our neighbors.

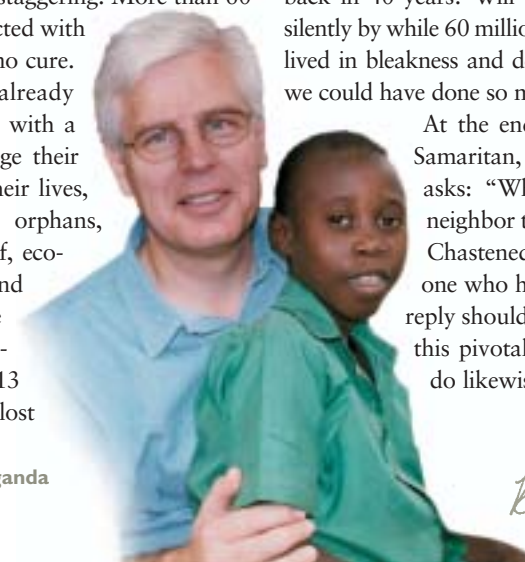
The question: "Who is my neighbor?" prompted Jesus to tell the story of the Good Samaritan. In it, his most scathing indictment was for the priest and the Levite who passed by on the other side of the road, turning a cold heart toward the man beaten by robbers. Ironically, it was the despised Samaritan who stopped and showed the man compassion. The sin of the priest and the Levite was apathy. They did no harm; they simply walked by without getting involved. Today's Good Samaritans often are secular organizations like the United Nations, the World Bank, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, who, admirably, have seen suffering widows and orphans and have gotten involved.

I don't want to minimize the heroic work of many Christian organizations, individuals, and churches who are responding with Christ's love to those suffering AIDS' many consequences. There were also Christians in the '50s and '60s fighting to end racial discrimination. But they were too few. They were the exceptions, not the rule.

What will our children think of us when they look back in 40 years? Will they be astonished that we sat silently by while 60 million died and 100 million orphans lived in bleakness and despair? Will they be angry that we could have done so much more but chose not to?

At the end of the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus turns to the Pharisee and asks: "Which of the three men was a neighbor to the man beaten by robbers?" Chastened, the Pharisee answered, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus' brief reply should challenge and convict us all at this pivotal moment in history: "Go and do likewise." ■

Rich with Richard, a boy in Uganda who was orphaned by AIDS



Richard Stearns

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For the first time in years, this former drug addict is independent and successful, thanks to help from World Vision.

departments

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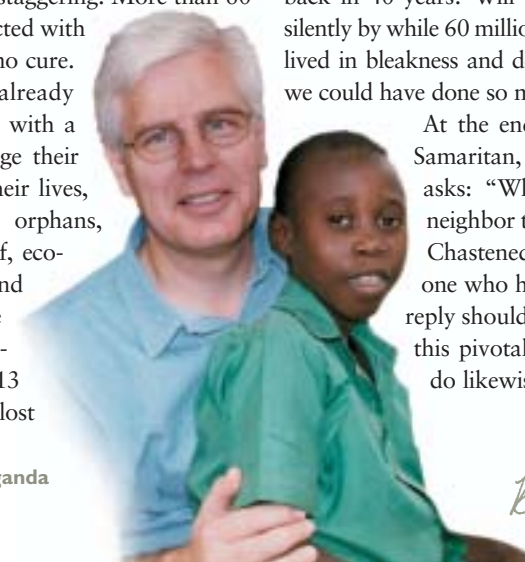
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Rich with Richard, a boy in Uganda who was orphaned by AIDS



Richard Stearns

How can I know that a charity is trustworthy?

WHEN CONSIDERING

a charity, don't hesitate to ask questions about the organization. You have the right to know how your donations are being used. You may contact the charity directly, find information about it on its Web site, or consult a watchdog agency.

SOME QUESTIONS TO ASK

Is the charity registered as a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization? Is the goal or purpose of the charity clearly stated? For example: World Vision is a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization. As Christians, we serve the world's poorest children and families in nearly 100 countries through provision of food and water, health care, education, economic development, and emergency relief.

How much of your donation goes to the charity's purpose? Almost every charity will have administrative and fund-raising costs. Responsible charities keep a healthy balance between maintaining the lowest overhead possible, while paying for responsible, professional management, financial and programmatic auditing, and the communication necessary to involve new donors in supporting the mission. In the last eight years, World Vision has steadily increased revenue and decreased its administration and fund-raising costs. In fiscal year 2001, 84.1 percent of donations were apportioned to international and domestic programs, totaling \$443.8 million.

How does the charity report its activities? Tax-exempt organizations with annual incomes over \$25,000 must make their last three annual information returns (IRS Form 990) available for public inspection. The return includes information on funds received and disbursed, business expenses, assets, liabilities, and corporation officers and directors. Annual reports or annual financial statements are another means of obtaining information about a charity. World Vision's 2001 annual report is available upon request; it is also available on its Web site, as is its Form 990. For highlights of World Vision's annual report, turn to page 29, "Thanks to You."

OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION

The charity should offer you ongoing communication about its progress. Documentation of program effectiveness helps to verify the charity's integrity.

Many watchdog agencies and publications rate charitable organizations, and their criteria vary (see *Checking on Charities*, at right). For example, charities with a high percentage of volunteer staff will have lower administrative costs than those with paid staff, but they are not necessarily more effective. Charities that operate primarily on private donations will have higher fund-raising costs than charities that operate with government grants. A newer charity might have higher administrative and fund-raising costs than a well-established organization. Note that faith-based organizations may not be included on certain charity ratings lists.

You can also look for the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA) seal. ECFA is comprised of more than 950 charitable, religious, and educational organizations that qualify for tax-exempt, nonprofit status. ECFA was formed to assure the public that organizations displaying ECFA's seal operate according to the highest standards of Christian ethics in financial accounting and reporting. Although this agency does not rate its members, it does hold them accountable to the agency's standards. World Vision is a charter member of this agency, which was founded in 1979.

Do some digging! Complete, factual information is a good indicator of trustworthiness for any charity, including World Vision.

For information on World Vision, contact us via e-mail (info@worldvision.org), visit www.worldvision.org, write to World Vision, PO Box 9716, Federal Way, WA 98063-9716, or call toll-free (888) 511-6518. ■

CHECKING ON CHARITIES

For information on a charity, you may wish to contact:

- Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability: 440 West Jubal Early Drive, Suite 130, Winchester, VA 22601, 1-800-3BE-WISE, www.ecfa.org
- Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance: 4200 Wilson Blvd., Suite 800, Arlington, VA 22203, (703) 276-0100, www.give.org
- GuideStar (a national database of nonprofit organizations): www.guidestar.org
- Charity Watch: www.charitywatch.com

Suffering in the United States

This letter is in response to the Rev. Tim Dearborn's article, "There's Hope" [Spring 2002]. I get slightly annoyed when other people criticize our American way of life. "Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness"—these attributes have, for the most part, made our lives pleasant. Rather than criticize us, they should applaud us.

Do we suffer? Yes. We get sick; we die; our children are lost to drugs; we have broken homes, the poor, racism. I don't think there is a human in the world who hasn't suffered in some way. Because we can do this in a country where there is help available doesn't lessen our ability to deal with the "real world."

—Bev Wiley, Hollsopple, Pa.

Commitment to Compassion

As a World Vision sponsor, I thank you for your commitment to compassionate Christian care. World Vision does an admirable job meeting the needs of children around the world with Christ's love. I have been blessed by my relationship with my sponsored child. Through this relationship, I have learned the importance of sharing the things God has given me with those less fortunate. Child sponsorship gives me the opportunity to influence the life of a needy child. Your ministry to these young people is daily changing lives for eternity.

—Sara Overbeek, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Kids Use the Gift Catalog Too



These boys from the Alta Loma (Calif.) Brethren in Christ Church third- and fourth-grade Sunday-school class donated \$50 to provide a goat to a family overseas through World Vision's Gift Catalog. Their teacher, Paul Trautwein, sponsors three children through World Vision.

Because every moment counts...



...World Vision's Emergency Response is guided by three principles:

1. Be Ready.

World Vision stocks warehouses around the globe with Family Survival Kits and items such as blankets, cooking supplies, and hygiene products so that critical provisions can be rushed to devastated communities.

2. Move Fast.

When a disaster hits, World Vision staff is committed to be on the scene within 72 hours to reach out with Christ's love to hurting people, who are often left with nothing but grief and hardship.

3. Finish the Job.

Even though World Vision arrives first, we don't leave until we help put a long-term development plan in place to restore hope to a stricken community.

How You Can Help

To be ready, warehouses must be stocked with items to fill Family Survival Kits. You can provide a kit containing life-sustaining supplies for one devastated family with a gift of \$100. Please visit www.worldvision.org/relief, or call (888) 511-6569.



www.worldvision.org/relief

To register for email updates, sign up at www.worldvision.org/relief

Story and photographs by Lily Venkatarangam

A TRANSPLANTED HEART



RUTH RUBY CHRISTIAN WAS SHAKEN NINE YEARS ago when her oldest brother, Arul, came down with typhoid. “I saw my parents struggling for medical help, and I thought, *If only I knew some basics on how to treat him, I could help him,*” she says. Later, watching the hospital staff care for Arul, who survived the illness, her desire grew.

Today, 21-year-old Ruth does help sick children. She’s a nurse at Kanchi Kamakoti Childs Trust Hospital, a well-regarded pediatric facility in Chennai, southern India. The job is satisfying and pays well. The only hitch for this young woman from an idyllic rural setting, is that it’s in the city.

