

WorldVision

SUMMER 2005

SOPIA: TWENTY YEARS LATER

n famine
to fullness

Don't miss the **NEW**
Faith in Action Study Bible
Special offer
inside!



Dear Friend,

A friend of mine once told me about a Bible from which all of the passages that related to helping the poor, standing up for justice, and giving generously had been slashed out with a razor blade. The result was a tattered book, barely held together because so much had been cut out.

The faith described in the Bible is inseparable from the actions that naturally flow from it. The Christian faith is about bold and revolutionary action. It was revolutionary in Jesus' time, and remains so in ours.

In today's world—wracked by poverty, lawlessness, disease, and violence—the message of the gospel and the need for Christians to put their faith into action has never been more acute.

The followers of Jesus Christ are an integral part of God's plan for the world—the same world that God loved so much . . . **“that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life”** (John 3:16). In this famous verse we see the depth of God's love for our world. It was not a passive and sentimental love, but rather a dynamic and sacrificial love. For God so loved the world **that he acted**.

In this same spirit World Vision partnered with Zondervan to produce a truly unique study Bible, one that would amplify God's love for the world and energize the followers of Jesus Christ to put

their faith into action. The resulting study Bible ignites the desire in our hearts to follow Christ with our faith and deeds.

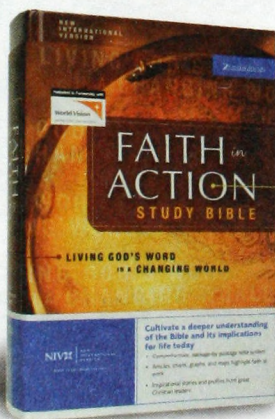
The Christian life is a journey of faith that begins when we accept God's free gift of salvation:

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast (Ephesians 2:8-9).

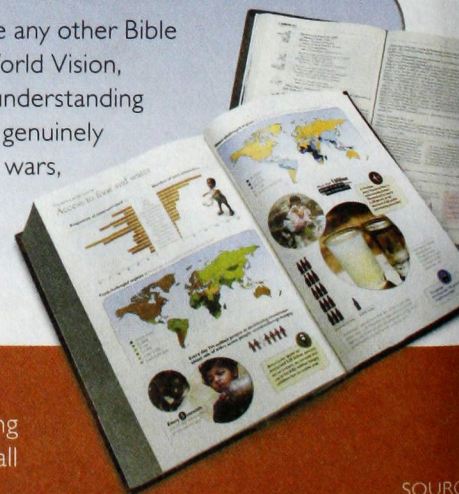
But after our salvation, we begin our journey of discipleship as we seek to become fully committed followers of Jesus Christ:

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do (Ephesians 2:10).

More than 50 years ago, Bob Pierce, the founder of World Vision, wrote a prayer on the flyleaf of his Bible that has motivated our organization ever since. He wrote: *“Let my heart be broken by the things that break the heart of God.”* At its core, World Vision is a worldwide partnership of Christians committed to demonstrating God's love to a hurting world. We are grateful for all who have joined us on this journey. It is our prayer that the *Faith in Action Study Bible* will better equip all of us to love our neighbors as ourselves—and motivate a new generation of Christians in their journey of discipleship.



The NIV *Faith in Action Study Bible* is unlike any other Bible available! Published in partnership with World Vision, this all-new Bible helps you deepen your understanding of God's Word and cultivate a thoughtful, genuinely Christian lifestyle in a world challenged by wars, conflict, greed, lust, injustice, poverty, and affluence.



The *Faith in Action Study Bible* is available in hardcover or two-tone leather at your local Christian bookstore. Or, get 20% off by ordering from World Vision Resources. Visit www.worldvision.org/Bible or call 1.866.952.4453.

WorldVision

A woman wearing a dark headscarf and a green patterned shirt is looking down at a baby. The baby is holding a slice of yellow lemon in its mouth and looking towards the camera. The background is dark and moody.

SUMMER 2005

SOPIA: TWENTY YEARS LATER

m famine
to fullness

hope for Ethiopia

You can help turn the tide against HIV/AIDS

Twenty years after the famine that captured the world's attention, the children of Ethiopia fear a new killer—HIV/AIDS. Hundreds of thousands are already orphaned, joining 15 million children worldwide who have lost one or both parents to AIDS. You can help Ethiopia's children survive this crisis by becoming a HopeChild sponsor.

Your gift of \$35 each month will help protect and nurture one hurting child—and the future of Ethiopia—by providing things like:

- Access to improved nutrition, clean water, health care, and education
- Age-appropriate HIV/AIDS prevention training based on biblical values
- Programs to mobilize local churches and organizations to provide additional HIV/AIDS care and prevention

**Sponsor a
HopeChild
today!**



51620_0303

Yes, I want to sponsor a HopeChild in Ethiopia!

Please send me information and the photo of a child affected by the HIV/AIDS crisis.

I want to sponsor a boy girl either

I've enclosed a check or money order for my first \$35 gift (payable to World Vision).

I authorize World Vision to charge my \$35 monthly sponsorship gift to my credit/debit card:

VISA MasterCard American Express Discover

Card No. _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ Exp. Date _____ - _____

Signature (required)

Mr. Mrs. Ms. Other _____

First name

Last name

Address

City

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Phone

E-mail

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

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


World Vision
Building a better world for children

**Mail this coupon today or call 1.866.952.4453
to start your sponsorship!**

SOURCE: 1014291

WHO WE ARE

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

WHO WE SERVE

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

WHY WE SERVE

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

HOW WE SERVE

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

YOU CAN HELP

Partnering with World Vision provides many ways to honor God and put faith into action. By working together, we can make a large difference in the lives of children and families who are struggling to overcome poverty. To learn more about how you can help, see page 4, return the envelope found between pages 16 and 17, or visit www.worldvision.org.



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ON THE COVER

Antsokia Valley, Ethiopia,
12-month-old Hassan Mohamed
climbs on an orange from his
father's garden. His mother, Tayitu
Abadi, 28, survived the 1984/85 famine
through food aid from World Vision.
Photograph by Jon Warren

World Vision, a free quarterly publication, affirms people responding to God's call to care for the poor by providing information, inspiration, and opportunities for action, linking them with children and families in nearly 100 countries where World Vision ministers. In an effort to be careful stewards of our resources, this publication costs less than 10 cents a copy to print and mail.

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

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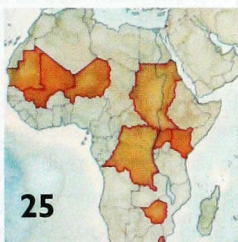


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Find out how you can get involved with World Vision

Share World Vision with your family

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

Bring World Vision to your church

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

- 4 30 HOUR FAMINE** Get your youth group or school involved in the fight against world hunger by participating in World Vision's nationwide annual famine event. www.30hourfamine.org
- 5 LOVE LOAF** Help your congregation learn more about world poverty as they collect offerings for your church and World Vision.
- 6 REACH OUT TO THE POOR** A World Vision staff person will contact you with ways World Vision can help your church reach out to the poor.
- 7 ONE LIFE REVOLUTION** Give your youth group a tangible way to combat the HIV/AIDS pandemic by providing practical, life-sustaining items. www.oneliferevolution.org

Expand your world vision

- 8 E-MAIL UPDATES** Receive the latest news on World Vision's work throughout the world. *Must provide e-mail address to receive these updates.*
- 9 WOMEN OF VISION** Join a volunteer ministry that serves the poor, learning from and advocating for women in developing countries. www.womenofvision.org
- 10 PROGRAMS IN THE UNITED STATES** Find out what World Vision is doing for

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

- 11 ADVOCACY** Expand your vision for justice; speak on behalf of the poor and powerless. www.seekjustice.org
- 12 WORLD VISION REPORT** Listen to World Vision's weekly newsmagazine on radio or online. www.worldvisionradio.org

Show World Vision to your company

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

Share your resources

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

Volunteer through World Vision

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

Know World Vision's reason for hope

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

WORLD VISION READER SERVICES

Please check the boxes below to learn more about partnering with World Vision to care for the poor. Clip this coupon and return it in the envelope found between pages 16 and 17 or mail to World Vision, P. O. Box 9716, MS 321, Federal Way, WA 98063-9716. Thank you.

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Tragedy in the Spotlight

REMEMBER "WE ARE THE WORLD?"

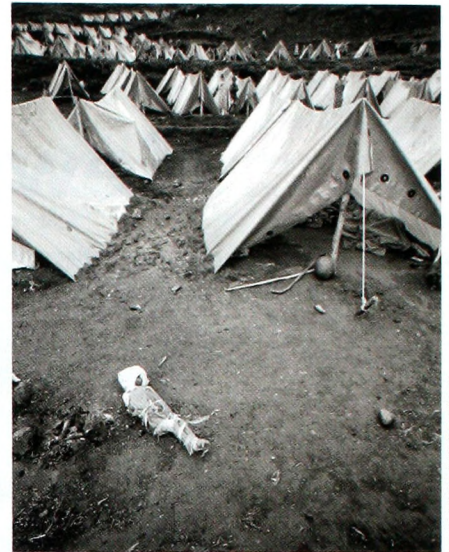
The song, by a star-studded group called USA For Africa, was a hit single back in 1985. Singers like Bruce Springsteen, Stevie Wonder, and Diana Ross harmonized on the memorable lines, "We are the world, we are the children..."

The song rocketed to No. 1 on the music charts. More importantly, the song raised millions of dollars for famine relief in Ethiopia.

Back then, Ethiopia was in the midst of one of the century's greatest humanitarian disasters (see cover story, page 12). Nearly 1 million people starved to death or perished from hunger-related diseases. Who can forget the images on the TV news? Pictures of skeletal children, babies with blank stares, adults who resembled the walking dead.

But while "We Are the World" was climbing the charts, World Vision was already on the ground, helping Ethiopia's famine victims. Our relief plane had carried the first BBC reporters to the famine, allowing the media to document the dire conditions and report back to a world previously unaware.

Two decades later, World Vision is still in Ethiopia. When we arrived in Antsokia Valley, it was a dust bowl, a wasteland devastated by drought. Today, millions of verdant trees anchor the landscape. After caring for immediate relief needs such as food and medicine, World Vision sent in agronomists. They taught the valley's residents about preventing soil erosion, and about planting a variety of crops rather than just one, so farmers could better weather the times when rain doesn't fall from the African sky.



DAVID WARD/WORLD VISION

No songs were released about earthquakes in Armenia and Iran. Or war in Sudan. Or about how AIDS is tearing across Africa, decimating an entire population. Just weeks before the tsunamis, a series of deadly storms struck the Philippines, washing away villages, killing hundreds, and leaving thousands homeless.

Yet World Vision was there, on the ground, extending help to the suffering, just as we help people in need in nearly 100 countries every day. Why? Why do this work when there's no spotlight on the effort?

