



WorldVision

SUMMER 2006

PLEADING FOR A CHANCE AT LIFE

HUNGRY

eyes

ONE SPONSOR'S STORY | Page 10

FIGHTING POVERTY | Page 22

gift planning

receive
income for life
and transform
children's lives



Looking for a way to help more children in need and still meet your financial goals?

A **gift annuity** may be the perfect solution. This powerful gift planning tool can provide fixed payments to you—and a loved one, if you wish—for life! And it allows you to continue your support of World Vision's ministry after your lifetime.

Simply make a gift of cash or securities to World Vision. In return, you'll receive fixed payments for life—and a variety of tax benefits. Depending on your age, your payment rate could be as high as 11.3%.

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World Vision

Building a better world for children





WorldVision

SUMMER 2006

PLEADING FOR A CHANCE AT LIFE

HUNGRY *eyes*

ONE SPONSOR'S STORY | Page 10

FIGHTING POVERTY | Page 22

YOU can help hundreds of children

without increasing your giving

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



Become a Child Ambassador

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

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

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

Call us today at **1.866.952.4453** or visit www.worldvision.org/childambassador.

World Vision

Building a better world for children

WorldVision

VOLUME 9, NUMBER 4

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» ON THE COVER

World Vision works to save the lives of children affected by hunger in Africa, like this little girl in Niger (read about World Vision's response in Niger, page 10). Photograph by REUTERS/Finbarr O'Riordan.

World Vision, a free quarterly publication, affords people responding to God's call to care for the poor by providing information, inspiration, and opportunities for action, linking them with churches 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 35 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 98003-9716 or e-mail us: wvmagazine@worldvision.org

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WORLDVISION.ORG

On World Vision's website, you can:

- Sponsor another child •
- Apply for a job at World Vision •
- Learn about volunteer opportunities •
- Listen to World Vision radio programs •

Visit worldvision.org today!

World Vision

Building a better world for children

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CUTTING HUNGER IN HALF
In two African countries, World Vision battles to solve complex food emergencies.

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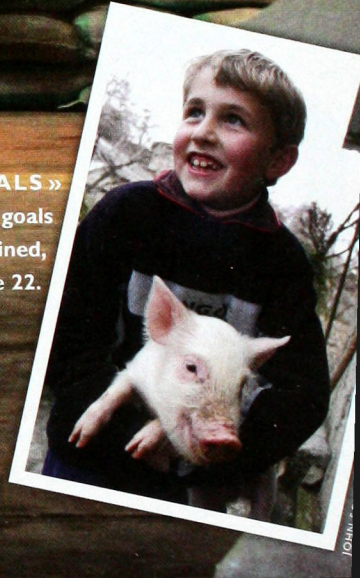
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A busy World Food Programme warehouse in Niger.

REUTERS/FINBARR O'REILLY



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The End of Poverty » 50¢ a Day

We have all been asked, "If you were granted just one wish, what would it be?" My wish, not surprisingly, would be for the end of world poverty—the kind of extreme poverty that causes 29,000 children to die needlessly every day. There was a time when I thought such a dream was "pie in the sky." But I am now convinced that it is attainable.

MY DREAM COME TRUE » In 2000, leaders from more than 180 countries gathered under the direction of the United Nations to develop goals for tackling poverty in the new millennium. The result was the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which, if attained, would reduce extreme poverty in half by 2015 and eliminate it altogether by 2025.

These goals (see related story, page 22) are both practical and doable. They include ensuring that all children receive at least an eighth-grade education; that women are valued; that people have access to food and clean water; and that the wealthiest nations contribute their fair share to make all of this possible.

After decades of development, we know how to do this. We have programs and solutions that work. The most devastating and degrading poverty could actually be wiped out in our generation.

"If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth." — 1 John 3:17-18

THE BAD NEWS » So what is standing in our way? Here, I'm afraid, is the hard medicine to swallow. Americans have always believed that while we are the wealthiest nation on earth, we are also the most generous. But do the facts bear this out?

Unfortunately, they do not. When Americans are asked in surveys what percentage of the federal budget is spent on humanitarian assistance internationally, they typically estimate between 15 and 20 percent. The actual figure is less than 1 percent. While the United States gives the most in terms of actual dollars, we rank second-to-last among the 22 wealthiest countries for foreign assistance as a percentage of our GDP (gross domestic product, a nation's annual income). By that measure, Norway gives five times as much.

But, you say, Americans more than make up for the shortfall with private charitable donations. This is another fallacy. Out of

the nearly \$250 billion given privately by Americans in 2004, only about 2 percent it went to international causes.

But, you say, what about the churches? Don't they consider global poverty a top priority? A recent survey of Protestant denominations found that an average of two cents per dollar goes to foreign missi-

THE GOOD NEWS » So what would it take to grant my wish? The World Bank estimates that an additional \$40 to \$70 billion a year is needed to achieve the MDGs. Sound like a lot? We spend \$20 billion a year on ice cream and \$26 billion on jewelry. We can afford it. If America decided to pay the entire bill for one year, our dream-come-true would cost an additional 50 cents per day per American. *Just 50 cents.*

Now I am a realist, and I know that money doesn't solve every problem. I also know that we will never eliminate all poverty, because some of it is a result of injustice, oppression, and sin. But we must never use these excuses to let ourselves off the hook.

God has commanded us to care for "the least of these" and act out of compassion for our neighbors. If you sponsor a child through World Vision, you are already contributing more than one dollar a day. You are doing your share and then some. If our government, our churches, and all of us as individuals chipped in our 50 cents' worth, the hopes and dreams of millions of the



world's children might come true, along with mine. ■

Rick Warren

Compiled by James Addis

The Writing On The Wall

Thousands of messages of goodwill from citizens around the United States reached AIDS-affected communities in Zambia after being posted on the prayer wall of the World Vision AIDS Experience—a 3,000-square-foot interactive exhibit currently touring the country. The Experience uses a series of audio and visual effects to allow visitors to briefly experience the heartache suffered by an African mother, orphan, or child soldier reeling from the devastation wrought by the disease. ■

See the World Vision AIDS Experience, New York City's Grand Central Station, June 20-24.

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A sponsor's tale

AMONG THE MESSAGES ON THE WALL

"The Lord made you and so you will be forever beautiful."

"Father, forgive all who forget that your children are hurting."

"I can't wait to see you in our eternal destination."

"America cares about you. We know your needs and have heard your cries."

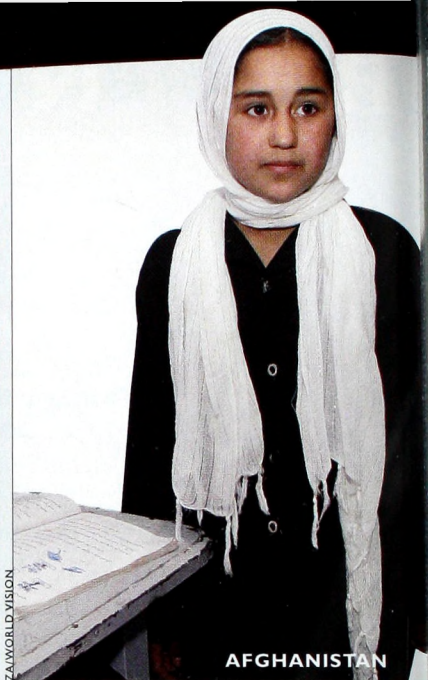
"The Lord has his eye on the sparrow. If he cares for the sparrows he cares for you."

"God has a place for you in his kingdom, where your shackles turn to diamonds."

"You are all kings and queens made in God's image."



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO



AFGHANISTAN

ABOVE: Children in Kolwezi are among those to benefit from water programs. **RIGHT:** Tribes isolated for more than a century get earthquake relief.



SOUTH ASIA

WORLD WATCH

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO | WATER MATTERS »

Funding from the Bill Gates Foundation and the Canadian International Development Agency will allow World Vision to supply clean water and sanitation facilities to more than 120,000 people in eastern DRC, where drinking polluted water is the major cause of death among children. Five years of civil war has destroyed much of the country's social and economic infrastructure.

SOUTH ASIA | TRIBES FOUND » World Vision teamed up with a Pakistani aid agency to deliver assistance to thousands of isolated tribes who have had no contact with westerners for more than 100 years. The Organization for Development Coordination and World Vision used ancient British Army maps to cross mountain passes in the North West Frontier Province to reach families battered by the South Asia quake. The aid organizations distributed first aid kits, tools, and shelter materials. Communications Officer Andy Goss said when the first relief team arrived families were attempting to keep warm by huddling in makeshift shelters in the ruins of their former homes.



TOP: More children, including girls, will get the chance to go to school in Afghanistan. **ABOVE:** Bird flu poses a threat to poor communities in Romania.