Ruth finds Chennai’s environments cramped and suffocating after her upbringing in the beautiful countryside. Used to plentiful water, she now has to conserve in response to the city’s water shortages. When she’s not on duty at the hospital, she vicariously escapes the city by watching nature programs on television and writing letters to her family. But there’s no substitute for the real thing, so Ruth returns home to Chittoor, approximately 95 miles away, once or twice a month. “I just go and relax,” she says, smiling as if the thought itself relaxes her.

Ruth’s rural upbringing had its advantages, but it didn’t offer a wealth of career opportunities to this daughter of a church custodian. She might never have become a nurse without education assistance from World Vision sponsorship.

Ruth’s father, Narasaiah Christian, earned only 350 rupees (about \$7) a month at St. Luke’s Church in Chittoor. Her mother, a housewife, cared for their five children. Feeding and clothing seven people on Narasaiah’s meager salary was hard

enough. Paying an additional 150 rupees a month for Ruth’s boarding school, Chittoor Girls’ Home, was an additional strain, but Narasaiah toiled to do so for two years.

Then in 1990, the Chittoor Girls’ Home started receiving funding from World Vision to help girls from low-income homes receive a quality education. Ruth was selected for sponsorship. “I was so delighted,” she says, “because it meant easing a great load off my father’s shoulders.”

Sponsorship enabled her to continue at Chittoor Girls’ Home, affiliated with the Church of South India. The students lived on the vast, 15-acre campus in cottages instead of dorms, and they tended flower and vegetable gardens. “We used to compete with students from other cottages on whose flower garden looked the best,” Ruth recalls, her eyes sparkling at the memory. “We had bright magenta primroses, white chrysanthemums, golden-yellow marigolds, and varieties of crotons and cacti.”

Ruth saved the letters she received from her Christian sponsors in Germany. “Today we are reading the word of John 8:12,” reads a Christmas greeting. “‘I am the light of the world. No followers of mine shall wander in the dark, he shall have the light of life.’ This is a wish to you and your family to keep the light in your heart through Christmas and the whole year.”

“Sometimes when I feel down in the dumps I pull [the letters] out and reread them,” Ruth says. “It makes me feel good that people in a foreign country cared enough about me to support me.”

When she wrote back, she thanked them for the sponsorship benefits she received—tuition and room and board, as well as her school uniform, a complete set of clothes, and textbooks and school supplies. Her favorite sponsorship benefit was the annual World Vision Youth Leadership Camp, which brought together sponsored children from across the state. “I enjoyed the cultural dances, music, and singing. We had Bible quizzes and sports activities,” she says.

After high school, Ruth began to pursue her dream in earnest, applying for nursing courses at three different institutions. She was accepted at SVRR Government General Hospital in Tirupathy, about 25 miles from home. World Vision sponsorship supported Ruth through her three-year diploma course, completed in 1997. She worked in a private nursing home before being hired by Childs Trust.

Ruth typically works daytime shifts at the hospital, a modest, five-story cement compound close to the business hub of the city. Her favorite part of nursing is caring for children. Childs Trust often receives the most desperate cases and is known for its effec-



Ruth has found that smiles and a soft touch work best when treating children—and dealing with their worried parents.

tive treatments. “Most of my patients stay here only two to three days,” she says proudly. While working in the ward in her white uniform, her long, wavy hair tucked under a white cap, she often pauses to pat a child or give a comforting word.

“[Ruth] is a very good girl. She always takes up extra duty, never grumbles,” says her boss, Sister A.K. Lalitha. “All the good things that World Vision has done for her, Ruth has absorbed, and she lives it out. Nothing has gone to waste.”

Certainly nothing is wasted of Ruth’s salary. Of the 3,000 rupees (about \$65) she earns a month, she sends about half home to help her parents. Narasaiah still works at the church, and his income today is a modest \$20 a month. None of Ruth’s siblings managed to go to college, but all are trying to make their own way in life: Arul, 27, is an electrician; Chellaiah, 25, is a chauffeur; Shedrack, 23, a high-school graduate, is looking for a job; and Parimala, 19, is applying for a teacher’s training course.

Ruth, who committed her life to God in the eighth grade, worships at the Evangelical Church of India in Chennai, unless she’s on duty on a Sunday. She loves Psalm 139, about God’s loving involvement in his children’s lives even before birth: “O Lord, you have searched me and you know me....” Ruth often praises God for all he has done for her.

“I received help in my time of need,” says Ruth, who hopes to become a child sponsor herself. “I will repay someday by helping others in need.” ■

A former sponsored child leaves the rural community she loves to do work that fulfills her.

tempered *by the* *world's* tantrums

If it's Tuesday, she must be in Pakistan," jokes one of Dineen Tupa's friends. Those who have witnessed Dineen's globe-trotting over the past quarter-century—the last 17 years with World Vision, serving in relief zones around the world—know



Dineen Tupa, World Vision's Central Asia director, keeps her cool while working in some of the globe's hot zones.

BY JANE SUTTON-REDNER

PHOTOGRAPHS BY STEPHEN MATTHEWS

she could end up anywhere. These days, however, Pakistan is a pretty good guess. Dineen directs World Vision's operations in Central Asia, aimed at bringing healing and progress to Afghanistan and its neighbors.

Dineen's specialty is creating stability in unstable places. Before Afghanistan, it was East Timor; and before that, Angola, along with a host of humanitarian emergencies. It takes a stable person to do her job, and Dineen, with her practical, down-to-earth manner, is certainly that. But what gave her the strength to start into this line of work—and stay in it for decades—is her unshakable faith in God's goodness. "Working in ministry, helping people to see God's view of their suffering, helps build my faith," says Dineen. "It reaffirms for me that under no circumstances does God want to see any child suffer."

During a trip to the region in February, Dineen came face-to-face with suffering. In bitterly cold Herat, western Afghanistan, women in a refugee camp tearfully implored her to help their children. "I was in layers of clothes with warm socks and boots," says Dineen, a Midwesterner who prefers being south of the equator. "Most of the Afghans had no socks and were only wearing thin slippers. The living conditions were horrible, but I could only assume that this was better than dying in the mountains with no food." Such encounters are only bearable, she explains, because she knows World Vision can help.

Going back to Central Asia brings her full-circle. Back in the mid-'80s, when Dineen was World Vision associate director for Asia relief, the organization worked in Pakistan and Afghanistan, clearing landmines and providing agricultural assistance for 50,000 families. The tense political environment and escalating violence soon forced World Vision out of the region. Today, Dineen and the rest of the team are older and wiser. "We have to be very flexible with our programming to ensure that we're in partnership with the government," she says. "We're not here to compete. We're here to find out their strategic goals and to see how we can help them rebuild."

Her regard for teamwork has deep roots. Dineen remembers



"When I find I'm in a place that's easy, I think maybe it's time to do something different," says Dineen, pictured getting in touch with Afghan children.

internationally focused.

Dineen's colleagues laud her ability to build relationships, balance hard work and humor, and tell it like it is. "Dineen is a passionate and persistent person," says Watt Santatiwat, World Vision vice president for the Asia/Pacific region and Dineen's boss. "She is the only director working for me who has hung up on me mid-sentence." He adds, "Half an hour later, she called to apologize.

her mother weeping over the line in the movie "Men of Boy's Town": "He ain't heavy, he's my brother." She says, "I was raised with that sort of ethic: We're in this together; we're going to sink or succeed together." The oldest girl of six children living on Chicago's South Side—"then more Irish-Catholic than Dublin"—Dineen often did more than her share. Her mother demanded that the bathrooms be scoured, the floors and furniture dusted, and three loads of laundry washed every day. Dineen estimates that she had ironed a lifetime's worth of clothes by age 18.

Downtime in the Tupa household revolved around books. "Dinner conversations always had a discussion of what someone was reading," Dineen recalls. Once a week, the family visited the library, where they would check out 40 books at a time. Reading remains a favorite pastime for Dineen. Her eclectic tastes encompass many genres, both fiction and nonfiction. She's likely to have books by Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Tom Clancy resting together on her nightstand.

Dineen was raised to be a good, helpful person, but the rest of her life story might have been different had she not encountered the Christian ministry The Navigators within weeks of arriving at the University of Illinois. Soon after, she experienced a faith awakening. "All of a sudden, in my heart, I knew God. It was an incredibly powerful moment," she recalls. From then on, she wanted to care for people because *God* cares for people.

After college, Dineen served in the Peace Corps in the Philippines. When she returned home in the late 1970s, Dineen chose her next job while watching boat people on the TV news. She signed up with what is now known as the International Organization of Migration, helping refugees in Asia and Latin America. In 1985, World Vision was God's answer when she prayed for a job with a Christian organization based in the United States, yet

She knows that I respect her perspective."

Leadership has been Dineen's greatest test. In Angola and East Timor, she directed teams of several hundred people, many of them nationals requiring delicate cross-cultural management. These were her toughest assignments, she says. She worried about her staff in Angola as they traversed landmine-ridden roads. She struggled to instruct Timorese staff who deeply distrusted foreigners. As a leader, Dineen aims to follow Galatians 5:22, living out the fruits of the Spirit—sometimes with only partial success, she admits. "I told my colleagues in East Timor, 'You have my permission, in the midst of any temper tantrum or any lack of patience I have, to ask me what part of my tantrum has to do with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control,'" she laughs.

World Vision colleague Margaret Montague observed several fruits of the Spirit in her friend when she spent what she terms "a typical day" with Dineen in Angola. The women rode in a cargo plane, sitting atop bags of maize bound for a hungry population. "Watching Dineen at the food distributions was moving," Margaret recalls. "She was very concerned about how people delivered the food—that they were polite and showed a caring spirit, even though such situations are exhausting and frustrating."