Because long before anybody wrote a pop song, Jesus said, in effect, we are the world, we are the children. "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you do to me" (Matthew 25:31-46). If we're really sincere about following Jesus' example, we ought to be "the ones who make a brighter day" by giving.

That has been World Vision's mission from the start. And with your continued support, we will keep doing that work—even if nobody ever writes a song about it. ■

I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you do to me."

—Matthew 25:31-46

And still another seed was planted in Antsokia Valley: a vibrant Christian community, nurtured by Jesus' example of servanthood.

The hit song "We Are the World" helped the Ethiopian relief effort, no doubt about it. Sales from the song raised about \$60 million, part of an unprecedented worldwide response that eventually reached \$4 billion. It was a fund-raising record and remained unbroken for two decades. Only the deadly tsunami that struck southern Asia in December promises to challenge that record. It was a tragedy of such proportions that it even has prompted a re-release of "We Are the World" to raise money for tsunami relief.

Celebrities are able to raise public awareness, and we're grateful whenever someone famous contributes to a worthy cause. But it's important to remember that between the famine 20 years ago and the tsunami six months ago, tragedy didn't take a vacation.



News From the Field



Rebuilding is under way in tsunami-devastated Indonesia.

Indonesia

KEVIN COOK/WORLD VISION

Southern Asia > World Vision's relief response in the first 90 days after the Dec. 26 earthquake-triggered tsunamis helped more than 1 million people. Families in hardest-hit India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and Thailand benefited from relief and rehabilitative assistance. Fifty airlifts carried emergency food and supplies to the region. World Vision deployed 175 international staff to join the 900 national staff and 400 local volunteers in tsunami-related activities. But it's only the beginning—the \$285 million program will continue over three

to five years. "We have a big task ahead of us to rebuild communities and recover and secure livelihoods," said Rein Paulsen, operations director for World Vision's Asia Tsunami Response.

Sudan > Literacy classes are giving women in war-torn Darfur an opportunity to hold a pencil for the first time. At World Vision centers for displaced families, women of all ages can learn to read and write. "I want to learn, and this is my only chance," says Halima Hussein, 50.

The centers are also a place to heal. Women who were sexually abused can safely talk about their experiences.

Bolivia > A project led by World Vision will provide children in Cochabamba with 10,000 free birth certificates. Children often lack the documents because their parents cannot afford to travel to the city from rural areas. People without birth certificates may be denied medical care and can have difficulty getting jobs. The project funds "right-to-identity promoters" who visit Cochabamba communities and encourage families to register for birth certificates for their children.

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) > School attendance at Kiwanja Primary School in eastern DRC nearly doubled when World Vision started a school-feeding program in



JOHN KISHIMIRI/WORLD VISION



Democratic Republic of Congo

HOERER BULAMBO/WORLD VISION

bruary. Children who once worked in the fields to improve their families' food supply can instead go to school—to be fed in body and mind. Enrollment at Kiwanja swelled from 494 to 827 students as a result of World Vision distributing World Food Programme food. The organizations plan to feed 18,788 children in 22 primary schools.

Uganda > This year marks the 10-year anniversary of World Vision's Children of War Rehabilitation Center in Gulu, northern Uganda. Children in this region have been prime targets of an 18-year war in which a rebel group calling itself the Lord's Resistance Army has enslaved more than 20,000 children. World Vision opened the center in March 1995 to care for the physically and emotionally traumatized children who manage to escape from the rebels. Since then, 10,500 children have been successfully reunited with their families. Many of these former child soldiers are now advocates for peace.



Uganda

SIPHON PETER ESAKU/WORLD VISION

Hope Update

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

World Vision and the World Food Programme will care for 6,000 orphans and their families affected by HIV/AIDS in Burundi's northeastern Muyinga province. The \$4.4 million program provides food, health care, and educational support for affected children and their families. Some of the children still have one parent or live with a guardian.

UNICEF estimates that Burundi has 660,000 orphans. About 200,000 have lost one or both parents to HIV/AIDS. Ethnic conflict simmering since 1993 also has created many child-headed households.

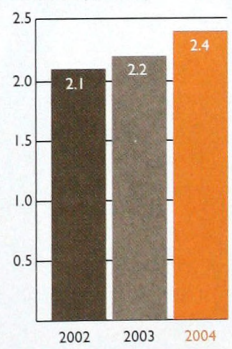
Thanks To You

"For we are taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of men."
—2 Corinthians 8:21

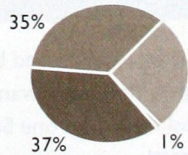
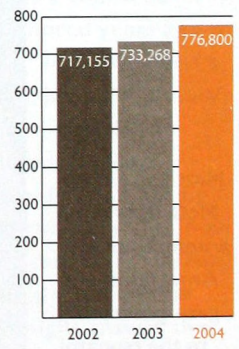
Each year, World Vision partners with you and other compassionate donors with the vision of helping every child experience life in all its fullness. In 2004, your gifts contributed to record-breaking revenue, which meant assistance to more children than ever.

2004 Financial highlights:

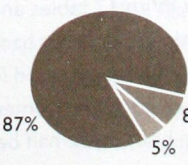
Children benefiting from sponsorship worldwide (in millions)



Children helped by U.S. sponsors (in thousands)



Revenue sources (millions)				
Breakdown of revenue sources	2002	2003	2004	
contributions	\$265	\$278	\$297	
government food & cash grants	\$111	\$198	\$285	
gifts-in-kind	\$172	\$204	\$215	
other income	\$5	\$6	\$10	
total revenue	\$553	\$686	\$807	



Expenses (millions)				
Breakdown of expenses	2002	2003	2004	
programs	\$454	\$553	\$709	
fund raising	\$56	\$63	\$63	
management & general	\$32	\$33	\$42	
total expenses	\$542	\$649	\$814	



Sexually exploit a child in this country...

Go to jail in yours.

World Vision's Child Sex Tourism Prevention project won an honorable mention for Global Campaign of the Year from PR Week. World Vision's efforts to mobilize the media to help deter would-be sex tourists is one way the organization is fighting the global

commercial sex trade, which currently enslaves 2 million children. For more information, visit www.stopchildtourism.org.



News From the Field

Tsunami Compels Creative Giving

From pizza profits to an eBay auction, Americans opened their hearts to tsunami victims. *by Sibella Giorello*



Matt and Laura McGregor were among countless Americans who gave generously to the tsunami relief effort.

After seeing the devastation caused by the tsunamis in southern Asia, Matt and Laura McGregor wanted to do more than write a check. They decided to donate one Sunday's earnings from their small pizzeria in Seattle.

What a Sunday. With 13 tables and capacity for 60, Soprano's Pizza & Pasta's all-time best night had once yielded \$3,800. That was the best the McGregors hoped for. But on the benefit Sunday, an employee phoned to say customers were already calling in pickup orders—an hour and a half before the restaurant opened.

By 11:30 a.m., the line was out the door. Customers started serving their own tables. When people heard it was a two-hour wait for a pizza, they replied: "No problem."

Matt was in shock. "Normally, people would kill you for that," he said.

One customer paid \$300 for a \$45 meal. The head of the commercial real-estate firm where Matt works came to wash dishes. McGregor's supervisor wrote a check for \$500. And a waitress donated her entire night's tips—\$250, five times more than usual. In the end, Soprano Pizza & Pasta raised more than \$10,000 for World Vision.

Their idea caught on. Stan Dimitrov owns five Seattle restaurants. On the benefit Sunday, as the McGregors ran low on supplies, they called Stan for cheese, dough, and mushrooms.

"What I saw on Sunday night," Stan said, "people joining together and trying to do one thing—everybody would be inspired by a moment like this." He donated one day's till from his five restaurants to World Vision.

On the other side of the country, in Bronx, New York, 9-year-old Julian Jimenez wondered how a little boy could help the tsunami victims. Julian's father, Luis, is The Storehouse director at World Vision. "My dad was doing all this great stuff at his job, and I wanted to get involved, too," Julian said. The fourth-grader launched a coin drive at his school, Our World Neighborhood Charter School.

"It seemed like the right opportunity to

JOHN LECKIEWORLD VISION

something and let our children think outside of their lives ...
nk about the blessings they have," said the school's principal,
an E. Ferguson.

The students offered their allowances and candy money.
hers broke open their piggy banks. "Students were bringing
oney in paper bags," said Luis. "Teachers were bringing money in
fee cans. Any container, any amount, would do."

The coin drive raised nearly \$1,500 for emergency supplies
ch as tarps, blankets, food, medicine, cooking utensils, and water
rification tablets.

Just like the McGregors, Julian Jimenez watched as his
ndraising idea spread. Twelve more schools in the Bronx
ganized similar fund-raisers for World Vision.

Children proved to be among the most creative and dedicated
ndraisers for tsunami victims. In North Bend, Wash., the three
eglown brothers didn't have any money, but they wanted to help
e victims in Southeast Asia. Then they got a bright idea: They
ould auction a toy on eBay.

Nine-year-old Gavin expected his building set to bring \$15.
cretely, if nobody bid, his father, Ken, planned to call the boys'
andmother and ask her to bid \$20. But when bidders heard
hat the money would be used for, the toy got more than 4,000
ts on eBay and the price shot to \$1,000. The Treglowns
resented the check to World Vision.

The boys' mother, Rhoda, couldn't have been prouder of her
ons. "I'm glad they realized that no matter how small something
arts out," she said, "it can grow and grow." ■

—Sibella Giorello is a freelance writer based in Seattle, Wash.

➔ Living God's Word

*"Do not merely
listen to the word,
and so deceive yourselves.
Do what it says."*

—JAMES 1:22

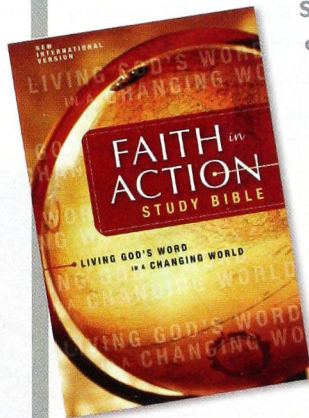
World Vision and Zondervan, a leading Bible publisher, have teamed up to create the *Faith in Action Study Bible*. It is designed to help readers understand God's Word and cultivate a thoughtful, Christian lifestyle in a world challenged by conflict, injustice, and poverty.

The *Faith in Action Study Bible* offers passage-by-passage commentary notes that link the Scriptures' unchanging meaning and context to the 21st century. More than 75 articles share practical advice, inspiring profiles, and classic writings to help readers live out their faith. Other features include color "geographics"—world maps presenting historical, statistical, and demographic perspectives—and in-text maps and charts, study guides, and a concordance.

"Five hundred years ago we had a reformation of belief. Today we need a reformation of behavior," said Paul Caminiti, vice president and publisher of Bibles at Zondervan. "We need more than life application; we need life implication, asking ourselves, 'In light of what the Bible says, how do I live my life in the 21st century?' The *Faith in Action Study Bible* will help people think seriously about how they might answer that question."