FRONT LINES

AFGHANISTAN | COLD CORRECTION » World Vision plans to build new schools this year in communities where children currently gather for classes under trees. During the freezing Afghan winter, studying under such conditions is almost impossible. In addition to school construction, World Vision will move ahead with teacher training, school supplies, and adult literacy programs.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION | BESLAN BOOST » Joyful celebrations marked the reopening of a children's park in Beslan, North Ossetia, uniting a community devastated by the school siege that killed 186 children in 2004. World Vision revamped the weed-overgrown park—installing colorful play equipment, a lighted amphitheatre, and a fountain—as a means of bringing healing to the community. North Ossetia Deputy Prime Minister Dzantiev Sergey attended the event and said that those contributing to the reconstruction had invested in the future of the republic.

BRAZIL | SEX TOURISM » Visitors to major Brazilian tourist destinations will be warned against attempting to initiate sex with children. The World Vision-sponsored campaign will place posters at strategic locations and brochures in the passports of foreign visitors to deter would-be pedophiles. The World Tourism Organization estimates that sex tourism cases in Brazil, Thailand, and the Philippines make up 10 percent of the global total.

ROMANIA | BIRD FLU » The rapid spread of bird flu into regions along the flight path of migratory birds spurred World Vision and local authorities to conduct an education campaign among schoolchildren in Ialomita county, teaching them hygiene skills to avoid contracting the disease. Meanwhile, World Vision is preparing itself for possible major outbreaks in Asia and Africa. Lauren Sable—a member of World Vision's avian flu working group—said the organization's extensive operations and grassroots

contacts in poor communities means it could play an important role in spotting an outbreak and preventing the global spread of the disease.

UNITED STATES | GULF COAST » World Vision acquired a 40,000-square-foot warehouse in Picayune, Miss., to store donated building materials for delivery to hurricane-shattered neighborhoods. The warehouse will complement 10 other World Vision storehouses around the country. The storehouses provide resources to communities in need. ■

EVERY SECOND CHILD »

Number of children in the world:	2.2 billion
Number of children living in developing countries:	1.9 billion
Number of children living in poverty:	1 billion

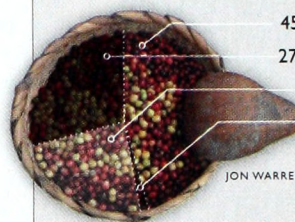
Source: UNICEF's "State of the World's Children 2005"

Thanks to You »

2005: Remarkable disasters; record-breaking giving.

REVENUE

Breakdown (millions)	2003	2004	2005
Private contributions	\$278	\$297	\$410
Government grants	198	285	244
Gifts-in-kind	204	215	238
Other income	6	10	13
Total:	\$686	\$807	\$905

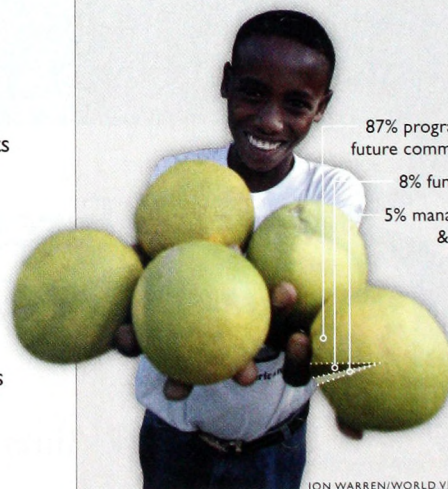


45% cash contributions
27% government grants
26% gifts-in-kind
2% other

JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

EXPENSES

Breakdown (millions)	2003	2004	2005
Programs	\$553	\$709	\$752
Fund raising	63	63	74
Management & general	33	42	44
Total:	\$649	\$814	\$870



87% programs and future commitments
8% fundraising
5% management & general

JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

*The difference between revenue and expenses reflects tsunami donations not yet distributed at year end.

Children helped by U.S. child sponsors:

2003: 717,155
2004: 733,268
2005: 812,000

Children helped by child sponsors worldwide:

2003: 2.2 million
2004: 2.4 million
2005: 2.6 million



Arson Fires Up Church »

Tragedies help congregation refocus.

By Lauren Schmunk

Pastor Mark Ahrens tells people he has the most on-fire church in town. And he does, literally. The New Covenant Fellowship Church in Elgin, Ill., has been the target of arson twice in two years. After the first fire, lit by hoodlums in 2003, church members

Mark Ahrens: "This is helping us get refocused on what is important: it's people."

banded together to put things right—laying tiles and repainting charred walls. But the work was incomplete before disaster struck again.

"We were so far," says Mark, "and then, bam, the second fire."

This time, the arson was a mystery—nobody knows who started it or why, but Mark decided to focus on one certainty: God is in control. "The Lord is showing me that he'll give us whatever it takes to come through."

That is a statement of faith. The church now needs an entirely new sanctuary, but for the congregation of 70, many of whom are out of work, money is tight. Help has come from neighboring churches and World Vision The Storehouse, which has given an array of building materials including windows, doors, and bathroom fixtures.

Mark says the support will allow the church to build a bigger sanctuary that can double as a gym. He wants to use the building to reach out to local people.

"Just like fire burns off the dross from the silver," says Mark, "this is helping us get refocused on what is important: it's people."

—Note: World Vision storehouses are located in Seattle, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, Dallas, Chicago, Appalachia, Detroit, New York, Washington, D.C., Albany, Ga., and Picayune, Miss. They provide material resources to strengthen communities. ■

HEATHER EDISON/GENESIS PHOTOS

FAST FACT » U.S. private donations in response to hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma exceeded \$2.96 billion—a record for a single disaster and recovery effort.

Source: The Center on Philanthropy, Indiana University

'Motor Head' Finds Meaning of Life » Enthusiast makes a U-turn to benefit the poor.

ART TASCONE once took car collecting more seriously than most. The North Carolina doctor spent years driving southern California for the most beautiful automobiles seen on the road. Years ago, he had 12 classic cars parked in a warehouse close to his Raleigh home. Today he has none. That's partly because he donated the last and most prized car in his collection—a 1960 Lincoln Continental, a '61 Cadillac, and a '62 Ford Thunderbird—to World Vision to sell, so the money could be used to help the

world's neediest people.

"I was staring at a warehouse full of these cars, and then it just hit me like a light being switched on. I thought, *What am I doing with these things?* I could be doing something better," he says.

Art, 45, describes the about-turn as a spiritual awakening involving a heightened awareness of the need for humankind to reach out and help each other.

"We car collectors may work for months to get a really nice paint job or new chrome on a new cruiser completed, oblivious that in Africa people are starving to death and being ravaged by disease."

Art now drives a Toyota minivan and ruefully admits he is unlikely to turn many heads when he drives down the street as he did formerly. But he has no regrets about the big sell-off. Indeed, he only wishes he had seen the light 10 years earlier.

"I got the chance to see God work in me—a callous die-hard 'motor-head.' That process stirred something on the inside. I feel blessed to have observed that and be part of it." ■



COURTESY ART TASCONE

Art Tascone says goodbye to the Lincoln.

THE HUNGRY DON'T LEARN »

Hungry children start school later, if at all, drop out sooner, and learn less while they do attend than well-fed students.

Source: Food and Agriculture Organization's "The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2005"

5 Ways to Change Your World »

- 1 **FAMILY SPONSORSHIP**
Break the cycle of poverty and sponsor a family.
- 2 **VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS**
Promote child sponsorship in your church, community, or via the Internet.
- 3 **30 HOUR FAMINE**
Get your school or youth group to join the fight against hunger.

CHANGEagent



Name: Amber Hubers, 19
Home: Demotte, Ind.
Occupation: Student
School: Covenant Christian High School
Program: 30 Hour Famine

Buzz: Amber helped enthruse her school of less than 100 students to raise nearly \$10,000 for the 30 Hour Famine, then won a World Vision trip to Kenya to learn about poverty close-up. The visit prompted her to convince the school's Action and Awareness club to take up developing world issues.

"It's not us who are saving all these kids, we're just doing what we can. We're given the opportunity to raise these dollars, and God can do so much with it."

- 4 **TEAM WORLD VISION**
Use your sports or fitness activities to help children affected by HIV/AIDS.
- 5 **DISCOVER WHAT IT MEANS TO FOLLOW CHRIST**
Simple steps to a personal relationship with Jesus.

More ways to change your world: go to www.worldvision.org/change or call (866) 952-4453.



ANTOINETTE MILES

A Sponsor's Tale »

ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN Antoinette Miles' income was slashed by more than half when she was made redundant in 2002. The job loss inevitably meant hard times ahead for the 41-year-old Boston woman, but the lifelong cerebral palsy sufferer was determined to carry on sponsoring 16 children.

Q: How long have you been a child sponsor?

A: I started sponsoring in January 1993. I started with just one child, then picked up three or four, and it just grew from there.

Q: Why do you sponsor so many?