Dineen reflects, "God puts you in places to stretch you. Every position I'm in, he uses what I've learned in the past and challenges me to learn something new." Of her role in Central Asia, she says, "I pray that as I work in this region, God will bring to the program those he has chosen—and that I am wise enough to step aside and let God be the actual boss." ■

For an update on World Vision's work in Afghanistan, please see *News*, page 34.

leftbehind

By 2010, experts predict that 40 million of the world's children will be orphaned.

Left behind as their parents succumb to a virus. A virus so small, it cannot be seen. Only its effects, which are always fatal.

HIV/AIDS destroys families and communities, and threatens to destroy nations. It kills without restraint, unchecked by public outcry, threatening the progress of all that World Vision has accomplished in the past 50 years.

Today we stand at a pivotal point in the history of compassion; a place where skillful planning, prayerful action, and donor support could converge, bringing hope not just to orphans, but to the millions of children whose futures are made fragile by this tragic human crisis. In the next few pages, meet the hope bearers who care for the children, loving those who are

... left behind. >>

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JON WARREN





Patrick Moto, 8, orphan

Senzani, Malawi, is a microcosm of what's happening across southern Africa: frequent funerals, a swelling orphan population, and the slow death of progress and dreams. Yet as more people fall sick to the unspoken menace, faithful heroes rise up to help them—and the children they leave behind. BY NIGEL MARSH



thehopebearers

»THE WHOLE VILLAGE HAS TURNED OUT FOR ALICE TAKULA'S



funeral, clustering in hushed groups in the shade, whispering to one another in their sibilant Chichewa language.

Mchewere Banda, leader of the Seventh-day Adventist church in Senzani, in rural central Malawi, sits inside a gloomy, mud-brick home, comforting Alice's family: father, Celestin, 73; mother, Makilila, 66; and 17-year-old daughter, Agnes. Alice's death was not unexpected—she had become progressively »



Clockwise from top: Clement Kaleso (right) became an AIDS counselor after watching so many teachers die at the school where he is headmaster. He encouraged Johns J. Ngoleka (left) to get an AIDS test and went along to the hospital to provide support.

Lucia Moto, 9, and her brother Patrick, 8, were abandoned by their mother after their father's death, probably from AIDS. Now the man who took them in, Vincent Friday, may also be affected.

Marie Galatya, wife of the Rev. Stephen Galatya, cradles one of the 10 orphaned grandchildren she and her husband care for. "We who are old are the only ones who can keep our children alive now," says Stephen. "God is merciful and kind and will give us the years we need."

more ill for two years—but the family’s grief is tangible.

HIV/AIDS is the reason people go to so many funerals, says Eunice Chingwalungalu, a community AIDS volunteer and one of Alice’s last visitors. But *Edzi*, as AIDS is known in this region, is a frightening, power-loaded word, rarely mentioned publicly—least of all today.

Officially, a quarter of Malawi’s 9.8 million adults are HIV-positive. Austin Khongonyowa, medical assistant in charge of Senzani Clinic, thinks there are more. He guesses he sees up to 15 new cases a month. Fifteen, in a small community of fewer than 9,000 people—an unremarkable community in Africa, the continent scarred by the most frightening plague the world has seen for a millennium or more.

Africa is ill-equipped for the challenge, for many reasons—one, notably, is that it is simply too poor. Eunice had wanted Alice to go to the district hospital at Ntcheu for an AIDS test. But it cost 130 kwacha (\$2) for the bus journey there and back. When Alice was fit, she could earn that in half a week’s hard labor in the fields. She could not possibly raise the money while sick.

If living with AIDS is costly, so is dying of AIDS. Alice’s funeral is expensive for the family, who must provide food not only for



Funerals in Senzani claim both an emotional and economic toll by shutting down all activity in the village for the day.

the mourners, but also for all the neighbors kept from work to go to burials. Everyone feels compelled to attend lest they be denied their own funeral in the public graveyard. So Senzani misses yet another day of labor, of school, of farming. Some 86 percent of Malawians get their income from the dusty land. The minds of the mourner-farmers are at least partly on their neglected maize and sorghum, tobacco and groundnuts, shriveling in this year’s drought.

Alice’s body is placed in a handmade

coffin. Mchewere preaches his sermon; leaders make speeches. World Vision staff, who visited Alice in the last weeks of her illness, step up to carry the coffin.

World Vision, with funding from U.S. sponsors, began work in Senzani five years ago, improving the food supply, health care, water, and sanitation; helping children go to school; and increasing family incomes with loans for building up farms and starting businesses. Now the emphasis is changing—AIDS prevention and mitigation

comes first, because the disease is unraveling the gains made in these programs.

Eight out of 12 World Vision staff in Senzani have lost close family members to AIDS, and five are caring for orphans. They know the pain. Carrying a coffin is not work—it is the new reality of life in Africa.

Another short service at the grave, and grief finally overwhelms Celestin and Makilila. Amid both tears and singing,

men shovel earth over Alice’s coffin. A relative collapses in grief. Family and honored guests put flowers on the mound, the latest among far too many freshly dug plots in the Senzani graveyard.

SEEKING COURAGE

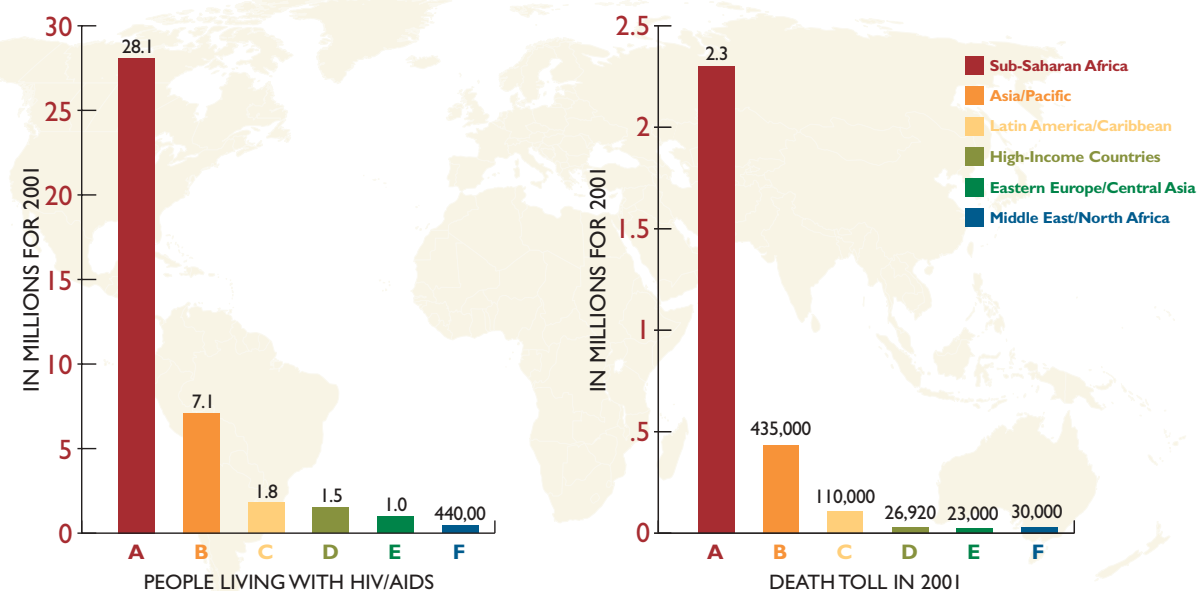
At her home days before she died, Alice said she was looking forward to Saturday, the chance to go

to church for the first time in months. “I’ve been so sick and weak I couldn’t go out at all, but I think I might make it this weekend,” she said, fixing a tired but hopeful gaze on Eunice. The community AIDS volunteer returned a reassuring smile and chatted about recent events in the church, at the same time passing to Alice some painkillers donated by members.

“Keep these handy in case you need

A PANDEMIC OF GLOBAL PROPORTIONS

Every region of the world is affected by AIDS. But wealth or poverty makes all the difference. Drug treatments prolong life in high-income countries, while HIV delivers a swift death sentence in developing countries.



christian leaders speak out

Charles Colson | Overcoming Prejudice

Sub-Saharan Africa. To those who understand something about African affairs, the phrase is synonymous with “tragedy.” Since these countries gained their independence in the early ‘60s, they’ve experienced civil war, famine, genocide. But now, the saddest news of all may be the impact of AIDS—a tragedy compounded by the seeming indifference of American Christians.

The scope of AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa boggles the mind: more than 60 million people infected with this incurable virus.

Even sadder is the impact of the epidemic on what are known as “AIDS orphans.” An estimated 12 million African children have lost their mother or both parents to AIDS. That’s nearly the population of metropolitan Los Angeles. And that number is expected to double or triple by 2010.

This kind of suffering demands a response on the part of Christians worldwide. But a study by Barna Research found that born-again Christians in America were less likely than non-Christians to support children orphaned by AIDS.

These statistics are remarkable when you consider that Christians are “twice as likely as adults overall to support disadvantaged children overseas.” That this compassion doesn’t extend to AIDS orphans is both puzzling and disturbing.

What’s the reason?

I’m afraid the answer is prejudice. If these children’s parents had been killed in a bar fight, we would be willing to give to them. But since they died of AIDS, we aren’t. We claim to hate the sin and love the sinner, but we don’t show that. And we’re willing to visit the sins of the fathers upon the children.

I recently attended a meeting where one of the participants suggested that, in addition to the classic “marks” of the true Church—that is, gospel preaching, the sacraments, and church discipline—we ought to add caring for the poor and needy. It’s a good point.

Matthew 25, after all, tells us that caring for the poor and needy is exactly what Christ expects of his Church. Turning our backs on these kids is the same as turning our backs on him. The crisis of AIDS orphans cries out for the kind of response only Christians can deliver: one that combines compassion with a respect for truth.