The *Faith in Action Study Bible* is published in the New International Version translation, the most popular English translation in the world. A portion of the sales proceeds will support World Vision's global ministry.

The *Faith in Action Study Bible* is available in Christian bookstores. Or, you can save 20 percent by ordering through World Vision. Call (866) 952-4453 or order online at www.worldvisionresources.com. ■



fyi How World Vision assisted families and communities in the United States in 2004:

- > 1.5 million children and adults received necessities like clothing, building materials, or school supplies to improve their lives
- > 12,000 at-risk youth were nurtured through one-on-one mentoring, tutoring, or positive activities
- > 13,000 local leaders received practical training to transform their communities.

In the Spotlight

Changing Children's Lives

Cristina Haivas helps young Romanian mothers provide stable homes for their newborns. *by Violeta Moisa*

No one can say Cristina Haivas, 28, has a boring job. "There is no typical work day for me," she says. "Everything can change from minute to minute."

This starts first thing in the morning. "Sometimes I cannot even get into my office. Mothers wait for me on the doorsteps," says Cristina, a social worker at World Vision's Shelter for Mother and Child in Bucharest, Romania.

"Faith keeps me going," says Cristina Haivas (left).

Cristina and her team work with teenage mothers, many of them abandoned by their partners for getting pregnant or thrown out of their parents' homes. Cristina's mission is to provide security for the children by attempting to reunite young mothers with their families and help them find jobs.

"I like to help people who are going through a crisis," says Cristina, who describes herself as empathetic and patient. "There was one particular underage mother whose parents totally refused to accept her with the newborn baby. I was so happy when, after visiting and counseling the mother and her family, they all accepted each other. Now they are more united than ever."

Cristina grew up in Slatina, about 120 miles southwest of Bucharest, the youngest of two children. She did well in school, passing exams with good marks, and earned a degree from the University of Sociology and Social Work in Bucharest.

Unofficially, her career started in high school, when she tutored a friend whose grades were failing because of her parents' divorce. "She came to my house every day, we did the lessons, and she ate at our place. Sometimes, she confessed that it was the only time she ate. She finally passed the exams, and I discovered I had a natural inclination for social work."

In 2003, Cristina joined the Shelter for Mother and Child, World Vision's project addressing the problem of mothers



VIOLETA MOISA/WORLD VISION

» FAST FACT Among the world's children, 90 million are severely food deprived; 640 million do not have adequate shelter; and 400 million children lack access to clean water. ("State of the World's Children 2005," UNICEF)

abandoning their children. Since 1999, 120 mothers have received assistance that enabled them to keep their babies. Some of them not only returned to their families but also completed their education, opened small businesses, and landed well-paying jobs.

The dedicated team has found a good fit in Cristina. "She will never give up until she has tried her best to solve a case," says Leticia Costea, Children of Romania project coordinator.

Cristina, a Christian, sees the big picture. "My work can help change children's lives," she says, explaining that without help, mothers often abandon their children to orphanages or state-run institutions.

"I can't just put my pencil down at 5 p.m. and leave—there are many crises occurring all the time," she explains. "And I have a confession to make: Sometimes I take my problems home. I think about them, and I have great ideas just before going to bed."

But soon her after-hour activities will focus on one particular child. Cristina and her husband, Adrian, are expecting a baby in May. ■

Violeta Moisa is the communications coordinator for World Vision in Romania.

➔ Upcoming Events

JUNE

- > Youth Explosion and World Vision Day at Six Flags Great Adventure in Jackson, N.J., June 4, (718) 386-8882 ext. 290 or www.worldvision.org/newyork
- > Women of Faith's "Extraordinary Faith" conference, Canada and New England Cruise, June 25 to July 2, www.womenoffaith.org
- > Vision Villages trip to Honduras, June 25-July 1, www.worldvision.org/visionvillages



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

JULY

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

AUGUST

- > International Youth Day, Aug. 12, www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/iyouthday.htm

OCTOBER

- > A Child is Waiting: weekend to present sponsorship to your church, Oct. 1-2, www.worldvision.org/achildiswaiting
- > World Vision's annual Day of Prayer, Oct. 3
- > Pastor's Vision Trip to East Africa, Oct. 18-27, www.worldvision.org/c2c
- > 30 Hour Famine national observance, Oct. 28-29, www.30hourfamine.org

world vision
30
 HOUR
 FAMINE
 it's about
 saving kids' lives

BALDWIN CHIYAMWAKA/WORLD VISION

Glad You Asked

Why has the monthly sponsorship rate increased?

World Vision recently raised the rate of traditional child sponsorship from \$26 to \$30 a month and HopeChild sponsorship from \$30 to \$35 a month in effort to help more children in need around the world.

The increase in the child sponsorship program enables World Vision to expand care to sponsored children and to obtain additional matching grants and product donations such as clothing and pharmaceuticals that will assist even more children in need.

The increase in the HopeChild sponsorship program enables World Vision to mobilize local churches and care networks to meet the increasing needs of orphans and vulnerable children living in communities severely impacted by HIV/AIDS.

Current sponsors will be contacted soon about this opportunity to do even more to help children, an act of faith ordained by Jesus himself: "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me" (Mark 9:37). ■

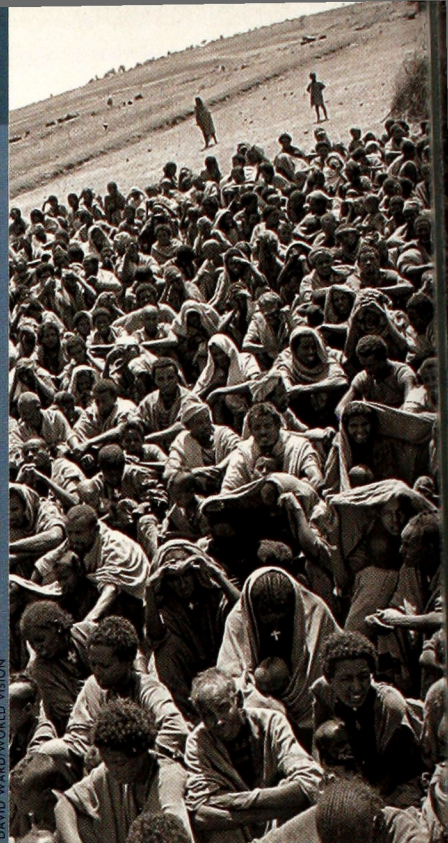


ethiopia twenty years later

Two decades after Ethiopia's cataclysmic
famine—and the world's billion-dollar
rescue—has anything changed for the better?

It has in Antsokia Valley, a showpiece
for what long-term donor compassion can do.

BY JANE SUTTON-REDNER / *Photographs by Jon Warren*



DAVID WARD/WORLD VISION

v a l






y o f v i s i o n

“Everything is here,” say people in Antsokia Valley, from the farmer to the widow to the schoolgirl.

Understand: This is rural Ethiopia. World Vision’s truck is usually the only motorized vehicle around, sharing the road with herds of cattle and sheep, loping camels, and pedestrians. No power lines mar the verdant panorama; the



ades after the famine (above) Antsokia
s thriving with crops that are protected
cks of birds by children with slingshots.

only electricity here comes from a generator. Addictive coffee can be found, but not Starbucks; and if you need an Internet café, you're out of luck.

As far as Antsokia Valley residents are concerned, they do have everything. Thriving crops fill this 31-mile basin in the country's central highlands—tall stalks of sorghum and maize, delicate strands of the indigenous *teff* grain, trees laden with oranges. Irrigation ditches feed mountain spring water to the thirsty fields. Children go to school; the sick find relief at health centers. And the weekly market draws crowds who buy and sell every variety of locally grown produce and farm animal.

But everyone remembers when there was nothing, when the land drained of color and dreams turned to dust. People in Antsokia call it “those bad times.”

More than 20 years ago, a stubborn drought exacerbated by draconian government policies plunged Ethiopia into one of the greatest humanitarian disasters of the 20th century. Nearly 1 million people starved to death or perished from hunger-related diseases. When the BBC broadcast images of sick, skeletal children, the \$4 billion global outpouring was unprecedented—and unrepeated until the recent tsunami crisis in Asia. Lifesaving help arrived from all corners: children donating coins, rock stars raising money, governments sending grain shipments, and humanitarian organizations mobilizing manpower.

Yet today, 6 million of Ethiopia's 67 million people remain dependent on food aid, due to a burgeoning population coupled with shrinking incomes, erratic rainfall and widespread deforestation, land rights issues, and a host of other factors. Ethiopia continues to receive international relief aid to avert a recurrence of 1984's horror. Relief aid keeps people alive, but it's development aid—funds that tackle chronic problems at the root—that ensures they thrive.

If there is good news to be found in Ethiopia two decades after the famine, it is where development aid provided passionate people, innovative programs, and community-empowering solutions. Antsokia Valley is one such place. World



Vision arrived there during those bad times, determined to stay as long as it took until things got better.

HOPE ON THE HORIZON

“World Vision belongs to Antsokia; Antsokia belongs to World Vision,” says longtime resident Girma Wondafrash, 65. Without him, the relationship might not have existed.

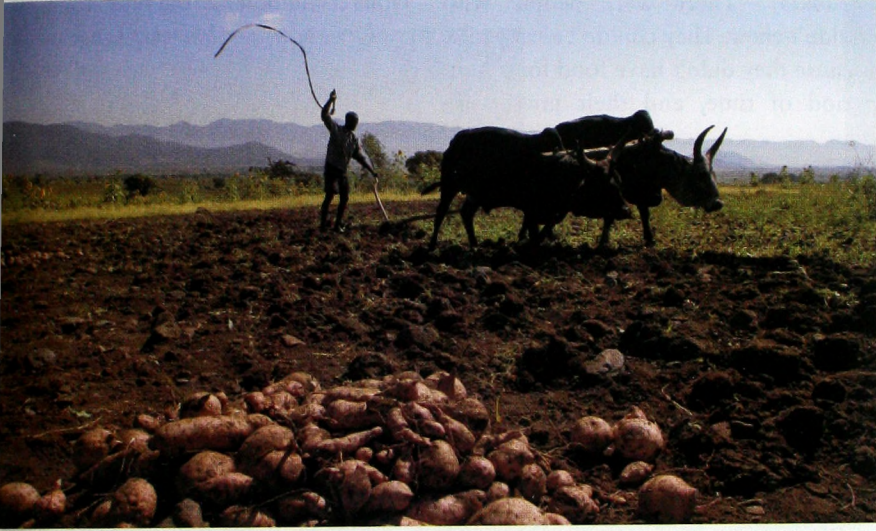
Twenty years ago, Girma was the local government representative responsible for some 30,000 people—all in jeopardy as the drought deepened. “One

household I knew lost 10 members,” he recalls. “There were eight to 10 people being buried in the same grave. Children were left alone without parents to care for them. I saw a baby trying to suckle at his dead mother's breast.”