A: I like to get to know children in other cultures. I like to have kids in my life. Nature has not given them to me, so I let God give them to me [through sponsoring]. If I could, I would pick up more. If I could sponsor about 50 of them, I would grab them quick.

Q: Do you write to them all?

A: I'm writing eight or nine letters every week. I get about 10 letters from them every other week. After Christmas it's a little slow, but around February I get them by the handful.

Q: Are any of the letters extra special?

A: I sponsor a 6-year-old child in Brazil. The girl, she draws me pictures and things like that, and the mother writes. The letters are quite lengthy, and I sort of get to know them and feel like part of the family. Some families I really get close to. I am glued to this one.

Q: Your own income is limited—how do you do it?

A: After I've paid my bills I want to put my money into sponsoring. That's what I want to do the most, and everything else I eliminate. I hope nothing stops me from sponsoring. The enjoyment is more than I can explain to you.

Q: What does the future hold for you?

A: I'm awaiting a new wheelchair. Once I get it I can start getting back into school and back into work. I'm going to retrain and major in business administration. ■

Crosby Scores for Gulf Coast »

Player's shirt fetches \$20,000

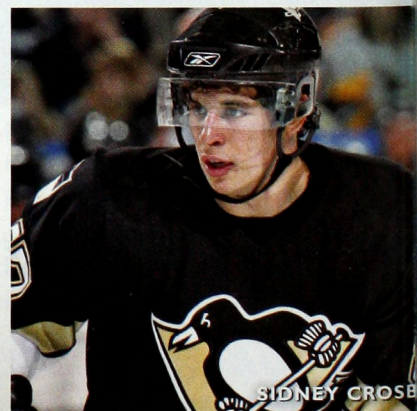
ONE COULD SAY Pittsburgh Penguin rookie Sidney Crosby has made something of a mark on the National Hockey League.

A bevy of Canadian sports reporters tasked with the sole objective of covering him, he's already the subject of two books and he's only 18.

That kind of fame turned to the advantage of Hurricane Katrina survivors when the NHL and its players' association decided to run a jersey auction to raise money for World Vision's relief efforts in the Gulf Coast.

One Crosby fan was prepared to pay more than \$20,000 to secure a jersey worn by the star in his season opener—by far the most for a single shirt.

The total raised by all the jerseys came to \$530,472, which was matched by counting singing legend Garth Brooks' Teammates for Kids Foundation, to bring in a cool million \$1,060,944 to be exact. ■



TELL US
YOUR STORY



Why do you love being a child sponsor?
Write the editors at wvmagazine@worldvision.org.

AYER POINT | COLOMBIA » Pray for children in Colombia
Living up in a country altered by decades of drug-related
ence. Lift up the 4,000 sponsored children participating in World
on's Child Peacebuilding Movement, which recognizes that
children are legitimate and natural social agents to achieve peace.

Legacy of Love »

son's testimony inspires parents to rescue children from the sex trade.

MATT WILLS is remembered by his family as a young man of warmth and compassion, a gifted linguist, and extraordinarily concerned about the plight of children.

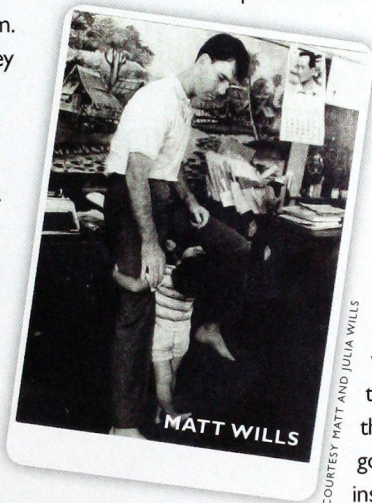
His own material well-being mattered little to him. He gave much of his money away, cared for the homeless, and began sponsoring children in the developing world while still in college. While working as an English teacher in Thailand, the former Colorado Springs man learned firsthand of the plight of children forced to work in slave conditions in factories, on fishing boats, or as part of the burgeoning commercial sex trade. It made Matt angry, and it broke his heart.

These were tough burdens to bear for a man already battling depression and chronic back pain that steadily worsened as he grew older. In May 2003, Matt Wills took his own life. He was 40 years old.

Today his father, Matt Wills Sr., 73, and his mother, Julia, 70, can't speak of their only son without their voices becoming strained with emotion. "There were so many obstacles that came down on him—more than he could handle," says Julia.

Julia found Matt's journal shortly after his death. One thing that struck her was a passage where Matt appealed to God that his life would not be in vain.

It made the Wills more determined to find a way to translate the compassion their son had felt for children into practical action. Then, Matt Wills Sr. came across a brochure documenting World Vision's work among exploited children in Thailand.



After discussions with the organization, the Wills decided to help expand the work by funding the building of a shelter for children and young women who are victims of human trafficking. The center will be built at Ranong—on the border with Myanmar. Traffickers there lure their victims across the border with promises of good jobs and a better life, instead they are condemned to labor in sweatshops or brothels.

The center will provide accommodation for up to 40 girls and young women rescued from traffickers.

The Wills have taken a big interest in how the center will look. "We wanted it to be more like a home than an institution," Matt says.

Funding such a center does not come cheap, but the Wills refuse to take any credit for their giving. "This is about Matt, it is not about the Wills' generosity," says Julia, "It is about Matt opening our eyes to a need that we might never have been truly aware of." ■

What's On »

VISION VILLAGES » Take a trip to Honduras and build a home for a family in need. Departures in June and July. www.worldvision.org/visionvillages

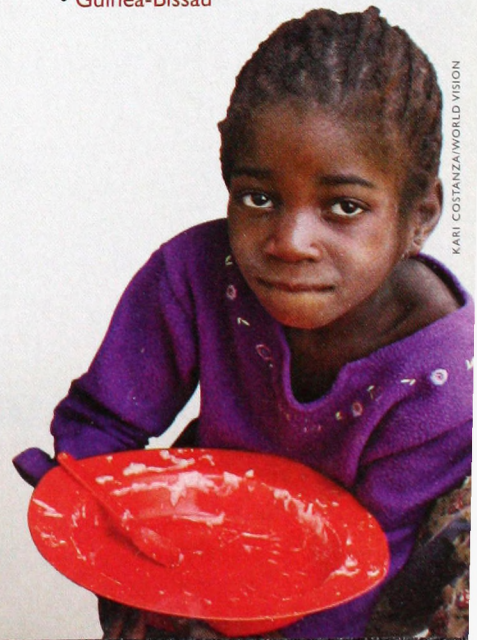
APPALACHIA » Transform a community. Take a summer mission trip to West Virginia. Trips in June and July. www.worldvision.org/appalachiatrips

AIDS » XVI International AIDS Conference, Toronto, featuring the World Vision AIDS Experience, August 13-18, www.aids2006.org. ■

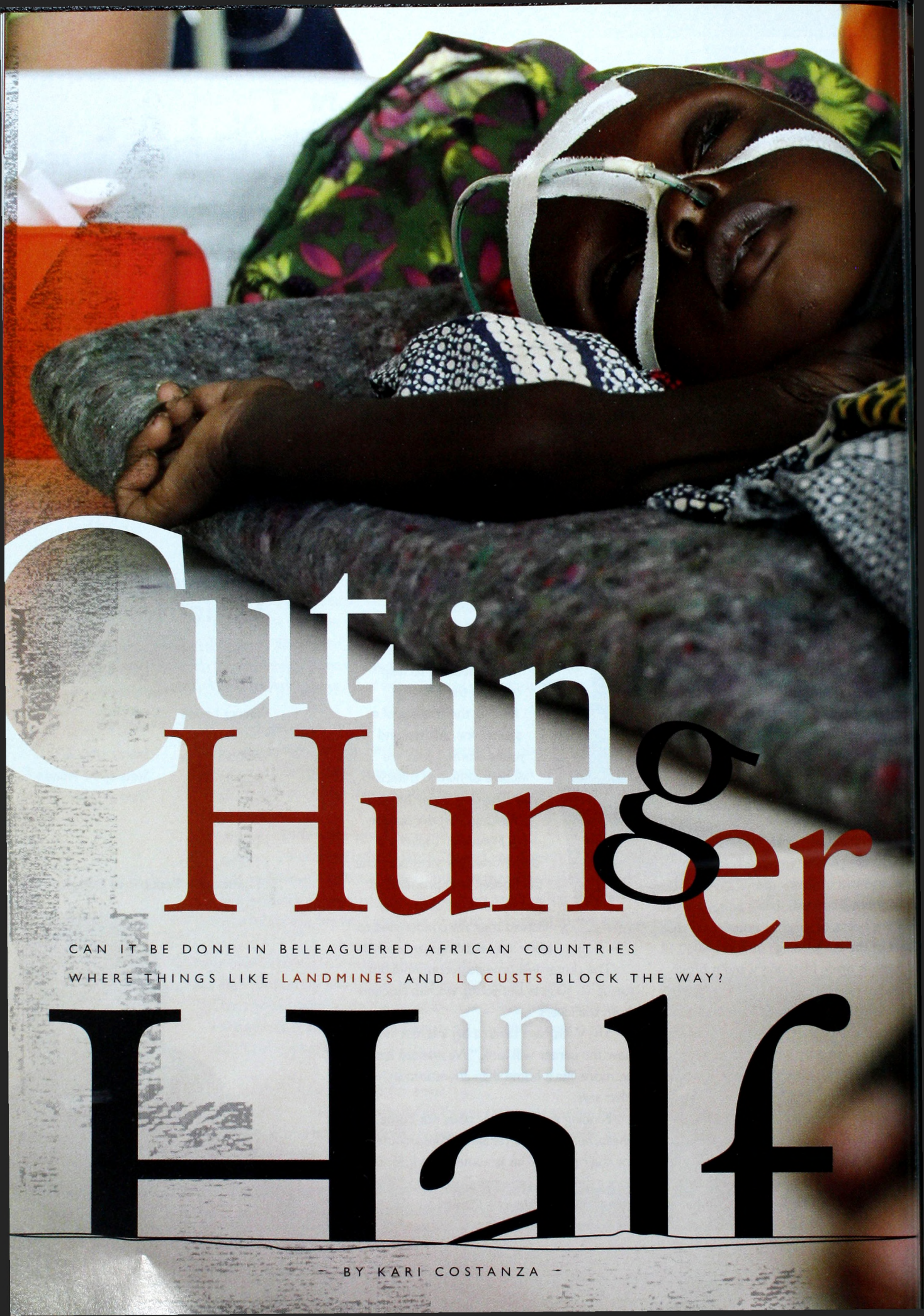
Child-deadly Countries »