That would be good news, the kind sub-Saharan Africa rarely gets. But it will only happen if Christians refuse to let prejudice get in the way of their biblical mandate.



them,” Eunice said. Alice took them gratefully. She was 41, but her skeletal appearance, taut skin, and wispy, brittle hair suggested someone older and hinted at the depths of her suffering. Her eyes were warm, however, and her voice surprisingly strong from one so depleted by infections, diarrhea, and skin ailments.

Alice understood there was a link between her illness and the earlier death of her husband, Austin, but the possibility that she had AIDS was a subject to be delicately avoided. The connection to sexuality, the hint of sin in this largely church-going country, the implication of a death sentence—all make AIDS virtually unmentionable. This holds true throughout Africa, where many of the 23 million people with HIV suffer in real or feigned ignorance of the fact.

Eunice, who has seen friends succumb to illnesses and infections that point to HIV, has a thankless task—counseling people in denial. A survey by a team of doctors from Malawi’s capital, Lilongwe, concluded that health visitors are correct in 19 out of 20 of their symptom-based diagnoses of AIDS in the field.

“In two to three houses out of every 10 that I visit, there is someone with a sickness we suspect is caused by HIV,” Eunice says. “People are dying, alone and miserable, and I go and visit them and help them in any way I can.”



A week before her death, Alice Takula (right) prays with Pastor Mchwere Banda and AIDS counselor Eunice Chingwalungwalu. “These visitors give me hope,” she said.

In a typical day, she visits five or six such people. They are villagers like Rebekah, 51, looking after seven grandchildren since her husband expired; Saidi, 31, leg rotten with an ulcer, paralyzed, and abandoned by his wife and children; and Elida, 41, in resigned despair after eight years of repetitive pain and sickness.

Eunice encourages them to keep their hope, to look to God, to pray. She produces small gifts—cotton wool, painkillers, sugar. She asks about the children, who in several cases are looking after ailing

mothers. She promises that the church will donate money for a trip to the hospital if they agree to go for an AIDS test.

Bearers of hope like Eunice are rare and precious. Vincent Friday, who lives a few miles from Alice’s grave, is fighting to retain his formerly vast reserves of good-natured hope.

The 35-year-old father inherited eight acres in Senzani and set to work developing it as a maize plantation. With his own resources, hard labor, and assistance from World Vision, he built up small

continued on page 20 »



christian leaders speak out

Tony Campolo | They’ll Know We Are Christians

Christians in America have not responded well to the AIDS epidemic. Two decades ago, in the early years of the epidemic, it was common to hear mean-spirited preachers contending that AIDS was God’s special judgment on gays. These preachers seemed to ignore that

when people in Jesus’ day attributed physical suffering to sin, he opposed them. When confronted with those whose bodies were stricken, Jesus saw only opportunities to bless them—and in so doing, to bring honor to his Father (John 9:1-3). The claim that AIDS is a punishment from God visited on homosexuals dishonors God. Furthermore, it is a claim that does not hold up as AIDS has come to be much more prevalent among heterosexuals—especially in Asia and Africa.

Too often the religious community has treated AIDS victims as those in the ancient world treated lepers. In those days, people ravaged by leprosy (now called Hansen’s disease)

were ostracized and declared ceremoniously “unclean” by those who considered themselves religiously pure. Today there are Christians who treat AIDS victims the same way. I have heard some church leaders actually suggest that those with AIDS should be quarantined, just as lepers were in Jesus’ day. They seem to forget that 2,000 years ago Jesus touched lepers and refused to view them as degenerate. He made it clear that they would be welcomed in his kingdom.

As the AIDS crisis worsens around the world, are we not being challenged to respond to those in need as Jesus would? In England, there are Christians who are committed to providing round-the-clock care for bedridden AIDS victims. In many churches across America, support groups are being organized to help parents cope with the agony of coping with children dying of AIDS. In many Third World countries, World Vision is lending support to ministries that are reaching out to people with AIDS.

We’ve got to do some damage control with our image. That can only come as the result of a sincere and loving response to people with AIDS. Through our service, our praying, and our giving, we can change things so that the world will say, “We know they are Christians by their love.”



Clockwise from top: Orphans prepare grasshoppers for lunch, an affordable way to supplement their protein-weak diet.

These children and others are being cared for by a group of young women—some widowed, some divorced, some who lost their own parents.

“I always thought I would live a happy life with my beautiful wife, working hard on my land for my children’s future,” says Vincent Friday, who is likely HIV-positive (holding 13-month-old son Davis). “But the story has come out differently because of this sickness.”

populations of pigs, ducks, goats, hybrid chickens, and pigeons. He dreamed of buying cows and building a new, brick home for his growing family.

In one miserable year, Vincent watched his dreams evaporate. He and his wife, Celina Vanasyo, 33, cashed in their pigs and some of the hard-earned livestock to pay for treatment for their sicknesses and those of two of their children—ailments that point to AIDS, their saddened World Vision friends fear.

Four-year-old Pirirani has been ill with diarrhea, stomach pains, a cough, and fever for more than half his life. Thirteen-month-old Davis is withering away with the same symptoms, his head large on his gaunt frame as he sucks listlessly at Celina's breast, interrupting himself with occasional, weak coughs. Only daughter Brenda, 11, remains strong and healthy. She is a sponsored child, and World Vision staff are privately making plans for her. An unprecedented number of sponsored children—so far, 10 percent of the 3,000 children in the Senzani sponsorship program—have lost one or both parents.

Clement Kaleso, headmaster of Kankao School, sees firsthand the rapid increase in the number of orphaned students and those who can't come to school anymore because their parents died. Clement was trained as an AIDS coun-



Widow Rhoda Migondo, 50, has her hands full with her own five children plus three orphaned grandchildren—including sickly Flossy Paulo, 7 (pictured on Rhoda's back).

selor last year, frustrated by watching so many friends and colleagues slowly dying in ignorance and isolation.

"I felt I had to do something. Until recently, I had 15 clients and was very busy," he says. A pause. "I'm under a bit less pressure now. Six of them have died. Two of my remaining clients are teachers from my own small school."

Teachers are dying at a prodigious rate in Africa—like police officers, nurses, and doctors, they often get posted to remote locations without their families. Poor by

U.S. standards, they have high status and disposable cash, creating temptation.

Some people can look back and see a mistake they made that allowed HIV to ruin their lives. Many cannot: spouses to whom the virus came home as an unwanted gift; children watching in uncomprehending horror as parents waste away; babies and infants infected through birth or breast milk; grandparents left in mute panic with half a dozen orphans; nurses infected at work. For those who contract the virus through sex, the issue is

not straightforward, either. Six to 10 times as many teenage girls than boys have HIV in Malawi, four times more young women than men in their 20s. Biologically vulnerable, culturally less able to make choices about their sexuality, women in Africa are being decimated by AIDS.

"I was away for teacher training for one and a half years, and when I came back I found things had changed," explains Jean Kamanga, 36, in a quiet, regretful tone. "My husband had been seeing other women, and he became ill. I knew about AIDS so I was very worried. Six months later, in 1997, he died."

Jean was diagnosed in 1998—"the hardest appointment I ever had to keep"—and since then has been concerned mainly about her children, Wongani, 10, and Towera, 8. Her elderly parents, Dawa and Betty, have taken her in and showered her with love.

"I tell the truth about my HIV status and discuss it with my family," she says. "I am going to die happy because I know that my kids will be all right."

World Vision has been helping Jean with painkilling drugs and with planning for her children's futures. This has reinforced her resolve to help others. Staff are training her to become a counselor, because people who will talk about living with HIV are rare and effective ambassadors.

Jean is also supported by the Rev. Witness Katunga of Central African Presbyterian church. The churches of Senzani, alongside health and development workers, are leading the fight against the spread of HIV—partly because they must face its results so often.

Every denomination is involved. Catholic Father Superior Perico sits in his kitchen and stares at photographs of each orphan in his congregation—430 of them.

Pastor Mchewere Banda, who buried Alice, is a newlywed, yet he and his wife already look after three orphans. They took two in after he preached at their respective parents' funerals. He says families in his church are at a breaking point with the number of parentless children.

"We are really struggling to know how to help them," he admits. "I have seen that World Vision's sponsorship system works very well, because the children go to school and get the things they need for a good life. That's a model we would like

continued on page 22 »

world vision's hope

The Hope Initiative, World Vision's response to HIV/AIDS, addresses what leaders consider "the greatest threat to development in our era." By Ken Casey

The e-mail message from World Vision Thailand's director was brief. "We regret to inform you that Sukanya passed away from HIV on Jan. 7, 2002."

Sukanya was a 2-year-old girl I met in April 2001 in Thailand. Sukanya's parents had died of AIDS, and she was being lovingly cared for by her grandparents. Unfortunately, Sukanya had been infected with the virus at birth. When I met her, she was severely malnourished due to AIDS-related chronic diarrhea.

This dear girl with her big, beautiful, brown eyes has now succumbed to the same fate as more than 22 million others worldwide.

With more than 40 million people currently living with HIV/AIDS and the numbers increasing at a rate of one every six seconds, the need for a massive and widespread response is enormous. World Vision has committed itself to do all it can to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS and to care for those affected, through its HIV/AIDS Hope Initiative.

But what is hope—especially in the face of such overwhelming suffering?

We often think in terms of the hope we have within us as children of God. First and foremost, this is the hope we can offer to those in such desperate need.

But hope is also very tangible.