In a place without phones and a time before e-mail and fax machines, Girma's only way to call for help was to travel 220 miles south to the capital, Addis Ababa, where he spent a week arranging for the central government to formally

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ing page: Abebe Aragaw, the chairman of a farmers' association in Antsokia Valley, sows off his coffee beans. He's cleverly holding back on selling the bulk of his harvest until the market price improves. **Right:** Seid Abera, 14, was once sponsored, but his family can afford to send him to school without assistance. His father, Abera Negussie, earns about \$50 a month from his fruit crop alone. **Bottom:** Former government official Girma Wondafrash stands at the site of the airfield he helped build in 1984. It's now a farm, as roads have improved access to the valley. **Below:** Assef Seghun harvests sweet potatoes, one of the crops introduced by World Vision since the famine. "We never had them before that," Assef says.



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invite World Vision to work in Antsokia. Shortly after, an American paid a visit—John McMillin, then a World Vision relief director. But there was a hitch: John said he couldn't bring equipment and supplies into the inaccessible valley.

"What about an airfield?" Girma proposed. Doubtful, John agreed. Operational in Ethiopia since 1971, World Vision had been airdropping food into drought-plagued communities three years before the famine hit TV screens—and it was World Vision's Twin Otter plane that helped BBC journalists break the story. The resulting surge of donations in 1984 enabled the organization to scale up relief operations from \$3.5 million to \$70 million and add almost 800 staff.

Desperate for World Vision's help, Girma immediately met with an engineer to design the airfield. He marshalled thousands of people to contribute labor. "Even those who weren't strong helped," he says, describing people using their hands and feet to remove rocks and level the earth. That afternoon, just as workers added the finishing touch—white cloth flags along the landing strip—World Vision's plane appeared on the horizon.

The airfield provided World Vision's entrée into Antsokia Valley. By 1984, it was one of eight locations that collectively fed more than 150,000 people a day and provided medical care for thousands more suffering from the kind of diseases that prey on weakened bodies: cholera, typhoid, and malaria.

From the beginning, World Vision had special plans for Antsokia Valley. "The people who designed the programs could see what could happen—what *did* happen. They were visionaries," says Dr. Ted Engstrom, World Vision's president at the time. "Antsokia became a model for other organizations of what could be done in a barren patch of valley."

THE VISIONARIES GO TO WORK

One of John McMillin's first tasks in parched Antsokia was locating a water source—using, to everyone's amazement, a makeshift divining rod. "When I first

struck water, the camels stampeded us to get to it," recalls John, who now runs the Oceanographic Institute of Dominica. "I knew better than to stand in the way of a thirsty camel after spending months riding them from Pakistan to Tashkent. But, for not moving promptly, I got a nasty bite on my shoulder that still bears a scar."

John hired talented Ethiopians, including Yemane Birhane Michael, then a 31-year-old fire-extinguisher salesman from Addis Ababa. Yemane had just served in a feeding camp north of Antsokia. "There were people who couldn't chew. They couldn't even smile, because they didn't have food for a long period of time, and their jaws were

locked," he says, demonstrating a te clenched grimace. "After three months you can't believe it, they were better."

Yemane was struck by the drought devastation in Antsokia when he arrived. "There were no trees. No nothing. People were really miserable," he recalls. His first priority was to feed everyone—high protein porridge for the severely malnourished; dry rations for the less critical cases. World Vision hired local people to work in the centers as cooks, cleaners, and guards, paying them in the most precious commodity at the time: food.

Once people felt strong enough

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World Vision 



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

Water is **life...**
and **yet** it's
in **short** supply
around the **world**



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Please update your address if necessary

NAME _____

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- Please use my gift of \$_____ to improve communities' access to clean water.
- I want to support World Vision's global emergency response program. Amount: \$_____
- I want to sponsor a HopeChild (child affected by HIV/AIDS) for \$35/month.
 - a girl a boy living in
 - Ethiopia elsewhere in Africa Latin America
 - where most needed
- I want my one-time donation to go where it's needed

- Check payable to World Vision
- Charge my gift to my debit card credit card
- Visa MasterCard American Express Discover
- Card no _____
- Exp. Date _____ / _____

YES!
I want to transform a community by providing

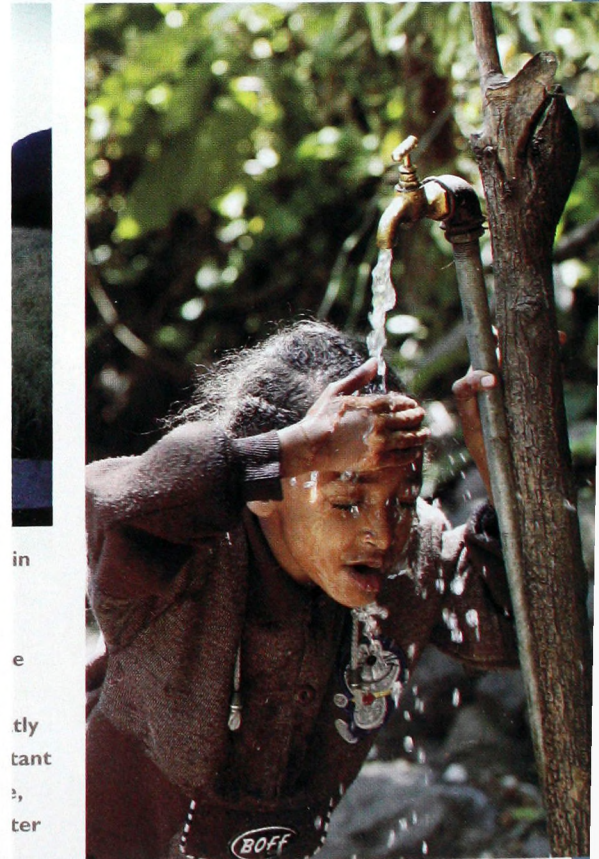


JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

Clean water and irrigation have made all the difference in Antsokia Valley. But elsewhere in Ethiopia—and in 80 countries around the world—communities battle serious water shortages. Without water, crops and animals die. Community productivity suffers. Forced to drink dirty water, children and families get sick.

Worldwide, World Vision has given more than 10 million people access to clean water through:

- providing wells, water catchments, and piping systems
- helping communities purify contaminated water and protect natural springs
- improving sanitation measures to keep water sources clean



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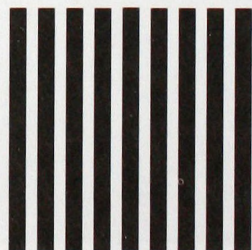
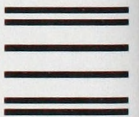
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acing page: In full bloom, Antsokia Valley is a far cry from the barren place it was in 1984, often described as a dustbowl. **Top:** “God brought World Vision,” says Tadelu Adesse, 70, pictured with her grandson, Yesuf Bersha. “It would have been a great catastrophe if World Vision hadn’t come.” Tadelu received food aid during the famine and now supports herself by selling fruit from trees given to her by World Vision. **Right:** Mehiret Abera, 7, washes at a tap in her yard. Access to clean water has greatly improved through World Vision’s intervention, saving many families long trips to distant water sources. **Above:** While much of rural Ethiopia subsists on rain-fed agriculture, Antsokia Valley boasts a sophisticated network of irrigation ditches that channel water from mountain springs to fields.

—continued from page 16

return home, Yemane gave them seeds, tools, and livestock for restarting farming. Then John's team started a massive agricultural recovery project. A 250-acre pilot farm served as a testing ground for new farming methods and crops never before grown in the valley, such as sweet potato and cabbage. A tree nursery raised fast-growing eucalyptus for building materials and local tree varieties for controlling soil erosion. The nursery created hundreds of jobs by employing people to tend the grounds and pack tree seedlings in a special blend of alluvial soil and fertilizer. To date, Antsokia farmers have planted 20 million trees.

Ayalew Yimam, then a young man in his 20s, worked in the tree nursery. Several months earlier, however, he lay in World Vision's medical tent, watching people die all around him. Stricken with cholera, he had withered away to 80 pounds. "It was the will of God that allowed me to survive," he says. "On top of that, there was the professional care. The nurses and doctors served us all day and all night. We got not just food and drink, but prayers. That helped us live."

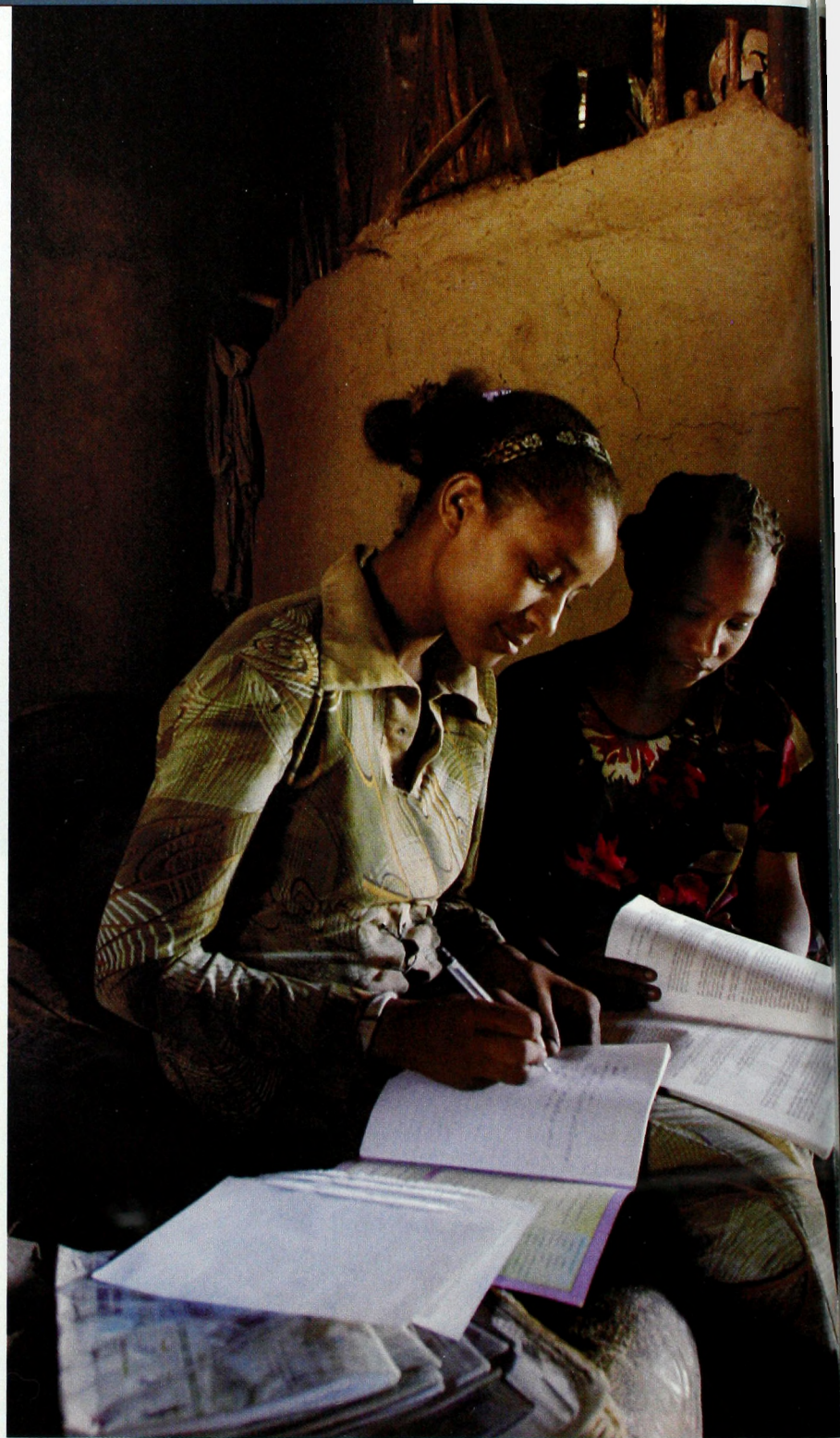
Ayalew has made the most of his second chance. The 40-year-old married father of two daughters owns a small cafeteria, financed in part by a World Vision loan. The Christian behavior he observed from World Vision staff slowly made an impression, changing him over time to a devout follower of Christ.