Where children are most likely to die before their fifth birthdays:

- Sierra Leone
 - Niger
 - Angola
 - Afghanistan
 - Liberia
 - Somalia
 - Mali
 - Burkina Faso
 - Democratic Republic of Congo
 - Guinea-Bissau
- Source: UNICEF's "State of the World's Children 2005"



KARI COSTANZA/WORLD VISION

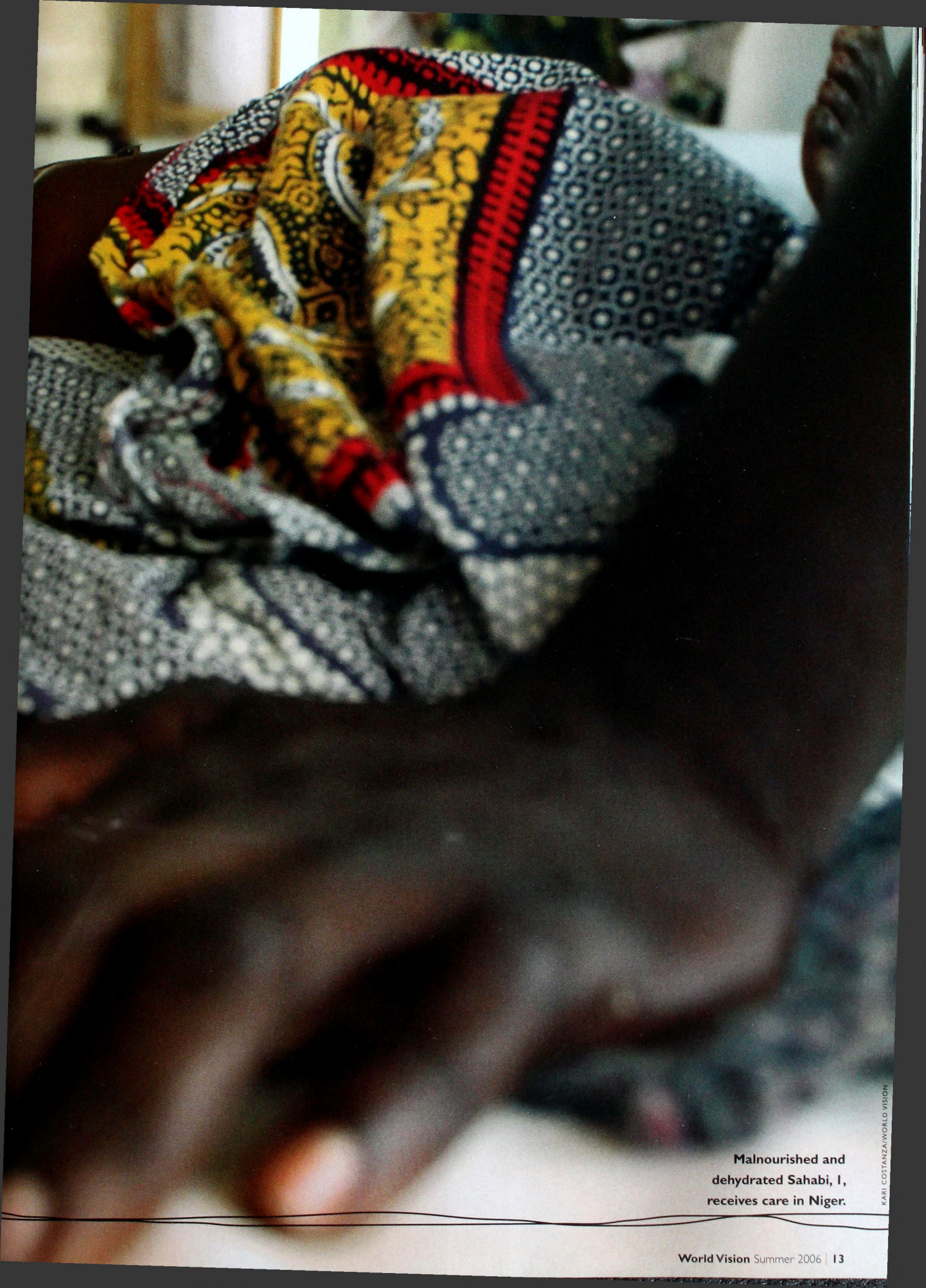


Cutting Hunger

CAN IT BE DONE IN BELEAGUERED AFRICAN COUNTRIES
WHERE THINGS LIKE LANDMINES AND LOCUSTS BLOCK THE WAY?

Half

— BY KARI COSTANZA —



Malnourished and dehydrated Sahabi I, receives care in Niger.

KARL COSTANZA/WORLD VISION

my second grader pushes away her bowl of cereal. “I want peanut-butter toast,” she says. Frustrated, I snatch away the bowl, dumping its brightly colored contents down the drain. “There are children in Africa who are hungry,” I snap, “and I know their names.” They are Luciana in Angola, too weak to sit up straight, and Faouzia in Niger, who cannot walk for lack of food.

My daughter begins to cry. She has picked an unfortunate time for a tantrum. I am jet-lagged from a trip to Africa. My head is crammed with images: children with old faces, their enormous fear-filled eyes encased in miniature, vein-lined skulls; a grandmother valiantly suckling her malnourished grandchild with bone-dry breasts; a baby so dehydrated his eyes fail to produce tears when he cries.

There is enough food in the world to feed everyone. In some places, there is more than enough. There are leftovers in my refrigerator right now that need to be tossed. But in many places around the world, people don't have the food they need. They can't grow it; they can't afford it; or they can't get to it. On any given day, there are more than 850 million people who won't have the minimum nutrition their bodies need.

At the top of the list of United Nations' Millennium Development Goals is fighting poverty and hunger—halving the number of hungry people by 2015 (see related story about the Millennium Development Goals, page 22). It's a worthy goal. Since 1984, World Vision has been fighting hunger with large-scale relief programs that have delivered more than \$1.5 billion in food supplies to 40 million people—work fueled by God's call to serve the poor.

But can millions more be reached? Simply

Hunger hits children the hardest. ABOVE: Faouzia scrapes millet and chaff from the family breakfast bowl in Niger. RIGHT: She rests in her mother's comforting embrace. BELOW: Luciana in Angola doesn't have the energy to make eye contact with her doctor. The two girls' stories will have very different endings.



providing more food is not the solution. True food and other aid can help sustain and improve life, but they can't fix the causes of poverty and hunger in developing countries that include poor agricultural policies, corruption, unfair trade rules, and debt. Until these countries are able to establish functioning markets, improve domestic policies, and participate in the world economy, World Vision and others must continue to feed and fight for people who cannot feed and fight for themselves.

Some places in the world, child malnutrition is on the decline—in China and in regions such as southeast Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean. But in sub-Saharan Africa, due primarily to population growth, the number of malnourished children is actually increasing.

Many factors conspire to produce a hungry child, but often hunger is either nature-made or human-made. Cases in point: Locusts in Niger and landmines in Angola yield a mind-crushing and body-numbing hunger that most of us will thankfully never know.