Hope comes in the form of *people*—like the Rev. Stephen Galatya of Malawi, who brings the message of God's love to an AIDS-rattled society while looking after his nine orphaned grandchildren. Or Eunice Chingwalungu, who delivers hope by bringing medicine and prayer to the sick when they're too weak to attend church.

Hope comes through *caring*—for the millions of children orphaned by AIDS or for their parents living with HIV. Many sick parents have told me that their greatest concern is for their children after they die. When they can be reassured that their children will be cared for, an immeasurable hope lightens their countenance.

Hope can come in the form of *basic medications*—to treat the opportunistic diseases that prey on AIDS-weakened immune systems. I have seen parents so sick that they were unable to care for their hungry children. But after receiving simple antibiotics, pain relief pills, or skin ointments, they regained their strength and were able to look after their children. This is hope.

Hope can take the form of *meeting*



Ken Casey is special representative to the World Vision International president for the HIV/AIDS Hope Initiative.

basic needs—through providing clean water, health care, or economic development. HIV/AIDS is aggravated by poverty, which weakens people's immune systems through hunger and a *lack* of those basic necessities.

For others, hope comes in the form of *education*—being taught how to avoid contracting the virus so they can look forward to a long and productive life.

It is because World Vision can offer such tangible hope in the midst of such trying circumstances that we are investing so heavily in the HIV/AIDS Hope Initiative. Our faith, our experience in providing long-term solutions, our community-based programs, and our strong partnerships with local churches uniquely position us to take on the fight.

We invite our friends, and especially the Church, to join with us in this initiative so that those who are suffering may "overflow with hope" (Romans 15:13) and the tide of this pandemic might be turned.

christian leaders speak out

Luci Swindoll | Love Brings Healing

One of the most meaningful Saturdays I ever spent was April 7, 2000. A group of us from Women of Faith were in Chennai, India, getting acquainted with World Vision's work.

At the Chennai Integrated HIV/AIDS Care center we met a dozen beautifully dressed women—all of whom had HIV or AIDS. Most were in their 20s or 30s. Greeting us was Dr. Punitha, the 34-year-old Indian psychiatrist who was the leader of this facility. She had a warm smile as she told us, "The women could hardly sleep last night. They were so excited about your visit today. They've planned testimonies and dances for you and have been practicing for weeks."

The World Vision-supported center provides counseling, advice, health education, treatment of minor ailments in slum communities, and a temporary home for women with no place to live.

One of the women, Lakshmi, gave her testimony about how she came to the center. Her husband had died of AIDS after 20 years of marriage, leaving her and three of their five children infected. Dr. Punitha was notified of this woman's inability to move to the treatment center because of her emaciated condition. She was living with her parents, who had isolated her in their home because of their fear of the AIDS contagion.

Dr. Punitha had Lakshmi hospitalized and later moved to the care center. The other women received Lakshmi and her children with love that seemed to know no bounds. In time, Lakshmi grew stronger. Her dancing reflected her joy in being alive and her appreciation for having a place to live with her family.

That day at the HIV/AIDS center is a very rich memory in my mind. It was wonderful and moving to see for myself the fine work that was being done for so many by so few.

Would that the Christian churches of America would answer that same call. We, as believers in Jesus Christ, are lights in darkness; therefore we must carry the torch. Although AIDS is an international tragedy of epic proportions, we serve a mighty God who grants courage and wisdom in fighting the good fight of faith. Let's step out of the shadows and lead others into the battle.



TODD BARTLE/WORLD VISION

to see more of in the community.”

The remarkable septuagenarian Baptist Pastor Stephen Galatya lost two of his own children to HIV. He gave up an international ministry to come home to care for nine orphans, while going into the community of his birth to bury the dead, comfort the sick, and warn the healthy.

“I am popular at funerals, and when I visit the sick, because I preach a message of hope—that you can change your life and save it for eternity, that you can turn to Jesus Christ and be forgiven,” he says. “People are hurting, and a message of despair is no message at all.”

THE STRUGGLE AHEAD

AIDS presents an unprecedented challenge for World Vision. In no fewer than 12 African nations, Malawi included, the struggle against AIDS now comes first—as it may need to be in other regions as the pandemic worsens across the globe.

World Vision partners with teachers, health professionals, and community leaders, but especially with religious leaders, because the church has the reach, influence, and moral authority to tackle the complex cultural and behavioral issues underlying the disease.

AIDS is more than a continent-wide



World Vision staff work closely with a Senzani community AIDS committee on a plan of action for addressing the epidemic in their individual villages.

health emergency. It’s a social, cultural, and economic disaster that threatens every area of life and virtually every family in high-prevalence countries.

Yet even in the worst-hit communities like Senzani, an indomitable spirit survives—a stubborn hope. Ailing mothers fight to their last breath to care for their children and give them opportunities; teenage orphans sacrifice their futures to care for younger siblings; church leaders,

doctors, and educators look at the odds stacked against them and choose not to give up.

“If people can change their behavior, we can save our community,” says the Rev. Stephen Galatya. “We must keep on talking about AIDS, telling people to be faithful to God and to their families, and bringing the message of hope. We will bring change. This is our calling. This is the mission for this time.” ■



christian leaders speak out

James Dobson | **Join the Battle**

The United Nations estimates that 2.3 million Africans died of AIDS in 2001, while a further 28.1 million are currently infected. In addition, one in every four South African women aged 21-29 has AIDS, and the epidemic is rapidly advancing in Djibouti, Somalia, Sudan, and other countries where civil war and famine have already claimed thousands of lives. All told, the continent is home to 70 percent of the adults and 80 percent of the children living with HIV in the world.

Those of us who espouse faith in Christ cannot ignore these apocalyptic statistics. We must bear them in mind when we consider how Jesus ministered to the afflicted and downtrodden. Our merciful Savior reached out with compassion, even to those members of society who had made wrong

choices in their lives. We are commanded to demonstrate this same compassion to those who are suffering today. Of the sick and hurting, Jesus himself said, “Whatever you did for one of the least

of these brothers of mine, you did for me” (Matthew 25:40).

A compassionate Christian response to AIDS must also emphasize the importance of sexual abstinence before marriage and fidelity after marriage. Sadly, secular attempts to address AIDS frequently promote condom use as the key to stopping the advance of this dreaded disease. Not only are condoms ineffective in curbing the spread of STDs, but emphasizing “safe sex” completely ignores biblical teachings about marriage and sexuality.

World Vision has taken a more positive angle in the fight against AIDS by providing practical treatment and—most importantly—by offering the unconditional love of Christ to the men, women, and children who are affected. Now is the time for Western churches to join the battle. In addition to ministering to AIDS patients here at home (where statistics show that HIV infection rates are also on the rise), we can support organizations like World Vision that are bringing the hope of Christ to Third World areas ravaged by the disease.

The Gospel of Mark records one particularly powerful encounter between Christ and a sick individual: “Filled with compassion,” the text says, “Jesus reached out and touched the man” (Mark 1:41). Like Jesus, the 21st-century Church must have compassion on victims of the AIDS epidemic. And like Jesus, we must be willing to reach out to them with God’s love.

Clockwise from top:
The Rev. Stephen Galatya preaches Sundays in this humble church. God is a God of love and compassion, he says, so believers must not turn away from their duty to the sick.

Members of a Seventh-day Adventist youth group called Toto (“No to AIDS”) educate their village about HIV transmission through a skit.

Medical assistant Austin Khongonyawa examines orphan Gerifidi Fernando, 7, who is cared for by Pastor Mchwere Banda and his wife, Phidas. Austin believes the best hope for stopping the pandemic is to instill HIV/AIDS messages among youth. “We have to intensify our approach to them.”

a child's journey

HIV/AIDS orphans children, and it cuts a corridor of destruction along the way. Follow the path below to see the effects of AIDS on a representative family. Follow the path on the right to see how, through World Vision's Hope Initiative, life could be better for a family we call the Chitumbas.

After 15 years of marriage and four children for Charles and Sarah Chitumba, Charles became ill and died in 1999. Now Sarah is sick too ...

Soon Sarah is bedridden. Her son Samuel, 14, and daughter Gladys, 12, drop out of school to assume Sarah's chores. Samuel farms and sells vegetables at the market. Gladys takes care of brother Joseph, 7, and Ethel, 2.

Weakened by AIDS, and without medicine, Sarah dies of tuberculosis. The family struggles to pay her funeral costs.

Because of the stigma of AIDS, the family's neighbors shun them. Samuel goes to the city in a desperate search for work. Back home, there is no money for school. Joseph drops out.

Sarah's elderly mother, Josephine, comes to care for the children, bringing three other grandchildren.

The Chitumba's small farm is overburdened. Everyone in the family suffers from malnourishment. Ethel gets diarrhea from a contaminated water supply and dies.

Grandma Josephine dies of old age.

Gladys marries a man from the village who offers to support her. Joseph's hope of returning to school ends when his teacher dies of AIDS.

Neighbors begin to farm Joseph's land, and he has no recourse to reclaim it. Without a will or an advocate, he has no one to stand up for his rights.

Joseph is alone.



Sarah grows so sick she cannot care for her family. World Vision volunteer

health counselor Eunice begins to visit, bringing pain killers to ease Sarah's suffering and medicines to fight diseases like tuberculosis. World Vision sponsors the younger children, who receive regular health checkups, water, and agricultural assistance. World Vision helps them stay in school.

Samuel, 14, learns to repair bicycles, thanks to World Vision. He farms the land and sells produce at the market. Gladys goes to school and, with help from the World Vision volunteer health counselor, takes care of Sarah, Joseph, and little Ethel.

Sarah dies of AIDS. Medicine has lengthened her life by several years and improved its quality.

Samuel and Gladys turn to World Vision for help. World Vision staff help the family's neighbors to understand the children's plight. They agree to help. Samuel stays at home, repairing bicycles and running the farm.