The quiet, slender man struggles to encapsulate all that has happened since the famine. "That time is unforgettable," he says, sitting on his cafeteria patio while customers sip tea nearby. "It's not just history you can read in a book. You can see it here, in the health centers, the schools, the running water in our yards."

For Yemane, who now designs projects for World Vision, the past evokes nostalgia. "We were doing something worthwhile," he smiles. "Whenever I think of that time, I feel like crying. It was so beautiful."

THE NEW BRASS RING

In Antsokia Valley terms, 41-year-old



Abera Negussie is economically comfortable. He raises maize, sorghum, and a variety of produce on three acres of farmland. The father of five also keeps sheep, goats, and chickens. He's particularly proud of the way he calls the chickens to feed. When he emits a high-pitched "coo-coo," the birds come running in a riot of

fluttering feathers and clucking. "World Vision taught me that," he says.

During the famine, Abera was a broken-hearted man whose wife deserted him after their 19-month-old boy died. Since then, he has seen a lot of changes,

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Facing page: New schools built in Antsokia Valley have increased primary-school enrollment from 11 percent before the famine to higher than 70 percent today. A new high school has opened up even greater educational opportunities. "Children my age are the lucky ones," says Astir Assefa, 16 (left). **Left:** When Yemane Birhane Michael joined World Vision during the famine, he became hooked on the personal touch of working with the poor. **Below:** Famine survivor Ayalew Yimam, pictured in his cafeteria, encountered Christian compassion in the feeding center. It changed his life. **Bottom:** Children in Ajibar benefit from sponsorship and community improvements, although World Vision's post-famine presence there was disrupted by civil war.



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both in his own life and his community. “Whatever we have—new schools and a health center, agricultural help—it’s because of sponsorship,” he says.

World Vision introduced child sponsorship in Antsokia in 1990. The funds opened up educational opportunities for individual children while bringing benefits to the entire community. But at first, people were skeptical.

Tadelu Taddesse, 70, remembers when staff introduced the concept. “They told us they would take photos of the children. Many people were reluctant. There was a rumor that foreigners would come and take the children away to Europe or America,” recalls the spry great-grandmother.

Appointed a “sponsorship caretaker” responsible for checking in on children in her village, Tadelu received training from World Vision. “It was I who first taught the community that sponsorship was a good idea,” she says proudly, describing how she communicated the benefits for the children. She offered her grandson, Yesuf, to be the first child photographed.

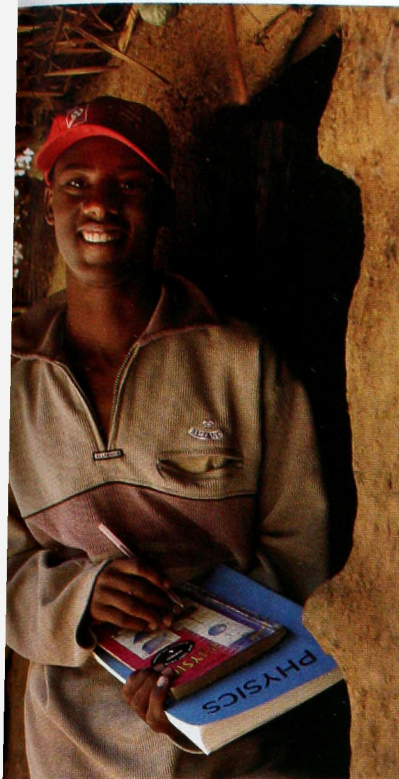
Yesuf, now a father of two sons, was sponsored up to the sixth grade.

Two of Abera’s sons were also once sponsored. No more—“I can send them to school myself,” he says. His boys help him around the farm, and oldest daughter Mehiret, 7, collects eggs from the chicken coop. But he does not wish

for his children to follow in his footsteps. Orphaned young, Abera never had chance to go to school. Like many Antsokia parents, he looks to educate as the new brass ring—now within children’s reach, thanks to the schools built with sponsorship funds.

The difference education has made





Facing page, top: After the famine, World Vision provided livestock to families who lost everything. But now, most people can buy animals themselves, with their grain or produce profits. **Facing page, bottom:** Camels are permanent fixtures in Antsokia Valley, but trees haven't always been—deforestation in the early 1980s compounded the effects of drought. Today, 20 million trees flourish here. **This page, left:** Emmanuel Tamene, 17, embodies a new generation of young, educated Ethiopians determined to work against a recurrence of famine. **Above:** The newest addition to Antsokia's educational system, Mekoy Secondary School, attracts hundreds of teenagers eager to learn.

From one generation to the next is automatic. In a modest mud-and-wood home, Tamene Tesseme, 57, and his 41-year-old wife, Zewdie, shyly relate their memories of the famine, when two of their daughters nearly starved to death. Their 17-year-old son, Emmanuel, sits nearby, a baseball cap pulled down over his brow as he works on his physics homework. Eager to join the conversation, Emmanuel speaks in fluent English, "I listen when my parents speak about the famine. I heard that a lot of medical people took care of children. This is why I want to be a doctor, to care for people with diseases. I think I should work hard to prevent another famine."

Zewdie and Tamene have just three years of schooling between them. Yet their only son is already making plans beyond their imagination: To raise money for medical school, Emmanuel will work as a translator, showing English-speaking tourists around Ethiopia's historic sites.

Such new ideas are incubated at Mekoy Secondary School, which World Vision and community members built in 1998. (Before that, the closest high school required a 12-mile walk.) More

MEMORIES OF A FAMINE FIGHTER

David Schlenker was a Mission Aviation Fellowship pilot who conducted relief airdrops for World Vision in northern Ethiopia in the early 1980s. Today he works for American Airlines.

Our first landing on the primitive dirt strip at the Mizan Teferi relief camp was the last bit of motivation I would ever need for the job ahead. Sick eyes stared dully as we brought our screaming turboprop engines to a stop and stepped out into a silent world of despair. World Vision had prepared us for what we would see, but nothing could prepare me for what I felt: fury over the injustice of wretched excess complacently occupying the same world as abject misery.

We took off an hour later, and then our real work began. Load, fly, unload; fly back, reload, fly again, unload again. On a good day, we could get in seven or eight round trips. There was huge satisfaction in watching the big sacks of dried milk, corn, and millet fall out of our cargo doors.

Results were good. Little children no longer fought with silent ferocity over a few corn kernels spilled on the dirt. Fewer and fewer shallow graves were scratched into the rocky soil. A few tentative smiles emerged. Once, someone started singing, and the people gradually picked it up in the unearthly harmony that only tribal Africa knows. Slowly but surely, hope returned. We flew with a holy determination to make a difference ... and we did. ■



ERIC MOONEYHART/WORLD VISION

than 780 students attend class in two shifts. In the science lab, youth huddle in small groups, preparing to test hydrogen. Across the compound, students in math class watch a program on Venn diagrams on a plasma-screen TV mounted to the wall—the government finances the equipment and provides education programming via satellite.

“Students have seen others who have gone on to university. We’re very happy when our students have a chance to go to university and get jobs,” says Abebaw Lemma, 32, the school’s director, explaining that not so long ago, just a handful of youth could make that leap.

FACING THEIR FEAR

Ask anyone in Antsokia Valley what will happen if another drought comes, and the answer is always positive. “People know how to tackle any problem,” says Girma Wondafrash.

In Antsokia, the average household food stock lasts about 10 and a half months, twice the reserves of rural dwellers in other parts of Ethiopia. Some of the farmers even have bank accounts in



Kombolcha, a city about an hour’s drive away. No one grows just one crop anymore, and with variety comes insurance—if one crop fails, something else will grow. Ayalew Yimam explains, “When it appeared that the rain wouldn’t come, I used to be fearful. But now we

know more—how to make use of water for irrigation; how to grow better crops

“Real change is in the attitude of the people,” says Getachew Wolde Michael, World Vision Ethiopia’s national director. This is taking hold in Antsokia Valley after two decades of delibera-

Finding the Children of the Famine



RACHEL VEALE/WORLD VISION

It was the children who broke our hearts. Their pain reached through TV screens and photographs and compelled us to care. What happened to these small victims of the Ethiopia famine?

World Vision magazine tried to find

out. We searched for specific children who had received care at World Vision feeding centers, their plight captured by visiting journalists. As a general rule, tracing people in relief situations is difficult because families congregate at aid centers far from their homes, and after they receive help, they disperse.

Finding the children of the Ethiopia famine was even more complicated. The Marxist

government’s resettlement policy—designed to quell rebellion—uprooted many families. Fighting in the north displaced others. Twenty years later, locating such transient targets seemed nearly impossible, especially in communities without official citizen records.

Miraculously, our local staff found one. In Antsokia Valley we met Yohannes Teye, 22, a young man with a winning smile. Though short and slight, he’s strong enough to support eight members of his family by farming sorghum in a hillside community. He has his eye on a girl he’d like to marry.

When Yohannes was 18 months old, his father brought him to World Vision’s feeding center. The frail, sick child seemed likely to follow his mother to the grave. “Even those who were treating him thought he wouldn’t recover,” recalls his father, Teye Shawl. Thanks to intravenous feeding and the close attention of a British doctor, the boy survived. After

such a dramatic beginning, he has settled an ordinary life—but one he knows is

“I praise God in the highest,” says Yohannes, a Christian. “It is through God that people stretched out their hands save my life.”