— HUMAN-MADE HUNGER —

“In Angola, kids dream of food—and when they wake up hungry, they realize it was only a dream,” says Jonathan White, operations director of World Vision Angola, a southern African country where one of two children is severely malnourished. In the central highlands, where World Vision works, 30 to 52 percent of the children under 5 suffer from growth stunting.

Luciana was one of those children. I met her at Bailundo Central Hospital. Luciana will never

—continued on page 17







KAREN HOMER/WORLD VISION





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Hunger

Continued from page 14 »

normal. "She will be small," her doctor told her. "She will never be like the other children."

- HUNGRY BY NATURE -

Almost half of the world's hungry poor live in small farming communities. An

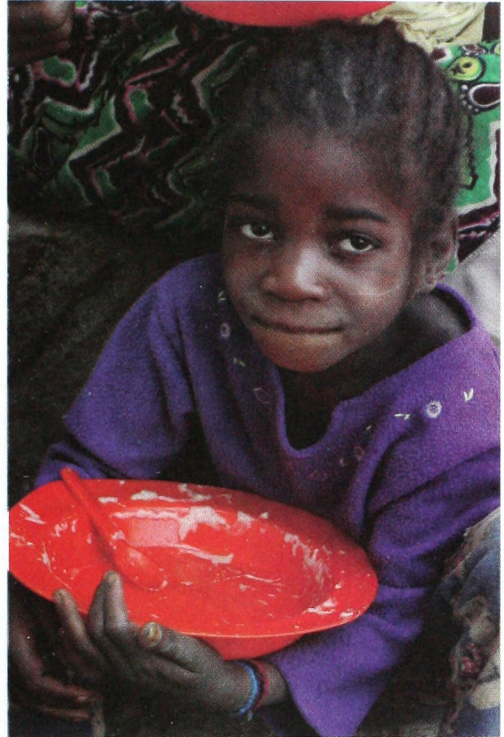
environmental hiccup, fatal results. Last year in Niger, 2.5 million people died due to hunger-related causes. A poor harvest drove poor farmers to despair: an invasion of locusts. They arrived like a plague. Sita, 33. It happened on the roof of her hut in western Niger. "We couldn't see the locusts." Frightened, she fled as the swarm descended

typical of what happens when a locust swarm destroys crops: Food becomes scarce. Families like Zeinabou's husband went out to find food. But with everyone else starving, food was scarce.

ough milk in my breasts," said Zeinabou. Her 2-year-old son died. A prescription from the doctor and it cost \$1—what a fortune in a day. "Since then, I take her back to the

th Zeinabou as she preferred Faouzia, spindle-thin and cough. One eye was swollen and the inside of her mouth was sores. Weak from birth, Zeinabou bent over a bowl until they were black. She spooned the mixture down her throat. Faouzia screamed, extending her tongue only served to choke on the gums.

family survived on leaves of cowpeas and millet, what is left to feed cows and pigs. Zeinabou's husband, eats first, as is the case in every village. If there is food left, Zeinabou feeds her children. Zakari is tall, thin, and eats a few bites of the morning



KARI COSTANZA/WORLD VISION

Widespread hunger has reached crisis proportions for more than 30 million people across Africa. An additional 125 million are undernourished. Contributing factors—both natural and human-made—include drought, erratic rainfall, soil depletion, AIDS, conflict, pests, and poor governance.

World Vision, present in all of the worst-affected countries, is already responding to the crisis. You can help provide food for children and helping families in dire need.



KARI COSTANZA/WORLD VISION



JOHN SHADID/WORLD VISION

OPPOSITE PAGE (clockwise from bottom left): Locusts wreak havoc in West Africa. A mother in Niger feeds her son after his twin perished. This hungry Mauritanian boy collected up stray beans during a food distribution. **ABOVE:** Landmines and locusts represent human-made and natural causes of food crises.



KAREN HOMER/WORLD VISION

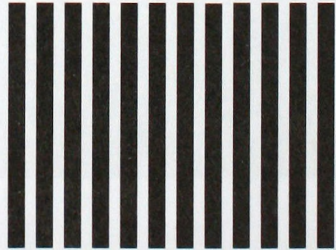


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Continued from page 14 »

normal. "She will be small," her doctor told her. "She will never be like the other children." Fernando Somongula, 28, knows what hunger is like. He is the only doctor serving a population of 300,000.

In the therapeutic feeding ward where Luciana spent her days was eerily quiet. Many of the children were too malnourished to cry. Luciana pushed against her mother weakly. Her eyes were at 6, she was the size of a 3-year-old.

Her mother, Rosalina Ngueve, 35, has already lost four children—one to malaria, the other three to civil conflict. Now the family grapples with her life-threatening situation. "Sometimes she's gone for three days without anything to eat," Rosalina says.

Her family embodies the vicious cycle of poverty of many war-torn countries. Human-made crises have doubled since 1992. In Angola, conflict and poor governance played out in a near struggle that left its once-splendid farmland red and ready to detonate. "Some estimates show one landmine for every child in Angola," Jonathan says.

The conflict cost Angola 1.5 million lives—perhaps 1 million of those were children—and displaced 4 million more. Displacement wreaks havoc on society. Schools close, harvests are disrupted, and stocks run dry, and markets collapse.

"People are willing to risk the landmines in order to farm," says Dr. Chris Asanzi, an agronomist with World Vision Angola. But more often, the landmines act as a barrier in the way conflict itself—by keeping people from farming and taking their crops to market.

"It's crazy," says Jonathan. "Angola used to export food. Now the country imports about 50 percent of its food. That doesn't have to be. Angola is one of the worst places for a child to grow up." And one in four Angolan children don't. They die before they reach the age of 5, of preventable diseases such as diarrhea and malaria—illnesses that prey upon weak bodies. Children who are even moderately malnourished are four times as likely to die from infectious diseases as a well-nourished child. When a country is in conflict, its smallest, weakest citizens suffer the greatest harm.

- HUNGRY BY NATURE -

Almost half of the world's hungry poor live in small farming communities. An environmental hiccup, such as drought, can have fatal results. Last year in the West African country of Niger, 2.5 million people faced starvation or death due to hunger-related diseases when drought and a poor harvest drove food prices beyond what poor farmers could pay. Nature added a cruel touch: an invasion of locusts.

"They arrived in the evening. They arrived like a shadow," says Zeinabou Sita, 33. It happened on a Friday as she sat in front of her hut in western Niger. "I heard people shouting. We couldn't see the leaves because of the locusts." Frightened, the family gathered in the hut as the swarm descended on their crops.

What happened next is typical of what happens in any country when nature destroys crops: Food prices increase, and poor families like Zeinabou's can't afford to eat. "My husband went out to find money for food," says Zeinabou. But with everyone searching for work, jobs were scarce.

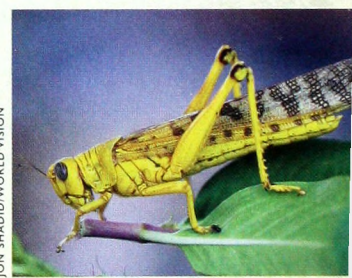
"I couldn't produce enough milk in my breasts to feed Faouzia," says Zeinabou. Her 2-year-old daughter's health declined. A prescription from the health center didn't help, and it cost \$1—what a typical Nigerien family lives on for a day. "Since then, I haven't had money to take her back to the clinic," says Zeinabou.

I spent the morning with Zeinabou as she prepared traditional medicine for Faouzia, spindle-thin and sick with a deep, wet cough. One eye was swollen shut with infection and the inside of her mouth was covered with sores. Weak from birth, Faouzia has never walked. Zeinabou bent over a small fire, cooking herbs until they were black. She mixed them with oil and spooned the mixture down the little girl's throat. Faouzia screamed, extending her stick-thin legs. The concoction only served to blacken Faouzia's teeth and gums.

After the locusts, the family survived on leaves they picked from nearby bushes and millet, what is grown in the United States to feed cows and pigs. Zakari, 45, Zeinabou's husband, eats first, as is the custom in Niger. If there is food left, Zeinabou shares it with her three children. Zakari is tall, thin, and kind. He took but a few bites of the morning



KARI COSTANZA/WORLD VISION



JON SHADID/WORLD VISION

OPPOSITE PAGE
(clockwise from bottom left): **Locusts wreak havoc in West Africa. A mother in Niger feeds her son after his twin perished. This hungry Mauritanian boy collected up stray beans during a food distribution. ABOVE: Landmines and locusts represent human-made and natural causes of food crises.**

Hunger

meal and gave the rest to his family. They squatted around the bowl and ate fingers full of millet quickly and quietly. Then breakfast was over.

Zeinabou and her family live in one of the world's most challenging environments. Niger is land-locked, with no navigable river. The country loses farmland every year to the encroaching Sahara. Yet the population continues to increase and is expected to double in less than 20 years. Niger has the highest mortality rate in the world, the highest illiteracy rate in the world, and the highest blindness rate in the world due to poor hygiene, diet, and limited access to clean water. In the 2005 Human Development Index, which assesses life expectancy, literacy, income, and fertility in 177 countries, Niger comes in dead last.