Sarah's elderly mother, Josephine, comes to care for the children, bringing three orphaned grandchildren with her.

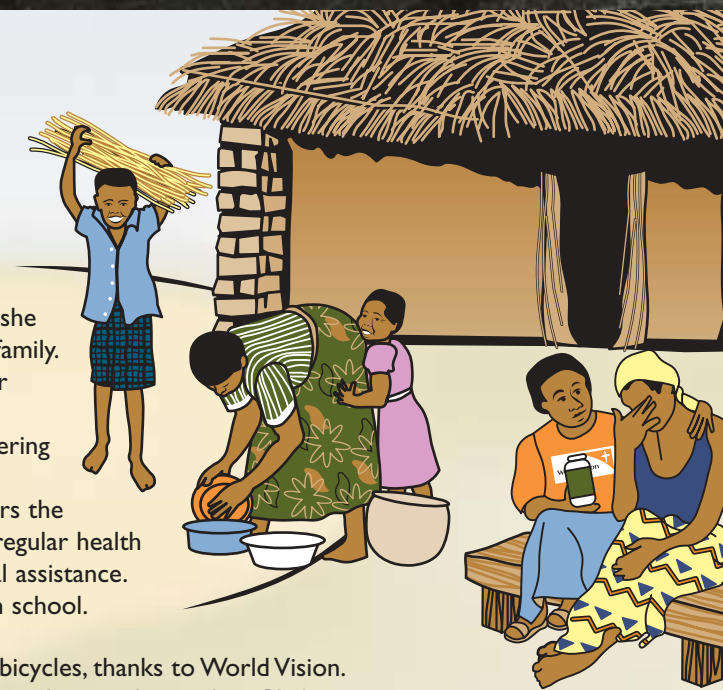
World Vision digs a well in the village, improving the children's health. World Vision's volunteer health counselor has become a trusted friend. She helps with daily chores and sees that the family has what they need to survive.

Grandma Josephine dies of old age.

Gladys is not obligated to marry young and instead helps raise her siblings. She is studying to become a teacher.

The four children live alone, but they thrive with help from World Vision. Working through community leaders, the church, and the government, World Vision is able to help the children keep control of their farmland. The children miss their parents very much.

Loving sponsors in the United States help the children feel less alone.



...with Stephen Lewis

»“AIDS is already the single greatest health crisis that has faced humankind,” says international AIDS expert Stephen Lewis. “If it hasn’t overtaken every comparable plague in the past, it will overtake it in the future.”

Poverty’s hold on Africa means that HIV/AIDS wipes out entire families much more quickly than in the United States. Already weakened by food shortages or poor nutrition, a lack of access to clean water, and without money for medicine, parents who contract HIV/AIDS have little hope of extending their lives long enough to care for their young children.

Stephen Lewis, special envoy to the United Nations for HIV/AIDS in Africa, discusses these complex issues in this interview with *World Vision Today*. Stephen is a passionate advocate for children. He served as deputy executive director of the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) from 1995-1999. Throughout his long career as a humanitarian and diplomat, he has championed many causes around the world, particularly related to Africa and HIV/AIDS.

Today, Stephen works closely with African leaders to ensure progress on the objectives outlined at last year’s African summit on HIV/AIDS in Abuja, Nigeria: halt the epidemic’s further spread, reduce mother-to-child HIV transmission, provide care and treatment, deliver scientific breakthroughs, and protect the vulnerable—especially orphans.



Q: We know that sub-Saharan Africa is currently the AIDS “hot zone.” Why is the disease spreading so vigorously?

A: You have a combination of things: poverty, denial, stigma, gender oppression, transportation routes, migration, and civil conflict. The levels of poverty are so great that people’s immune systems are tremendously fragile and susceptible to disease; there isn’t the capacity to resist.

AIDS spread dramatically through heterosexual transmission in sub-Saharan Africa. Transportation routes moved truck drivers and others from one country to another, which allowed the pandemic to spread as travelers contracted HIV and carried it home. Conflict, too, is a vehicle

for the spread of HIV/AIDS, through the sexual violence that occurs in refugee camps and among the internally displaced.

There is also terrible oppression of women who aren’t able to refuse sexual contact, and with that the reality that sexuality is difficult to speak of. The stigma and denial are so intense that the pandemic can take root and spread rapidly, and no one will acknowledge and talk about it the way people talked about AIDS’ spread through the homosexual and drug-using communities in the Western world.

Put all these factors together, and it has been just a cauldron of self-immolation around the pandemic.

“You never despair, because despair is a paralyzing emotion. You simply grit your teeth and continue to fight the good fight.”

You say that, culturally, women can’t refuse sex. Is that playing out in higher numbers of infected women?

Yes. In sub-Saharan Africa, women now constitute 55 percent of the infected, and the HIV/AIDS prevalence levels among women are regularly higher than men. In a number of communities in Botswana, the prevalence rate for women between 25 and 29 has reached 51.2 percent—one out of every two women in that age-range has effectively been served a death warrant.

How has AIDS affected families, communities, and entire nations in sub-Saharan Africa?

It has devastated family structures. Because mothers, fathers, uncles, and aunts are dead, grandmothers look after four, five, six, 10, 12 youngsters. There’s an increasing phenomenon of child-headed households where [children] look after siblings with almost no shelter, no clothing, no food, and no money to pay for school.

If ever there was a campaign needed in sub-Saharan Africa, it’s to abolish school fees, because children who are orphaned by AIDS can’t pay for tuition, books, or uniforms. They don’t have a childhood left, let alone a family.

There isn’t a sector of the social and economic infrastructure in these countries still intact. In the education sector, teachers are dying in large numbers, and students are removed from school to look after their ill parents. The health system is affected because there simply aren’t the medical facilities to look after people; there aren’t drugs to treat opportunistic infections, and

there certainly aren’t antiretroviral drugs [which work against the HIV infection] to treat full-blown AIDS. The agricultural sector is devastated because they can’t till the land, they can’t grow food, so people are hungry. President Olusegun Obasanjo [of Nigeria] said that parts of Africa are fighting against extinction. He’s using apocalyptic language because in countries where the prevalence rate is more than 20 percent, you often feel as though you’re standing in a graveyard.

If this is Africa’s apocalypse, why isn’t more being done for the suffering? Can we prolong a mother or father’s life through antiretroviral drugs?

The drug companies have brought prices way down, but they’re still out of reach of the vast majority of people afflicted with the disease. Of the 28 million people infected, only an estimated 30,000 to 50,000 are being treated. There is a tremendous effort to find the money to subsidize the cost or to provide the drugs free. Antiretrovirals are not the cure, but they can prolong life. Even more important, they actually encourage prevention, because if people have hope of life going on, they will get themselves tested.

What about behavior? Is it changing?

Sexual behavior is changing. Family Health International, which does a lot of work in Kenya, says that the decline in HIV infection rates is found largely in communities where prevention work is being done around [the topics of] abstinence, fidelity, condoms, early marriage, and multiple partners.

What can nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) like World Vision do right now?

There is so much valuable and hopeful work at the community level. NGOs like World Vision that have a good reputation for doing things on the ground can form partnerships with these community-based organizations to provide care, prevention, orphan care, counseling. Another thing that has to be done by NGOs, including those in the faith-based community, is to speak out with alarm when they see delinquency—delinquency among governments where the pandemic is rampant, or in the response of the donor community. All voices have to be added to indict those who are moving too slowly, perpetuating denial, or refusing to get involved. The faith community has a big constituency; it cares deeply; and it knows that this thing can be defeated.

What’s the most important thing Americans can do to respond to AIDS?

The most important thing is to become involved with an organization engaged in fighting the pandemic. Give them support when they put pressure on Congress or the president for more money. Support their work in the developing world. Give financially. Simply get involved, even if it’s attending meetings, writing letters, making phone calls, stamping envelopes, sending e-mails. It’s more important than giving a few dollars—it’s actually embracing the issue as part of one’s life, because there has never been an issue like AIDS. You simply can’t write off an entire continent of between 600 and 700 million people. ■

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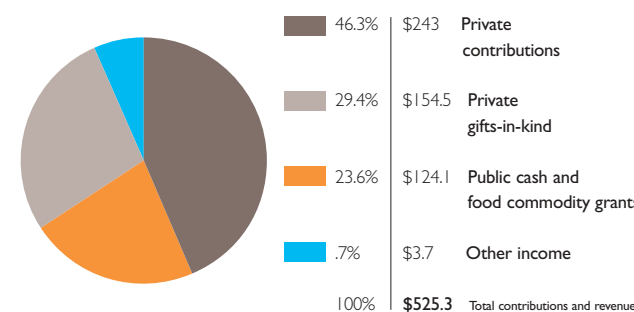
Thank you for being our partners in enabling the world's children to realize their God-given potential by tackling the root causes of poverty. In 2001, your generosity helped World Vision care for 75 million people worldwide, including 1 million people in the United States.

With God's grace and your faithfulness, World Vision brought in record-breaking revenue in fiscal year 2001 while keeping overhead low, at 15.9 percent.