Finding the children of the famine proved largely fruitless. But Yohannes’ story—one of thousands—confirms that the act of helping a suffering child never is. ■





Facing page: Attending the weekly market is a nonnegotiable appointment for most families. Anything and everything grown in the valley is here for sale. **This page, left:** The average Antsokia household keeps enough food to last about 10 months. Belayush Abdu, 38, and her daughter, Medina, 10, exemplify this with their bountiful supply of farm-grown vegetables, fruit, and grain and their milk-producing cow grazing in their yard.

Valley. This is evident in the poor condition of the children, many with eye infections; the modest scale of the farmland; and the lack of trees to cut the wind and hold the soil. World Vision has introduced reforestation, horticulture, irrigation, and microfinance, and 4,500 children are assisted by sponsorship.

Yet families remain vulnerable to the capricious climate—and haunted by the past. Bizuabeb Abebe, 45, lost an infant son in 1984. When asked if she worries that this can happen again, she looks down at her

8-year-old daughter, Ayel, who clings to her side, and compulsively combs her fingers through the girl's thick, dark curls. "Yes, we fear another famine," she says. "We never stop thinking about it."

SEEDS OF FAITH

Back in Antsokia Valley, a group of children gather for evening choir practice in the Ambowuha Meserete Kristos Church. First they practice in formation, lined up in rows facing their guitar-playing choir leader, but as dusk creeps in they sit in a circle around a lantern and continue to clap and sing.

The church is just a stone's throw away from a weather-beaten corrugated iron building that served as World Vision's staff residence during the famine. The proximity is deeply symbolic. During those bad times, World Vision planted seeds of a different kind in Antsokia Valley.

Chirotaw Getaneh worked in World Vision's feeding center when he was 23, helping to feed hundreds of people a day. The satisfaction of saving lives wasn't all he

consistent guidance and plenty of donor support. But other communities aren't so far along.

During the famine, World Vision worked in Ajibar, 320 miles north of Antsokia, a mountainous place where the harsh wind whips up dust from the dry, denuded earth. When relief workers arrived in early 1985, 10 to 15 people were dying each day. After stabilizing the population through feeding centers and food distributions, World Vision started an agricultural rehabilitation program similar to what was done in Antsokia Valley.

But four years later, staff had to evacuate when fighting between government and guerrilla forces came too close. "We were desperate when we heard World Vision was leaving," says Yiman Mohammed, 45. "World Vision had many plans for planting trees, drilling boreholes, and practicing irrigation." All those activities went on hold until 1997, when conditions improved and staff returned.

The interruption puts Ajibar's progress well behind that of Antsokia

MEMORIES OF A FAMINE FIGHTER

Ever since **Congressman Frank Wolf** (R-Virginia) first visited Ethiopia during the famine, he has been a vigorous advocate for Africa, speaking out most recently on the crisis in Darfur, Sudan.

In 1984, Tony Hall—then a congressman from Ohio, now our ambassador to the Food and Agriculture Organization—encouraged me to go to Ethiopia after his visit there. The following week, I jumped on an airplane. From Addis Ababa I flew up to Alamata on a Twin Otter aircraft that World Vision staff said was the same plane that took the BBC camera crew to the region. After spending the afternoon at World Vision's camp, I asked, "Can I spend the night?"

The next morning, I went outside the tent early, maybe 5 a.m. The moaning and groaning I heard has stayed with me. There were a number of people who had died during the night. I remember going out with the men who were burying children, setting stones on top of the graves.

The first night I was there, rain came pouring down on the corrugated tin roof. I thought, "Gee, this must be good for the drought." But it was bad, because without vegetation, the water flooded the area, and the plane couldn't land. When I travel, I generally take granola bars and other snacks. I was sure the plane was coming back the next day, so that first night, I gave all my food away. Then I had to live on Third-World biscuits. ■



STEVE REYNOLDS/WORLD VISION

received from the experience. The prayers and hymns the staff shared during their daily devotions made an impression on him. In 1987, he became a Christian.

"It was a great change," he says. "I was chewing *chat* [a locally grown narcotic], drinking, fighting—all the social evils. After accepting Christ, I had a happy life. Now we have a church here. We witness the kingdom of God, and many people have accepted Christ."

Cherotaw, now 43 and a church elder, sits in the darkened sanctuary, watching his 10-year-old daughter Genet practice with the choir. "I have nothing but thirst for you ... everything I need is in your hand," the children sing, their features lit with the golden lantern glow.

Twenty years after the world mobilized to fight the famine, everything is here. And Christians like Cherotaw know that faith is the seed from which all of it bloomed. It was faith that brought people in this valley of death back to life—a new kind of life, not dependent on rain or crops, but on each other and God. ■

MEMORIES OF A FAMINE FIGHTER

Dr. Jim Owens, a pediatric doctor, served in World Vision's Alamata camp from December 1984 to February 1985. Today he is semi-retired, consulting on health care for youth in detention facilities.

The worst thing I ever had to do was to pick 60 people for feeding and medical care among the hundreds gathered every morning. We just couldn't take everybody. Mothers would hold up their children to me, weeping. Then I would hear the moaning of the suffering people and the crying when they buried the dead.

The day after Christmas, Mother Teresa arrived on World Vision's airplane. I had been reading Malcolm Muggeridge's book about her, *Something Beautiful For God*, and I wanted to meet her. A big crowd gathered, and she greeted each one of us. As she took my hand, I told her how much I loved her, and she said, "Doctor, together we will do something beautiful for God." I will never forget the sound of singing that day, the high-pitched trill of celebration, such a contrast to the moaning and wailing.

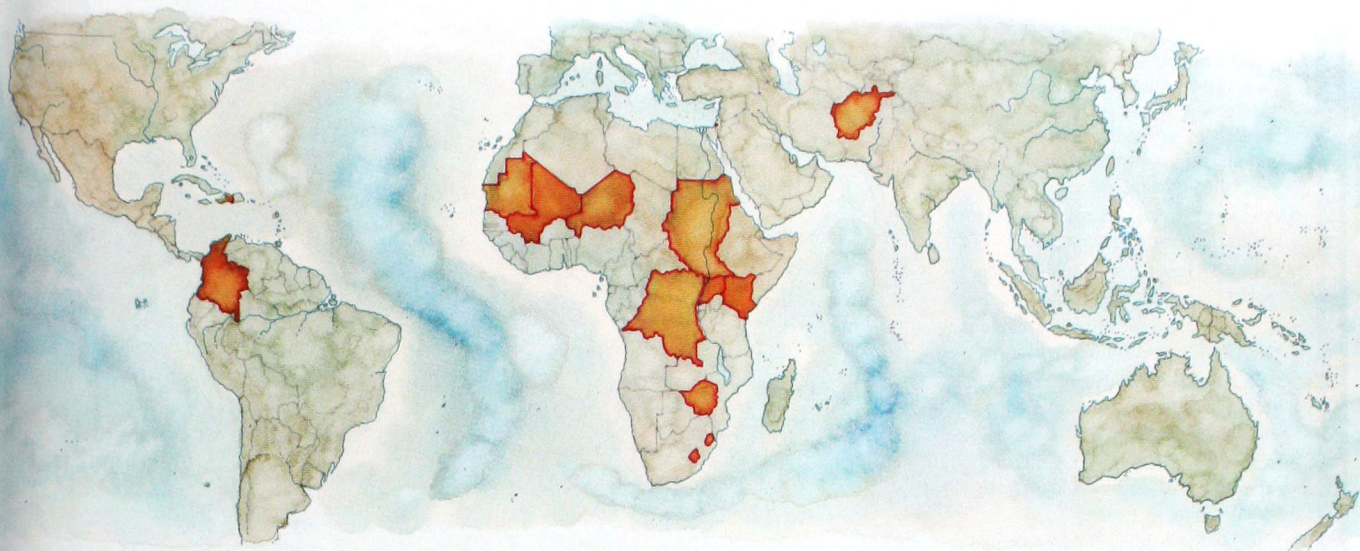
From this experience I learned what it means to be a Christian. Some of the Ethiopians I worked with had been persecuted and even imprisoned because they were Christians. They had lived through such difficult circumstances, but that didn't change their joy. At the end of an exhausting day, I would lie down and listen to them worship for an hour or more, singing beautiful hymns. ■



ROSS ARNOLD/WORLD VISION



Choir practice at the Meserete Kristos Church



neglected crises

New human tragedies have seized the world's attention as thoroughly as Ethiopia's famine and the recent tsunamis in Asia. Victims' suffering played out in the media with heartbreaking immediacy, compelling people from every walk of life to help.

In the midst of such a commendable response, it can be easy to overlook the equally deserving and equally tragic crises around the world that do not dominate the daily news. Conflict, hunger, disease, persecution, and even pestilence prey on the poorest of the poor, causing anguish to millions of people—especially children.

The following pages present 11 of the unprecedented number of emergencies to which World Vision is responding. There are others. To learn more, visit www.worldvision.org.

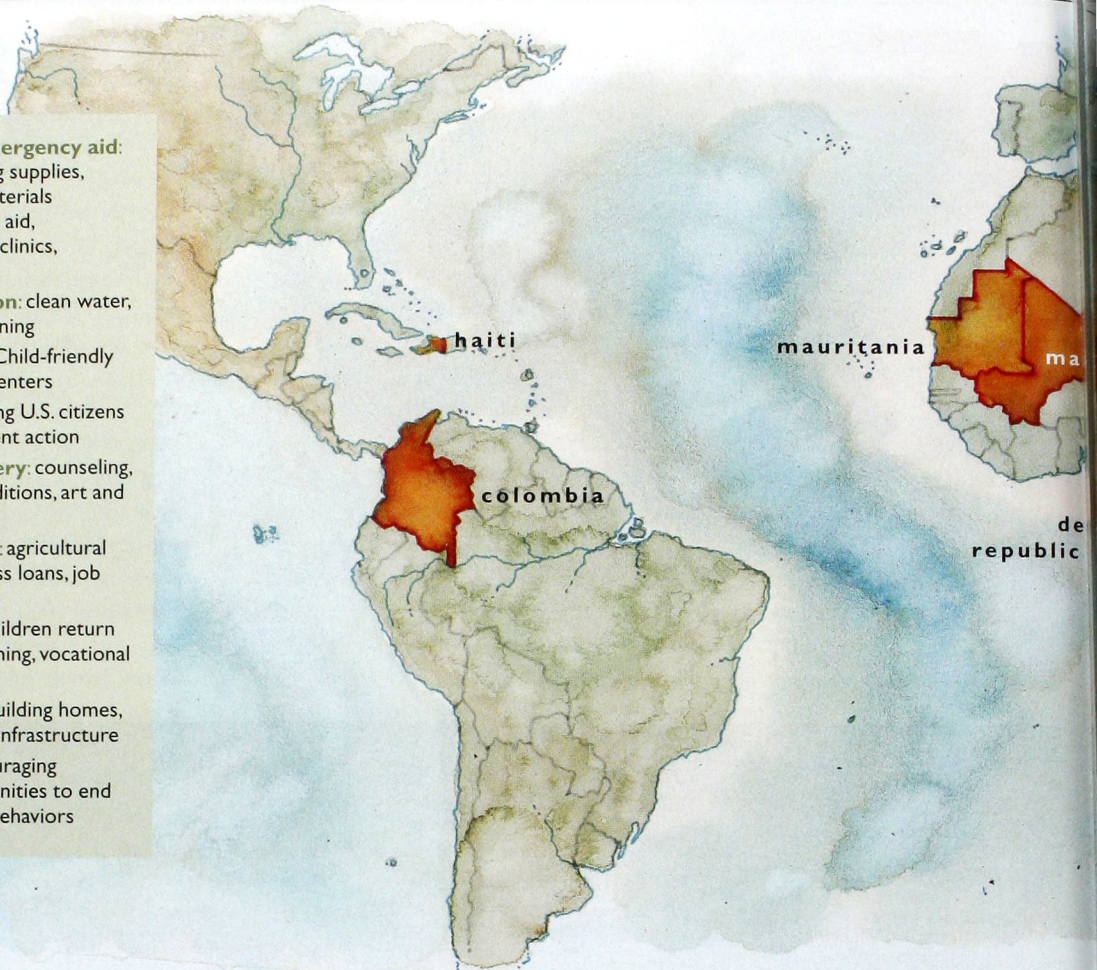
WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Support World Vision's emergency response. See the envelope between pages 16 and 17.
- Pray for families suffering through crises and the World Vision staff serving them.
- Promote justice by encouraging the U.S. government to do more to help. To find out how, go to www.seekjustice.org.