— IS BEATING HUNGER HOPELESS? —

Landmines and locusts seem insurmountable. And there is AIDS, a disease wiping out the most productive members of the population—farmers, nurses, teachers—plus a generation of parents who have left behind 15 million orphans. Twenty percent of these children work, trying to feed surviving siblings and grandparents, but the food consumption in AIDS-ravaged homes dwindles by almost half.

Is the Millennium Development Goal of halving hunger by 2015 nothing but a pipe dream?

Not for George Mario. I met him in Angola's central highlands, in a field bursting with green—cabbage, beans, maize, carrots, and Irish potatoes. “[In 1992] planes flew right over this farmland and dropped bombs,” George told me, gesturing toward

the beautiful blue sky. “All my brothers and sisters died. Five brothers and four sisters.”

George, now 30, was born and raised here, spent more than a decade running from soldiers and then reluctantly fighting as a soldier. His dreams of becoming a teacher or nurse were shattered.

In 2000, the central highlands had become a very different place. “There were no plants on the ground,” George says. “We had no place to get seeds.” In 2002, a peace accord was signed in Angola. “World Vision came, and it was fantastic for farmers,” says George. “They started distributing hoes, seeds, machetes, and other important things for our work.”

Today George heads a farmers' association of one of 240 in the region. These farmers grow together and even test experimental crops. They learn effective marketing techniques to bring good prices. World Vision bolsters its agricultural work with programs that address nutrition and education, health care, and economic development. Other organizations such as Halo Trust send workers out daily, detonating landmines and clearing fields for farming.

George is putting his life back together. He has nine children—each named for a brother or sister he lost in the war. “I need one more boy,” he says, beaming. “That boy will be named for me. The girl will have my family back.”

There are those who think halving hunger by 2015 in Angola is a possibility. “I believe, with a little bit of luck and a lot of good intentions among the partners and the government, there's no reason why that shouldn't happen,” says Richard Corsi, a representative to the World Food Programme in Angola.

It may be far more difficult in Niger, says World Vision's Mark Wentling, who has worked with farmers in Africa for decades. “Niger needs a lot of things—water, better sanitation, food, and improved farming techniques.”

World Vision has worked in Niger since 1990 and operates 13 sponsorship projects where 26,000 children receive the benefits of child sponsorship: clean water, health care, food security, and most importantly, education.

Education fights poverty and hunger. An ec

BELOW: George Mario, with two of his sons, is proof that families in a conflict-torn country like Angola can turn things around. RIGHT: It may be more difficult in Niger, where a variety of factors conspire against mothers trying to care for their children.



KARI COSTANZA/WORLD VISION (2)





Child sponsorship in Niger fights poverty and hunger through access to education, health care, and clean water. The world's 400 million children who live without clean water and sanitation are at greater risk of disease and malnutrition.

cated farmer is more productive than one with no schooling. World Vision nutritionists teach mothers to prepare healthy foods and help families break down cultural eating patterns that often deny the smallest children the calories they need to grow.

Education may benefit Niger's girls the most. "It is very important for the young girls to be educated," says Abakari Issa, 34, the schoolmaster. "If they are educated, they can lead. They will have more opportunities. They won't have to have as many children. And their husbands will respect them more because they will be more informed." The best student in Abakari's school this year is a girl.

In Niger, sponsorship is a roadmap to hope. "Look at the health center," says Zakari Yaou, 35, who runs this facility in a World Vision sponsorship project. "Look at the school. Look at the cereal bank." He gestures to the storeroom where surplus food is kept. "Look at the well. Look at the grinding machine. It's all because of sponsorship. The impact is vast."

– **WORLD VISION'S PLACE AT THE TABLE** –
World Vision finds itself in a unique position to simultaneously feed hungry people while actively

engaging policy-makers to keep the hungry the center of their decisions. It's a powerful, two-pronged approach that contributes to achieving Millennium Development Goals.

Admittedly, these goals are ambitious. They should be. Setting the bar too low is a death sentence for the millions of people who didn't live today, many of them children—like the girls I met in Niger and Angola.

Faouzia is doing better. The local World Vision staff were so concerned about her condition that they rushed her to the closest feeding center the day of my visit and took care of all the expenses. In just a month, Faouzia gained nearly four pounds. She can now stand for the first time in her life.

Luciana's story has a heartbreaking end. Just a week after I visited her in the therapeutic feeding center, the little girl who was too weak to sit up finally gave up, forever closing her beautiful brown eyes to a life of hunger and disease. She had arrived at the therapeutic feeding center too late.

For me, Luciana will always represent the need to fight hunger—a goal that promises millions of children the opportunity to become the happy, healthy children God intended them to be. ■

Continent in Crisis

MORE than 30 million people across Africa are facing serious food shortages, threatening a repeat of the dire famines of the 1980s. The current hunger hotspot is the greater Horn of Africa—Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya, Tanzania, and Burundi—where consecutive years of poor rainfall have left more than 14 million people in need of emergency food. Meanwhile, other African countries such as Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Uganda continue to grapple with food crises largely brought on by conflict.

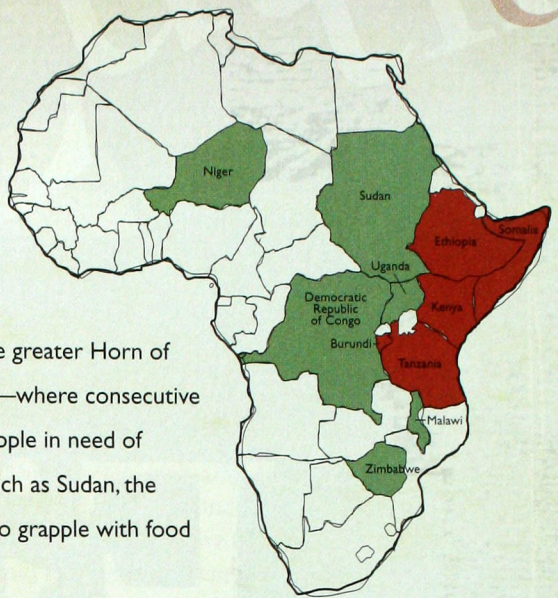
World Vision is working in the most vulnerable countries, striving to avert widespread starvation.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

HELP provide food for hungry children and families in Africa by using the envelope between pages 16 and 17.

SPONSOR a child in the affected countries (Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Niger, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Malawi, and Zimbabwe).

PRAY for children and families in need and for World Vision's efforts to avert full-scale famine.



DROUGHT & FOOD SHORTAGES
CONTINUING FOOD CRISIS



To learn more or stay updated on World Vision's response, go to www.worldvision.org.

FOOD AID » DOES IT WORK?

DEBATE IS RAGING among nongovernmental organizations, governments, and academics about the relative merits of sending food aid from abroad (in-kind food) versus buying surpluses locally.

World Vision believes that the unique circumstances of each crisis should determine the best way to meet people's needs. In some situations, such as the worsening drought in the Horn of Africa, in-kind food is essential for saving lives. Eliminating it completely could jeopardize the 850 million people who live in chronically food-deficit countries.

Some critics charge that U.S. food aid is a way to dispose of surplus food. This is generally not true, as Title II food aid (the main part of the U.S. government's food aid) is purchased on the open, competitive market. The amount of aid provided is not related to agricultural production levels in the United States but rather the dollar amount given by the U.S. Congress.

Over the years, World Vision has employed a variety of food aid options—sending in-kind food; providing cash for local food purchase; providing cash directly to beneficiaries for food; and selling donated food to raise money for development programs—and advocates tailoring aid to a region's specific needs. World Vision currently provides food aid in 34 countries.

While emergency food aid is essential in the short term, the long-term, lasting solution is to work with people to enable them to produce their own food and enjoy a degree of food security. ■

—For more information on food aid and World Vision's policy, go to www.seekjustice.org.



JOHN KISHIRI/WORLD VISION



CHRISTINE HAHN/WORLD VISION

GETTING SERIOUS IN THE Fight AGAINST POVERTY

THE EIGHT MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS RALLY THE WORLD TO **COMBAT PROBLEMS** IT CAN NO LONGER IGNORE.

IN 2000, world leaders at the United Nations Millennium Summit set eight goals for combating major problems such as hunger, disease, illiteracy, and gender discrimination—with specific targets to be met by 2015. More than 180 nations, including the United States, agreed to pursue the goals.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)—dubbed “the Beatitudes for a globalized world” by superstar activist Bono—are achievable, with global participation. It isn’t a one-way proposition of rich helping poor; not only have wealthy countries and institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund signed on, but developing countries have pledged to improve their policies,

governance, and accountability.