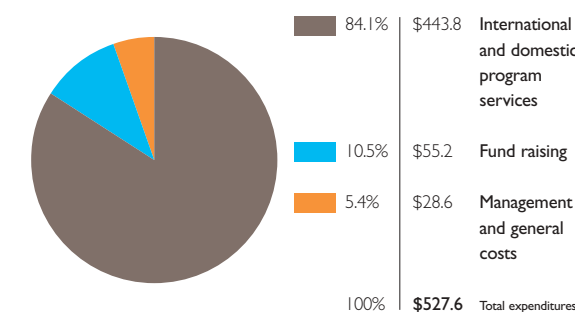
You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:11

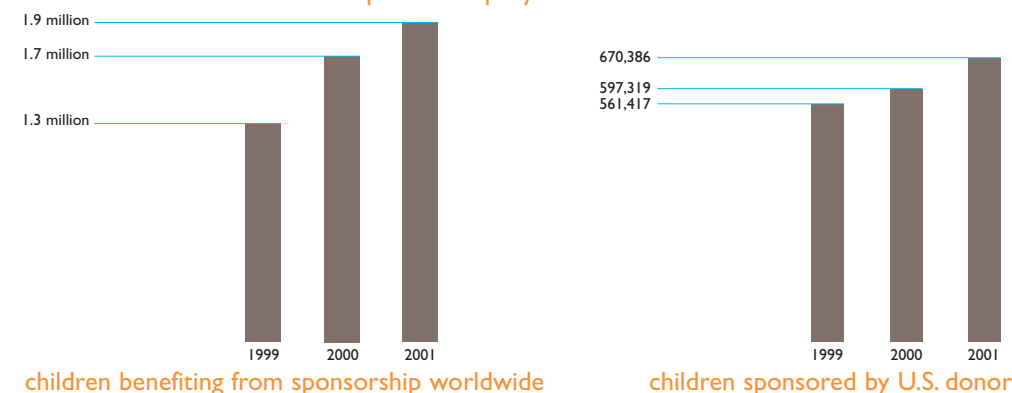
contributions and revenue (in millions)



program expenditures (in millions)



sponsorship by the numbers



For World Vision's 2001 Annual Report, call toll-free (800) 777-5777 or go to World Vision's Web site at www.worldvision.org

By Kari Costanza Photographs by Jon Warren

A TIME TO CELEBRATE

Sept. 11, 2001, sparked an outpouring of donations and prayer from World Vision donors, enabling many to receive much-needed help.

They all had their reasons for coming: to pull smiles from a magician's hat; to remember birthdays that passed without presents, to buoy a daughter who misses her father's smile.

"TODAY WE ARE HERE BECAUSE OF WORLD VISION," said Guillermo Linares, planting himself in a circle of dozens of excited boys and girls. The New York City deputy public advocate continued, "World Vision is an organization that helps children like you throughout the world." The children listened with bright eyes, smelling the Domino's pizza, and stealing glances at the tables piled high with toys and clothes.

It was World Vision's "Love Thy Neighbor" celebration in upper Manhattan, and everyone invited brought some kind of heartache. The neighborhood is home to the Dominican community, New York's largest immigrant group—a community hard-hit on Sept. 11, losing 41 members in the terrorist attacks. "Many were working at Windows on the World [the restaurant at the World Trade Center]," said Guillermo. "Others did cleaning, maintenance, or security. Two months later, we had the airplane crash [American Airlines Flight 587]. That was another big blow."

As the children giggled through a magic show, Guillermo confided his belief that some of these families are just beginning to feel the trauma. "First, there was a state of shock," he said. "Now the pain and the emptiness are beginning to sink in. We must let them know that they are not alone and that they must not lose hope."

Willie Rodriguez is hope personified. A World Vision volunteer, Willie performed magic tricks for the delighted children, and told them of his greatest escape: He was the last person to flee the World Trade Center before it collapsed. Willie was helping firefighters rescue a handicapped man and ran outside to alert an ambulance. Police saw him and screamed, "Run! Run!" He did, scrambling under a fire truck, hoping it wouldn't crumple under the weight of the falling tower. The truck held.



Alyssa Santos watches a magic show at the event, co-sponsored by World Vision and Garth Brooks' Teammates for Kids.

The experience left Willie a changed man—a new Christian with a mission: to live his life for others.

With the backing of New York Senators Charles Schumer and Hillary Clinton, Willie has already spearheaded a two-year tax relief bill for the trade center victims. To honor his efforts, President George W. Bush flew Willie to the White House. Meeting the president was a thrilling experience, Willie remembers. "He looked me right in the face and said, 'Isn't God wonderful? He saved you.'" Now Willie fields calls daily from World Trade Center victims who need help finding jobs and paying bills. He also volunteers for World Vision.

JENNIFER'S SONG

After Willie's magic came a special "Song of Love" for a 9-year-old girl who lost her father in the World Trade Center. Songs of Love is a nonprofit organization that creates personalized songs to encourage children. Jennifer Segura Salas was blissfully shy as two singers called her forward and began performing her special song. For Jennifer's mother, Silveria Seguro, it was a rare sight: Her daughter was smiling.

"It was as if this party was put on for Jennifer alone," she said. "My eyes got watery just watching it." Silveria's eyes get watery too often these days. Jennifer's father, Juan, was at work Sept. 11, at Windows on the World. His body was never found. "It would have been easier if we could have seen him," said Silveria. Instead, the family was given a small box of ashes from Ground Zero. "Such a big man, and they give you this little box," she said.

For a time Silveria kept the ashes downstairs, next to a neatly folded American flag. But Jennifer began waking up early to tiptoe to the darkened dining room. Every morning Silveria would find her daughter weeping next to the ashes. At Christmas last year, the family took the ashes to Juan's home in the Dominican Republic.

With Juan's tragic death came a new set of obstacles for an immigrant family trying to live the American Dream. Now, added to the language barriers and the complexity of life in a different country are new problems: weekly counseling sessions for the family, anti-depressants for her children, and an American dream with an unexpectedly tragic twist.

While a World Vision American Families Assistance FundSM gift has provided Silveria some much-needed financial security, the insecurity of living in a city so brutally scarred by terrorism has the mother of three wondering if they would be better off back home in the Dominican Republic.

Since Juan's death, Jennifer is doing poorly in school. On a recent test, she scored just two correct answers. Mostly, she says, as she fingers the broken plastic heart she wears around her neck, "I miss my father's smile."

A BIRTHDAY COMES LATE

Masul Haque, 40, misses his job as a banquet captain and the many friends he lost at Windows on the World. "It was a dream come true to work up there," said his wife, Mahmuda. The Windows job was glamorous and exciting. It paid well enough

The World Vision event became a birthday party for Fayed, left, and Foyez Haque. Their father, Masul, has not worked since Sept. 11.



to allow the couple to buy a house, consider private schooling for their two sons, and regularly send money home to Masul's ailing parents in Bangladesh. A World Vision American Families Assistance Fund gift helped the family pay the bills that immediately began to mount.

Birthdays had always been special for the boys, but when Fayed turned 4, and Foyez turned 3, their parents were afraid to spend money on a celebration. "We didn't know what was going to happen," says Mahmuda. "We couldn't do what we wanted to."

The World Vision celebration made things right. Fayed and Foyez left the party with more toys than their arms could carry, including the most prized toy of all: another set of building blocks. "Now they don't have to fight over them," smiled Masul wryly. Since Sept. 11, the boys have argued over who would get to make a model of the World Trade Center.

LIVING BY FAITH

What happened at the World Trade Center has deeply wounded the people of New York City, especially the Dominican community. Guillermo Linares said faith keeps this neighborhood going. "We know that whatever challenge we face as a community, God will give us the strength to raise ourselves to face those challenges. We have had so much support—from total strangers and from World Vision. You know, the mission of World Vision is to bring hope, especially to those human beings who are most challenged. I think World Vision is the voices of other people saying, 'Don't lose hope, no matter what circumstances bring.'" ■

By Lynn Stetson Photographs by Jon Warren

AN UNBEATABLE TEAM



Students come first at World Vision's Kids in Need Resource Center, where enthusiastic volunteers and free school supplies are a teacher's dream.

BILLY* STRUGGLED AT SCHOOL, DISRUPTING THE CLASS and failing to turn in assignments. He was as familiar with the principal's office as with his own classroom.

That all changed when his teacher, Mrs. Johnson, discovered World Vision's Kids in Need Resource Center in South Seattle. Every other month she visits the center, filling a shopping cart with school supplies, books, teaching tools, and even toys and games to use as incentives for her predominantly low-income students.

Billy is no longer disruptive. He turns in his assignments. "Mrs. Johnson, have you noticed I'm not getting in trouble any more?" he asked. "I have so much great stuff to work with now, I want to be good."

It's that story and others like it that inspire people like Judy and Ted Leyden to volunteer at Kids in Need. The program provides free school supplies to teachers in more than 100 schools in Washington. The new, quality supplies come from World Vision, and The School, Home and Office Supply Association (SHOPA) Foundation for Educational Excellence, as well as from other donors. They make a life-changing difference to teachers and students in schools where at least 70 percent of the children qualify for subsidized meal programs.

LABOR AND LOVE

Judy and Ted are part of Boeing's retiree volunteer program called the Bluebills. Dozens of Boeing Bluebills work in the vast warehouse space donated by The Boeing Co. to the Kids in Need effort. They sort donated school and office supplies, stock shelves, and help teachers shop. The Bluebills—some 1,600 strong in Western Washington—support numerous programs that focus on children, education, and the elderly. They supply the labor, and the love, for Kids in Need.

Boeing Bluebills are hard-working people with a special heart for children. They are motivated by the stories. Teachers tell of students who come to school without even pencils or paper because, in their homes, decisions have to be made: school supplies or groceries. They are motivated by the statistics. Studies show that students who lack resources lag behind their school-mates, and that many teachers try to narrow that gap by spending hundreds, sometimes thousands, of their own dollars. They are motivated by knowing that their help, plus these supplies, are changing lives. It's a privilege, the Bluebills say, to help

run a warehouse filled with such a precious commodity.

It's one thing to write a check to a charity, Judy Leyden pointed out; it's another to actually be a part of good works. The hugs and thanks that volunteers get from teachers and principals show that their work in the warehouse has an impact.