Illustration by Mike Reagan

WORLD VISION'S RESPONSE: THE AID BEHIND THE WORDS

- **Food and other emergency aid:** food, blankets, cooking supplies, temporary shelter materials
- **Health care:** medical aid, immunizations, health clinics, medicine and supplies
- **Water and sanitation:** clean water, latrines, sanitation training
- **Child protection:** "Child-friendly spaces" or childcare centers
- **Advocacy:** encouraging U.S. citizens to lobby for government action
- **Psychosocial recovery:** counseling, normalizing living conditions, art and recreation therapy
- **Economic recovery:** agricultural recovery, small-business loans, job skills training
- **Education:** helping children return to school, teacher training, vocational training
- **Reconstruction:** rebuilding homes, schools, health clinics, infrastructure
- **Peacebuilding:** encouraging individuals and communities to end divisive attitudes and behaviors



COLOMBIA

Intense conflict between military, paramilitary, and guerrilla forces has displaced nearly 2 million people and plunged 20 million Colombians—half the population—into poverty. Often dismissed as merely a drug war, the conflict is actually rooted in centuries of injustice toward the poor.

World Vision's response:

- Education
- Advocacy
- Peacebuilding

HAITI

Already the poorest and hungriest country in the Western Hemisphere, Haiti has recently suffered political uprising and natural disasters, leaving it on the verge of collapse. A United Nations report found that more than half of Haitians live on less than \$1 a day and one in 10 citizens will have HIV/AIDS by 2015.

World Vision's response:

- Food and other emergency aid
- Health care
- Water and sanitation
- Economic recovery
- Education
- Reconstruction

WEST AFRICA

Repeated locust invasions and continued drought obliterated last year's crops in Mauritania, Mali and Niger, causing major food deficits. The dreaded locusts are likely to return to the region this year—perhaps in even greater numbers.

World Vision's response:

- Food and other emergency aid
- Economic recovery

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

In perhaps the most overlooked crisis on the globe, an estimated 1,000 people die daily from malnutrition and preventable diseases as they flee ethnic conflict. More than 3.8 million people—equal to the population of Los Angeles—have perished since 1998.

World Vision's response:

- Food and other emergency aid
- Health care
- Water and sanitation
- Peacebuilding

SOUTHERN AFRICA

A severe drought has drastically affected production in several southern African countries. While some have a fragile recovery, notably Zimbabwe, Lesotho, and Swaziland, others continue to struggle. Millions of people are at risk of starvation. Exacerbating this complex crisis are poverty, governance challenges and HIV/AIDS.

World Vision's response:

- Food and other emergency aid
- Health care
- Water and sanitation
- Education
- Economic recovery

HIV/AIDS

The HIV/AIDS pandemic affects every continent on the globe, killing as many people in a month as the tsunamis' total death toll. The disease disrupts families and entire societies, leaving millions of children without care and support. Experts warn there may be more than 25 million AIDS orphans by 2010.

World Vision's response: In sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Eastern Europe, World Vision works with governments, churches, and communities to prevent the spread of the disease, give hope to the infected, and care for vulnerable children.



UGANDA

Fighting between the Ugandan military and the ill-named Lord's Resistance Army rebel group has uprooted 80 percent of northern Uganda's population. Children bear the brunt. The LRA has abducted tens of thousands of children and forced them into combat and sexual slavery. Fear of capture forces more than 20,000 children away from their families each night to search for a safe place to sleep.

World Vision's response:

- Child protection
- Advocacy
- Psychosocial recovery
- Education
- Peacebuilding

KENYA

Drought is chronic in Kenya, but the latest one is particularly fierce. An estimated 2.3 million people are in dire need of food aid. About a quarter of Kenya's population lives in arid or semi-arid regions affected by erratic rainfall.

World Vision's response:

- Food and other emergency aid
- Water and sanitation
- Economic recovery

WEST BANK/ GAZA

The Middle East conflict has had widespread impact in Palestinian communities, where unemployment averages 31 percent and severe malnutrition affects 22 percent of children. In addition, the Israeli-built separation wall will divide six villages from their farmland in the West Bank.

World Vision's response:

- Health care
- Water and sanitation
- Advocacy
- Psychosocial recovery
- Economic recovery
- Education
- Reconstruction
- Peacebuilding

AFGHANISTAN

Periodic violence and insecurity continues, although recent democratic national elections signal hope. The country still contends with destroyed agricultural systems, high infant mortality rates, illiteracy, and limited access to health care.

World Vision's response:

- Food and other emergency aid
- Health care
- Water and sanitation
- Economic recovery
- Education
- Reconstruction

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➔ A Life That Matters

Thelma Tan made the most of the blessings of sponsorship. *by Cecil Laguardia*



Serving in a Christian school is perfect for Thelma Tan, a teacher who loves theology.

WHEN IT CAME TO CHOOSING a career, Thelma Tan was torn. She had always dreamed of being a civil engineer, but none of the schools near her home in Maasin, the Philippines, offered the course. She opted to major in secondary education at St. Joseph College, specializing in math. Then God offered a few helpful cues.

At St. Joseph, theology classes were required, and Thelma aced them. In her third year of college, she landed her first opportunity to try teaching—leading Sunday school for children from her church. “I enjoyed teaching kids and telling them about God’s

goodness,” she says. Members of the Fundamental Baptist Church were so impressed they encouraged her to become a preacher.

After graduation, Thelma found the perfect job combining teaching and preaching at the school run by her church, Maasin Christian Academy. Today 22-year-old Thelma teaches math and basic computer skills to children in fourth, fifth and sixth grades.

Without child sponsorship, Thelma would not have had the education to usher her into any professional career. Schooling for Thelma and her three younger brothers proved an overwhelming burden for their father, Florentino, a public transport driver. The children’s mother, Navidad, couldn’t work because of recurring illness.

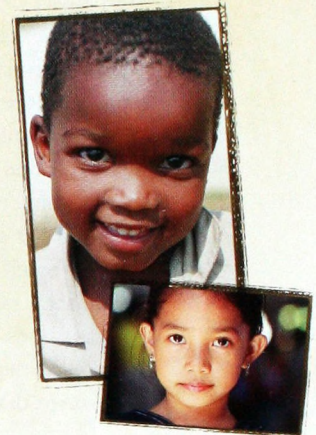
“Life was hard. We were so poor,” Thelma says. “I realized early on that sponsorship was a blessing from God, because I would not have gone to school without it.”

Thelma has good memories from her years as a sponsored child, starting when she was in the third grade of Ibarra Elementary School. “I remember myself so shy and very small, waiting for my turn to be photographed,” she says. “I also remember how excited I was when I got my share of the notebooks and school supplies.”

Thelma’s sponsor, Lena Brown from Utah, supported her for 11 years—through elementary school, high school, and college. “In my father’s side of the family, I was the first one to graduate with a college education, so I am very grateful

ALEX BADAYOS/WORLD VISION (2)

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humbled," Thelma says. Lena, 88, sponsored a Filipino girl before Thelma and now cares for a child in Vietnam. "I just want to help children who need help, that's all," she says. Though Thelma received only occasional gifts from Lena, she felt her sponsor's support often, especially in college. "I saw how my classmates would cry and get worried during examination time because they had no money to pay for the tuition fee. I never took my sponsorship for granted," she says.

Thelma devoted herself to studying, reaching the top of her class at St. Joseph's for three straight years. She made the most of the gift of her education.

Now she's passing that gift along to others. Her classes at Maasin Christian Academy meet in an airy, spacious room equipped with computers and printers. Leading the students in math and Microsoft Word classes, Thelma feels satisfied that she can feed their minds *and* their spirits.

"My salary is very small compared to those in public schools, but I am fulfilled, and I enjoy my job very much," she says. "I already passed the Teacher's Board Exam, which qualifies me to teach in a public school, but I still have no plan to do it. I want to help my church in its ministry."

Thelma, who sings in her church's choir, continues to grow in her faith. She gleans



ILLUSTRATION BY AMIEE SICURO

new insights from her favorite Bible verse, 1 John 5:11-12, about how God has given us life through his Son. "It had a profound impact on me during the death of my grandmother," she says. "It also reminds me that Jesus Christ is the anchor of our salvation."

Thelma is no longer the shy, small girl in her sponsorship photos, but a maturing woman of faith. Looking back, she sees Lena Brown and World Vision as God's instruments, guiding her to a job she loves and a life that matters. ■

—Cecil Laguardia is a communications specialist for World Vision in the Philippines.

First, We Pray

IN 1984, I WAS WORKING FOR World Vision in a remote corner of West Africa when I received marching orders to go to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital.

For years, World Vision had escorted a parade of international journalists around Ethiopia's countryside, trying to get the world to pay attention to the impending famine. Warfare, plus poverty, environmental degradation, governmental resettlement, and drought had resulted in abysmal conditions for millions. No one seemed to care—until Michael Buerk's dramatic BBC report aired on a slow news day in the fall of 1984.

Directed to help local World Vision colleagues launch what ultimately would become an emergency response of epic proportions, I found that our little advance team of relief specialists had everything we needed, even a Twin Otter aircraft. Everything, that is, except the experienced personnel needed to open our first feeding

“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.” —Colossians 4:2

center. Teams *would* arrive, of course . . . in days or weeks. But every delay meant more lives lost.