“For the first time in history, we have the knowledge, resources, information, and technology to end extreme poverty,” said the Rev. Jim Wallis, director of Sojourners, at a Christian leaders’ gathering preceding last year’s G-8 Summit. “And there is a moral, spiritual, and political convergence on this issue.”

World Vision, among many international organizations, has long been fighting the problems addressed by the MDGs, thanks to child sponsors and supporters. In the following pages, discover how achieving such overwhelming goals is possible—one child, one family at a time.

— BY —

JANE SUTTON-REDNER



JOHN SCHENK/WORLD VISION

GOAL # 1

ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER

TARGET | Halve the proportion of people whose income is less than \$1 a day, and reduce by half the proportion of people living in hunger.

FAST FACT | In households suffering from extreme poverty, life expectancy is often around half that of high-income countries—50 years instead of 80. (United Nations' Millennium Project)

ONE FAMILY'S STORY | *How do you crawl out of the poverty pit? A "hand up" helps.* » "We were poor. My husband was unemployed. We wanted to work, but we had nothing to do," explains Alkela Berdufi, 28, of her family's plight as subsistence farmers in deeply poor rural Albania.

Alkela and her husband, Bashkim, didn't have proper school clothes for their daughter, Erisa, and son, Elton. When the children got sick, they couldn't afford to take them to the hospital. "We'd never been able to improve much," lamented Alkela. But in 2002, they caught a break. World Vision's Elbasan project selected 20 of the village's poorest families, including the Berdufis, for revolving loans and business training. They received a \$300 grant followed by a \$150 loan, to be repaid over 18 months. The repayments later funded a water project that benefited 65 local families.

Alkela and Bashkim's plan was to raise and sell pigs. With the grant, they built a pig shed and bought feed, a sow, and a boar. The loan financed a piglet. Now they have three sows, which collectively produce litters of 10 to 12 piglets twice a year. They have sold 40 piglets.

"Without the loan," Alkela says, "we would have lost a lot of money that now we have in hand and can invest in our children."

—with reporting by John Schenk

GOAL # 2

ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION

TARGET | Ensure that children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will complete a full course of primary schooling.

FAST FACT | Worldwide, 114 million children do not get even a basic education. (United Nations' Millennium Project)

ONE FAMILY'S STORY | *Children are kept from school for the strangest reasons. The trick is removing the obstacles.* » José Vidal Quintana's three school-age children in Tacuba, El Salvador, have never spent a day in class. They can't enroll—not without birth certificates.

This isn't such an anomaly in El Salvador, where nearly 10 percent of the population has no legal identity. Poor families from rural areas often can't afford the travel costs and other expenses involved in registering births in cities. José and his wife, Filomena, don't even have documentation for themselves. "I lost my old identity document during the 2001 earthquake," José explains.

But his six children are no longer destined for uneducated lives. In 2004, World Vision started the Birth Registration Project in Tacuba and surrounding areas. In coordination with local civic offices and international organizations, the project aims to secure children's rights to their names, nationality, and identities.

World Vision's Luis Fernández spent the whole day with José and his family, transporting them to the city to collect documents for the parents and birth certificates for the two youngest children, easily attainable for those under age 5. They also met with a lawyer, paid by World Vision, to certify the births of the older children, a process that typically takes several months.

At day's end, Filomena told Luis, "I thank God, because through your help, we have obtained our identity documents. Soon the older children will have their certificates, and we will be able to enroll them in school."

—with reporting by Baltazar Ventura



BALTAZAR VENTURA/WORLD VISION



MICHAEL ARUNGA/WORLD VISION

GOAL # 3

PROMOTE GENDER EQUITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN

TARGET | Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education.

FAST FACT | More than 40 percent of women in Africa do not have access to basic education. (United Nations' Millennium Project)

ONE FAMILY'S STORY | *A woman tries changing her culture from within.* » Alice Kitapo Laasoi does a lot of things traditional Maasai women don't do. She owns a house and cattle. A mother of four, she lives apart from her husband. And at 32, she graduated from primary school.

Alice counts among her role models the World Vision staff who work in her Kenyan community and her cousin, Susan Laasoi, who is employed by World Vision in Somalia. Now determined to become a human rights lawyer, Alice may join such influential women.

But her story began like that of most Maasai girls. "My father pulled me out of primary school and married me off at the ripe age of 16 to a 40-year-old, abusive man," she says. Years of beatings ensued, and after a severe flogging that almost cost her an eye, she left her husband.

To support herself, she crafted Maasai ornaments. In time, she joined a cultural group, which provided the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to present Maasai culture on an American tour. Frustrated by having to speak through translators, Alice returned from the trip anxious for education.

In 2004, she enrolled in the same primary school as her two sons. It wasn't easy. "I used to come to school in home clothes, which segregated me from my classmates. Other pupils feared me because they knew I was a parent. This year, I put my shame aside and bought a uniform." At graduation, she blended in with the other students in their green frocks.

Alice plans to continue her schooling, and World Vision has offered support. Her sights are set on a future in which she will defend Maasai women and girls—and perhaps even change her culture in the process.

—with reporting by Michael Arunga

GOAL # 4

REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY

TARGET | Reduce by two-thirds the under-5 mortality rate

FAST FACT | One in seven children worldwide has no access to health services. (UNICEF's "State of the World's Children 2005")

ONE FAMILY'S STORY | *Salvage a young child's health, and you give him the world.* » Looking at Altangerel it's hard to believe that this happy, healthy 7-year-old boy from Mongolia was once a sickly and malnourished toddler.

The turnaround came in 2002, when he became sponsored through World Vision. "Before Altangerel was involved in child sponsorship program, he did not sleep well, his body was very weak, he often cried, and he didn't want to play with other children," recalls Demberel, Altangerel's father, who struggled to raise the boy alone.

Altangerel took part in World Vision's Summer Health Strengthening program, designed to help malnourished and anemic children. They are given good food and nutrition supplements that help them thrive. Meanwhile, their parents get training in child nutrition and prevention of common childhood diseases.

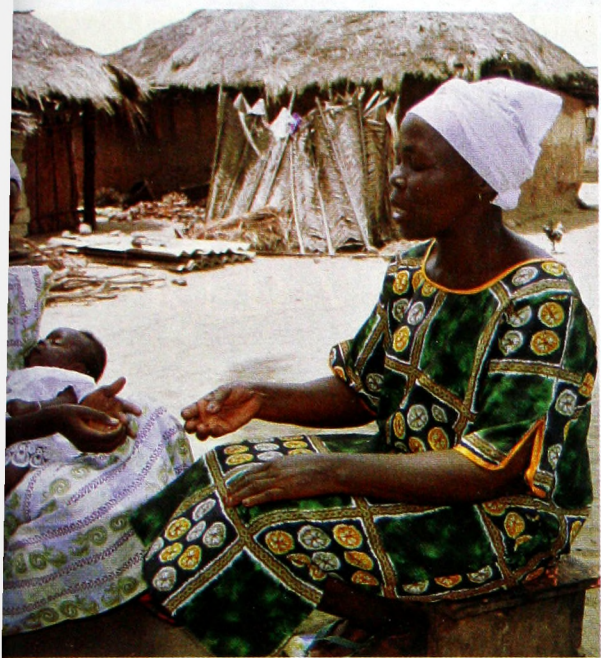
At the camp, Altangerel gained weight and strength. Ever since, he has not so much as suffered a flu during the harsh Mongolian winters. The boy beams as he talks about his life now. "During my school holidays, I like to herd my father's goats," he says. "When I grow up, I would like to be a carpenter."

Demberel sees a big difference in Altangerel. "Now I can tell that my son has a very bright future ahead of him," he says. "His face is aglow with excitement."

—with reporting by Justin Douglass and Joanna Harris



JUSTIN DOUGLASS/WORLD VISION



J. EVANS OWUSU/WORLD VISION

GOAL # 6

COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA, AND OTHER DISEASES

TARGET | Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV.

FAST FACT | Every day, AIDS kills 6,000 people and another 8,200 are infected with the deadly virus. (United Nations' Millennium Project)

ONE FAMILY'S STORY | *Halting HIV/AIDS is possible if the young take up the fight.* » The boys and girls are young, energetic, and they have a mission: to help create an AIDS-free society.

The children, ages 5 to 15, have been trained by World Vision in Kituntu, Uganda, to educate their peers and community members about the causes, effects, and prevention of HIV/AIDS. They tour local schools, offering advice about how children can protect themselves from the pandemic.

"Many children we talked to did not even know what AIDS is or how someone can get it," says Ivan Musoke, 10. "This is because both parents and teachers have not been open with the children. It is good if more people are educated about AIDS—then maybe less people will have to die from the disease."

Eric Matovu, 11, says that their message of sexual abstinence is getting through to teens. "A good number are opting to abstain and want to join the peer educators."

"The children are doing a wonderful job," says Peter Ayune, community development facilitator. "We intend to train more of them so that the entire subcounty benefits."