"They're wonderful," enthused Betty Wolfe, a teacher at White Center Heights Elementary School in Seattle, as she filled her cart with supplies. "They're so friendly and helpful. That they're donating their time to do this is fantastic."

THE HEART TO SUCCEED

There isn't a worker who isn't touched by the handmade thank-yous from the children themselves. The Boeing Bluebills keep a scrapbook filled with such thanks: posters covered with paint and crayon, and handprints signed by young, appreciative learners. The scrapbook is evidence that Kids in Need "makes a difference between a day filled with emptiness and a day filled with wonderment," Judy said.

Ted credits the program's success to the three-way partnership between World Vision, Boeing, and SHOPA. "You can't do one part of this well without the other," he explained. World Vision's Jim Peterson, who has overseen Kids in Need for the past two years, believes the program wouldn't be as big a hit without the Bluebills.

"Thirty years in construction did not prepare me for this," Peterson explained, motioning toward the rows of blue, industrial shelving loaded with everything from pencils and paper to binders, toys, books, rulers, and art supplies. "But the Lord did provide a wealth of retired people with so much skill, energy, and heart that this can't help but succeed. They are unbeatable as a team."

Sorting and stocking these school supplies brings joy to Judy and Ted Leyden (previous page), Boeing Bluebills Volunteers of the Year.

FIRE AND ICE

The Leydens make a pretty good team themselves, although their styles are as different as fire and ice. Judy is outgoing and energetic, buzzing from one end of the warehouse to the other, mixing with teachers and making sure they find what they need. Her infectious laughter floats up from the shelves. Ted works quietly, slipping in behind shoppers, refilling bins, and keeping the storeroom in order. Judy laughed as she explained the relationship: "He's the quiet, idea man, and I'm the mouthpiece."

Bluebills come from all ranks at Boeing. Judy retired after 27 years as a contract negotiator, and Ted spent 38 years engineering projects ranging from putting men on the moon to developing deep-sea oil-drilling rigs. "So many of us—the early retirees—retired before we were ready for the rocking chair," Judy said. "We've worked harder here than we did before we retired."

Warehouse work is a career change for them, as it is for most of the Bluebills who volunteer for Kids in Need. Aside from the work they do on site, the Leydens track down teachers who could be taking advantage of the program, set the schedule for school visits, and attend Boeing and World Vision events, stumping for Kids in Need. They even spent their vacation last year attending a SHOPA conference.

In 2001, the couple logged nearly 1,500 hours for Kids in Need. The 74 Bluebills who toil for the program put in nearly 4,800 hours last year to keep the program running smoothly. "This wouldn't work without the entire team," Judy said.

Those teammates are especially appreciative of Judy and Ted, nominating them for the Bluebills Volunteer of the Year award. The Leydens won. The best thing about the honor, Judy said, was the \$1,650 award they could give to their favorite cause.

"That's going to buy a lot of crayons," she said, flashing her ever-present smile. ■

*Not his real name



News

► Due to AIDS, life expectancy will drop to 40 years or less in nine sub-Saharan countries by 2010. (*Children on the Brink: Strategies to Support a Generation Isolated by HIV/AIDS*, USAID)

► One in eight children in the United States lives in a family receiving food stamps. (The State of America's Children Yearbook 2001, *Children's Defense Fund*)

► The average mortality rate of children under age 5 declined globally from 93 deaths per 1,000 live births in the early 1990s to 83 deaths per thousand in 2000. (UNICEF)

► U.S. government agencies will spend \$100 million this year eradicating the scourge of land mines, including \$40 million for demining programs. (U.S. Department of State)

Good News



GARTH BROOKS TEAMS UP WITH WORLD VISION

Country music recording artist Garth Brooks' organization, Teammates for Kids Foundation, has joined with World Vision and The Venetian Resort-Hotel-Casino in Las Vegas, Nev., to help disadvantaged U.S. children by providing them with school supplies, toys, and other goods donated by corporations.

At a recent distribution in Las Vegas, the partners gave \$325,000 worth of food, clothes, toys, school supplies, and other items to local charities, benefiting more than 3,500 children.

"World Vision has been nothing but a class operation, and I want to say thank you for making sure everything we give goes to the people," said Garth, whose Teammates for Kids Foundation (formerly known as the Touch'em All Foundation) has donated \$20 million to child-focused charities since 1999.

"It's partnerships like these with Garth Brooks and his foundation, along with the strong support of The Venetian Resort, that truly enable children to believe in and hope for a better future," said World Vision President Rich Stearns.

ALISON PRESTON/WORLD VISION

CRISIS UPDATES

AFGHANISTAN

The only land route to reach hungry Afghans was a one-lane, dirt road with sheer rock cliffs above and below. Transporting food to remote villages in Badghis province, northwestern Afghanistan—places where donkeys are the primary form of transportation—proved one of the most difficult tasks in World Vision's history. But staff successfully completed the first phases of a \$1.86 million program with UNICEF to provide food aid to 163,000 people, particularly children younger than 5, pregnant women, and lactating mothers.

Three World Vision nurses from Kenya assessed the people's needs. The Indonesian staff distributing the food were experienced in responding to such crises as the East Timor civil conflict and the earthquake in Gujarat, India.

Throughout Afghanistan, World Vision has deployed more than 50 international staff from 20 countries, assisted by 250 Afghans.

In addition to the Badghis food distributions, World Vision's multicultural teams also provided food and supplies to people in Herat, western Afghanistan; Kandahar in the southeast; Talagon, east of Kunduz; and the capital, Kabul. New programs—school rehabilitation and supplementary feeding—are now underway in Herat.



Locally hired Afghans unload wheat and sugar for a World Vision distribution.

STEPHEN MATTHEWS/WORLD VISION

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

World Vision acted swiftly when Mt. Nyirangongo erupted on Jan. 17, causing hundreds of thousands of people to flee the eastern town of Goma. Fiery lava engulfed homes, schools, and even World Vision's office.

Undeterred, staff crossed a 60-mile stream of cooling lava to help families who returned to Goma a few days later.

World Vision provided food, water, emergency supplies, and health care for up to 15,000 families, and continued feeding 10,000 people through April. World Vision also partnered with UNICEF and 10 other organizations to build classrooms for the 24,000 children who lost schools in the disaster. Thirty-six new classrooms built by World Vision opened in March, enabling education to continue for 1,800 students.

Ngoye Clarisse, who lost her home in the Goma volcano eruption, loads up on World Vision food rations to sustain her family of five.



SPONSORSHIP

NEW SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

World Vision has started sponsorship activities in four new countries. Thousands of children need the support and tangible hope that sponsors provide through education assistance, health care, and community improvements.

COUNTRY	KEY FACTS	CHILDREN IN SPONSORSHIP	IN ADDITION TO HELPING A CHILD, YOUR SPONSORSHIP WILL ...
Albania	The poorest country in Europe, Albania suffered from civil strife in 1997 followed by an influx of Kosovar refugees in 1998.	3,500 in four projects	Enhance children's learning environments by supplying school furniture and equipment.
Chad	Drought, famine, and war have severely weakened this West African country. There is just one doctor per 37,000 people, and preventable problems like diarrhea, parasitic illnesses, and malnutrition are common.	500 in one project	Ensure that local health clinics and community hospitals are stocked with medical supplies and have access to trained workers.
The Democratic Republic of Congo	In this vast, conflict-plagued country, almost one-third of children under age 5 lack proper nutrition, and an estimated 16 million Congolese go hungry every day.	3,000 in two projects	Provide farmers with agricultural equipment, fertilizers, and training to help them improve harvests and grow more nutritious food for their families.
Vietnam	A country with a turbulent past, Vietnam is focused on the future—pursuing an export-oriented economy that will provide new opportunities. However, more than half of the population lives in poverty.	1,000 in one project	Increase school enrollment through improving schools and training teachers.

To sponsor a child in Albania, Chad, the Democratic Republic of Congo, or Vietnam, please call (888) 577-7777, or go to www.worldvision.org.

MEANINGFUL GIFTS FOR EVERY OCCASION

Wondering what to get Dad for Father's Day? Celebrate the upcoming holiday—as well as your anniversary, a birthday, or any occasion—with a gift from World Vision's Gift Catalog. Choose from more than 50 items that children and families overseas desperately need: bicycles, Bibles, even water wells. You can purchase one of these life-saving gifts on behalf of your loved one. Call toll-free (888) 511-6511 or buy online at www.worldvisiongifts.org.



On the Web



WORLD VISION LAUNCHES SeekJustice.org

A new World Vision Web site helps you learn more about global issues such as conflict diamonds, debt relief, and HIV/AIDS—and take action.

Launched by World Vision's Office of Public Policy and Advocacy, www.seekjustice.org provides timely and detailed information about global issues that adversely affect the poor and dispossessed around the world. The site tells you how you can join with World Vision to advocate with members of Congress and government leaders so that national policies do justice for the common good and well-being of all, especially the poor and vulnerable. There are also links to other helpful sources of information.

One way to seek justice for the poor is to participate in the democratic process and use the privilege of your citizenship to speak out on behalf of the powerless and voiceless.

To join the battle for justice, visit www.seekjustice.org. You can also contact World Vision's Office of Public Policy and Advocacy in Washington, D.C., by e-mail at seekjustice@worldvision.org.

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she needs hope ...
she needs you.**

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On behalf of these little ones, I ask that you consider sharing God's love with one more girl or boy.

For just \$26 a month—less than \$1 a day—you can bless another child's heart with things like clean water, improved health, and new educational opportunities. Won't you open up your heart today?



Rich Stearns,
President

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