We visited a rural trading center called Alamata where thousands of displaced families had gathered. At the open-air market, starving farmers displayed well-used cooking pots, hand-forged plow points, and their wives' and daughters' silver crosses. No one was buying. Local authorities begged us to set up operations in an abandoned school.

I returned to Addis Ababa, and on a long shot I visited the Missionaries of Charity at their Home for the Destitute and Dying. They didn't know me. I didn't know them. Feeling rather destitute myself, I hesitantly asked the superior, Sr. Bertilla, if she could send some sisters to help us in Alamata.

Bertilla grinned, explaining that she and Mother Teresa had just spoken by telephone about how best for the sisters to respond to the famine; perhaps my request was an answer to prayer. A few hours later, Sr. Bertilla said that six sisters, plus supplies, would be ready to leave at dawn. We had not exchanged last names or phone numbers. Somehow it didn't matter.

The next morning we flew with the sisters to Alamata. When we arrived at the ramshackle campus, we were overwhelmed by the murmur of thousands of starving families huddled together in the dust, waiting expectantly. The sisters unpacked their brooms, buckets, and mops and started cleaning a few rooms.

When the first room was ready, the sisters produced a little table from somewhere, unwrapped a cross, unrolled a few rugs, then



carefully arranged a makeshift chapel. Three sisters got on their knees and did not move from that position until long after dark.

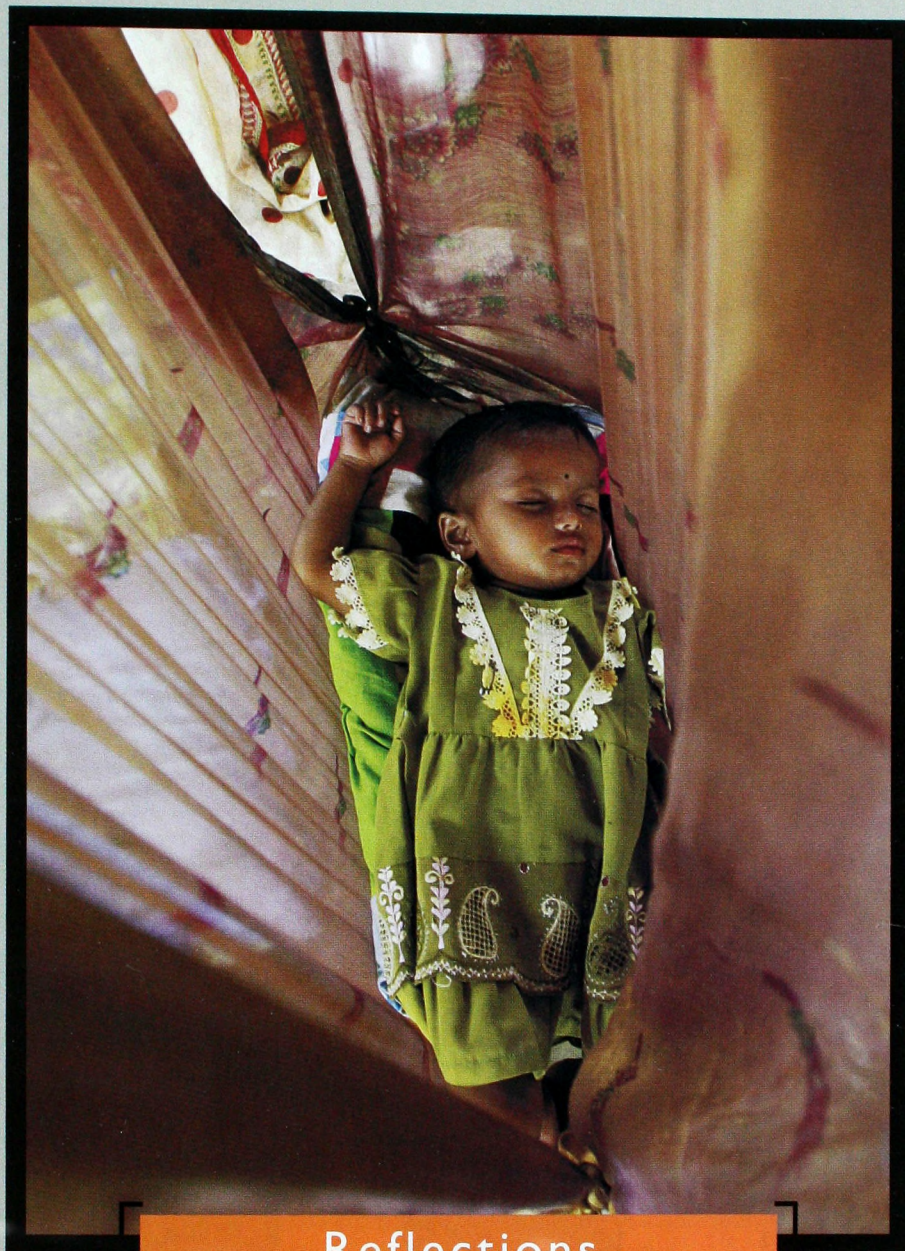
One of the others, a tiny South Indian waded through the crowd, doing the desperate triage that was to become the norm at feeding centers. By the time the second room was ready, she had selected two dozen critically malnourished, dehydrated children for lifesaving intervention.

And so it went. From that improbable beginning flowed World Vision's entire, massive relief and rehabilitation program.

During a brief lull that first afternoon Sr. Bertilla seemed to read my mind. “You know, David,” she said, “People think our ministry is only about physical needs and activism. They are so wrong. We are called to *pray*, first and foremost. We sisters each spend at least five hours on our knees, every single day.”

Any of us, when faced with human suffering, wonder, “What can I do?” The Missionaries of Charity gave me a simple lesson that applies in any crisis. You do what's possible in the moment, of course, but you take time to pray. You make space for it, allowing God the room to work in your heart. Alone, you cannot perform the miracles sometimes required—especially at the epicenter of a major famine. ■

David Ward led the team that set up World Vision feeding centers across Ethiopia in the 1980s. He is now a freelance photojournalist based in Montreal.



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

Reflections

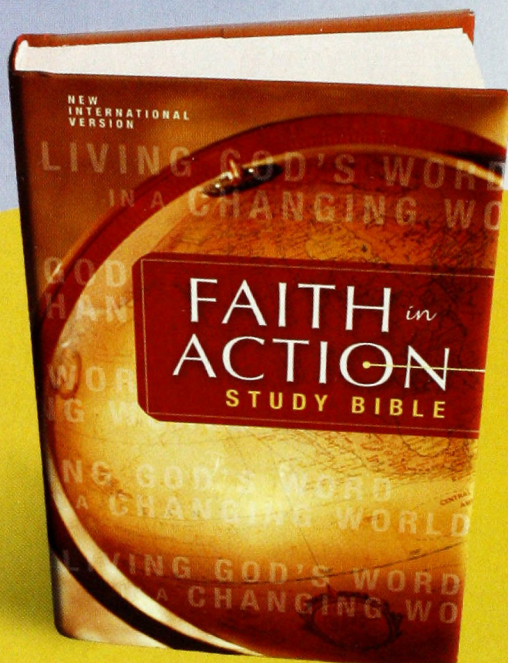
S R I L A N K A

A sleeping child is perfectly at peace, unburdened by trouble and trusting in adults' care. That's how World Vision wants to keep it, even for children in tsunami-affected Sri Lanka like 6-month-old Jenuson, pictured above in a sari-cum-hammock in a shelter for uprooted families. After the disaster, World Vision opened children's centers stocked with games and art supplies. Staff started building playground sets in more than 100 sites, introducing boys and girls to the joys of swings and slides. And 30 staff were given special training to protect children against threats more sinister than natural disasters. All of which promises many peaceful nights for baby Jenuson.

real faith works.

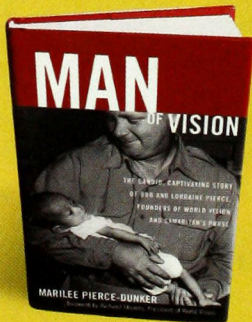
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Check out the valuable resources below for down-to-earth ways you can put your faith into action and change lives.



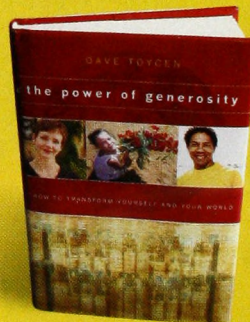
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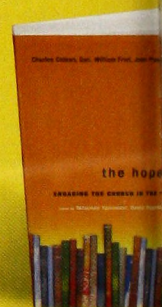
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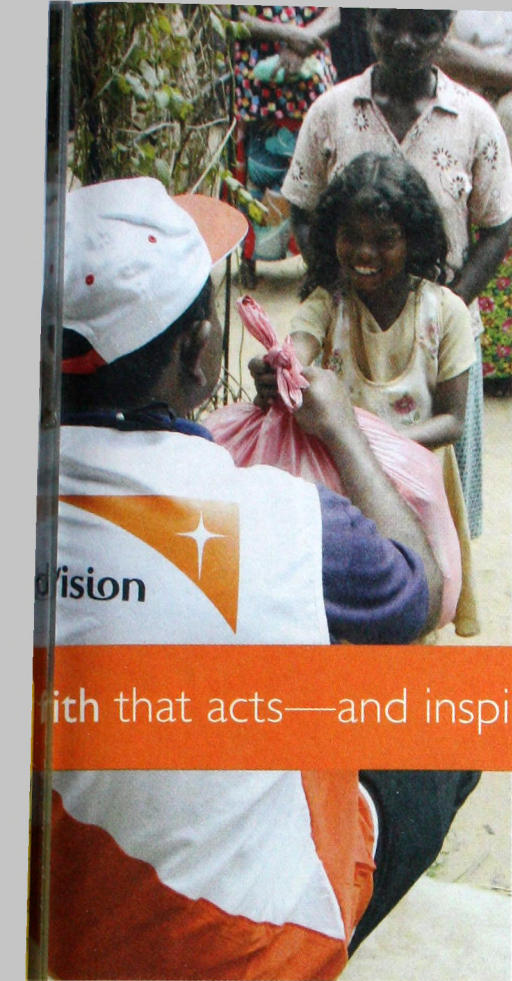
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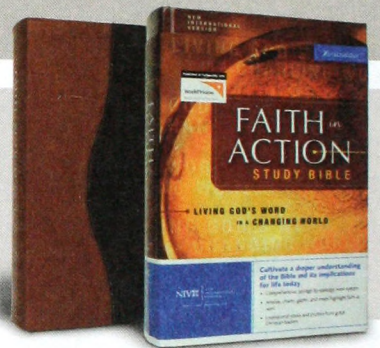
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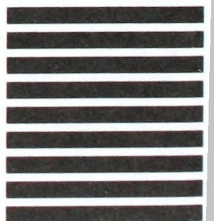
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