—with reporting by Margaret Alerotek

MOTHER'S STORY | *Mothers' and babies' lives saved on skilled hands during deliveries.* »

It was 8 p.m. when Araba went into labor in Mfantseman district, Ghana. Instead of arranging transport for the 19-mile trip to the hospital, Araba's family called on Madam Lukenia Andoh, a traditional birth attendant (TBA) who lived less than a mile away.

Madam Andoh picked up her kit and hurried to Araba's home. "An hour later, she delivered safely," the older woman says. "We were all overjoyed."

Madam Andoh was among 30 TBAs trained by World Vision's Mfantseman project. She learned to use disinfectants, hand-washing and gloves for examinations. Now she can also advise mothers on post-natal care such as breastfeeding, regular checkups, and diet.

The training makes sense given that many local mothers opt for TBA care over hospital deliveries. Araba explains, "They stay with us in the community, so approaching them is easier. They also charge less. It would have cost me three times as much if I'd gone to the clinic." She says her first child, 3-year-old Mary, was delivered at the hospital, "but with Madam Andoh around, I felt no need to go there this time."

Since her training, Madam Andoh handles more deliveries. She has since taken charge of eight, with Araba's son as my assistant," she says. "All babies are doing well."

—with reporting by J. Evans Owusu

GOAL # 5

IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH

TARGET | Reduce by three-quarters the maternal mortality rate.

FAST FACT | Every minute, a woman somewhere dies in pregnancy or childbirth. (United Nations' Millennium Project)



MARGARET ALEROTEK/WORLD VISION



LAY HTOO/WORLD VISION

GOAL # 7

ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

TARGET | Halve the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water.

FAST FACT | Five million people, mostly children, die from waterborne diseases each year. (United Nations' Millennium Project)

ONE WOMAN'S STORY | *To find out how precious water is, talk to someone who doesn't have it.*

» At 84, Nar Wa has spent way too many years hefting water from the base of the 4,000-foot hill in Phar Yan, Myanmar, to the top where she lives. If she didn't make the trek, she couldn't cook rice or plant mustard seeds in her yard. Her children and grandchildren spent most of their days carrying water, so their education suffered.

Many times Nar Wa considered moving to the foot of the hill where there was water. But she couldn't leave the place of her forefathers. It was the same with everybody in the village.

One day, World Vision staff came to Phar Yan and asked what would help the village improve. "Water," everybody replied at once, as if they had discussed the matter beforehand.

World Vision staff discovered a water source in the mountain nearby. To reach Phar Yan, 20 miles of pipe would be built up and down hills and through streams and paddy fields. Nar Wa couldn't take part in the pipe-laying, but she cooked for villagers who did.

As the project neared completion, there was a need to signal the controllers with a white flag when the water arrived. Nar Wa, who lives at the highest spot in the village, jumped at the chance to do the job.

A water reservoir now stands in front of her house. Tears flow when she realizes that water has come to her village after hundreds of years.

—with reporting by Joy Hla Gyaw

GOAL # 8
DEVELOP A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

TARGET | Develop an open, non-discriminatory trading and financial system.

FAST FACT | Unfair trade rules rob poor countries of \$700 billion every year. (United Nations)

THE BEEKEEPER'S STORY | *Fair prices and global marketplace are dreams come true to rural farmers.*

» Beekeepers in Mexico work hard at producing their honey, but now that they have the chance to operate on a world stage...

Sixty apiculturists from World Vision's Montaña Amu project have received training that has improved their beekeeping and honey-extracting techniques. As a result, Mayan Honey, a Mexican organization, has opened the European market to them. "They have sold 10 tons of honey to Belgium through fair trade already," says René Moreno, formerly of World Vision Mexico's credit organization.

Meanwhile, a large restaurant chain in Mexico, Tostitos Restaurant, signed an agreement to purchase products directly from rural farmers, including the apiculturists. Through this deal, the beekeepers are selling 1,100 pounds of honey a month to the restaurants.

"The best part of this is that Tok's is paying a really good price for the honey—\$4 per kilogram (\$8.80 per pound), while the market pays no more than \$2.20," says René.

Even as their quality of life improves, the apiculturists work closely with World Vision's credit organization Mayan Honey to reach their next goal: exporting honey to international markets by themselves.

—with reporting by David Muñoz Amador



DAVID MUÑOZ AMBIZ/WORLD VISION



WORLD VISION'S INTERVENTIONS

1 » ERADICATE POVERTY AND HUNGER

Food aid; small loans and micro-enterprise development; agricultural assistance and training; feeding centers; nutrition assistance

2 » ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION

Child sponsorship; programs for disabled and disadvantaged children; provision of school supplies; school construction; teacher training

3 » PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY

Women's education and literacy classes; community education; small loans and micro-enterprise development; skills training; combating child sex tourism; recovery centers for exploited women and children; advocacy

4 » REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY

Child sponsorship; preventative health care; immunizations; early childhood care; provision of medicine and health centers

5 » REDUCE MATERNAL MORTALITY

Health care, especially pre- and post-natal care; training for traditional birth attendants and midwives

6 » COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA, AND OTHER DISEASES

Malaria prevention; HIV/AIDS prevention for children aged 5 to 15; prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV; care for the sick; advocacy

7 » ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Provision of wells, water storage, water piping systems, and irrigation; protection of natural springs; latrine construction; water purification

8 » DEVELOP A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

Advocacy for debt relief and increased aid to Africa; fair trade programs; micro-enterprise development

5 THINGS YOU CAN DO

LEARN MORE
about the Millennium
Development Goals.
Visit www.un.org/millenniumgoals.

SPONSOR A CHILD
Providing children access to education gives them an opportunity to break the cycle of poverty. Use the envelope between pages 16 and 17 to sign up for sponsorship.

GET YOUR CHURCH
youth group involved in the 30 Hour Famine, a WorldVision program for youth to fight hunger by going without food for 30 hours and raising awareness and funds for the poor.

ADD YOUR VOICE
to those of millions of Americans lobbying leaders to vigorously pursue the MDGs. Join the ONE Campaign, an effort to make poverty history, at www.worldvision.org/one.

PRAY FOR THOSE
most vulnerable to poverty—children. Also pray for world leaders, that they will keep their promises and work to achieve the MDGs.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



LEFT: Nurse Rita Rollakanti has adjusted to a new culture and climate in the United States. **RIGHT:** Bill Odonnell cherishes photos of Rita when she was a young girl in India.

abroad by sending me to a mission school, Narsapur School in Andhra Pradesh. It was a much better school than the one in our town.

At Narsapur I became a World Vision sponsored child, starting in the third grade. When letters came from my sponsors, especially Ellen Odonnell, I would feel happy the whole day. I used to say to myself, *Will I ever get to meet them?* I prayed to God to give me that opportunity someday.

In school, I liked biology, but I didn't have an idea about what I would become. My teachers and friends helped me decide to go to nursing college in Gujarat state after graduating from Narsapur.

I wanted to stay in touch with my sponsors, whom I call Uncle and Aunt. I could never forget anyone who helped me so much. I just wanted to know them more.

After nursing school, I worked in Gujarat for three years. Then I got a job in a hospital in Delhi. By then, one of my brothers had married someone with parents in the United States. He moved there, and over time he brought over my mother, sister, and me.

I arrived in Maryland in winter 2001. After a month, I couldn't bear the cold. I told my family I wanted to go back to India. But I didn't want to leave before meeting my sponsors. Later, the weather changed, and I was OK. I started studying for my nursing certification at night while working all day at a child-care center.

Finally in August 2005 I went to see Uncle and Aunt with my sister. They were

No Longer Long Distance »

Moving to the United States brought a young woman closer to the former sponsors she's known for more than 30 years. Interviews by Jane Sutton-Redner

RITA ROLLAKANTI
Takoma Park, Maryland

I was born in Nandigama, India, the fourth of five children in a Christian home. My father was retired from the military, and my mother worked as a schoolteacher. They didn't earn much income, and they wanted us all to go to school, so it was very hard for them.

Somebody told my parents that there was a way to get help from

MICHAEL S. WILLIAMSON/GENESIS PHOTOS

for us at the Eureka [Calif.] airport. I was so happy to see them—I felt that I had answered my prayers. They took me all the way to Eureka, to see the beautiful Pacific Ocean and the Redwood trees. Uncle and Aunt treated me like I was their daughter. I feel that they are part of my family. For a year I have been working as a nurse at the National Rehabilitation Hospital in Washington, D.C., about 30 miles away from my home. I like to give my time to the patients, and I try my best to help those in need. In the future, I would like to pursue my studies in nursing, at least a master's degree. I may marry; I have received some proposals, but I thought it was important to get a good job first. I would like to thank World Vision for giving me such great help when I was in need and for making Uncle and Aunt part of my life.

BILL O'DONNELL
Eureka, California

One night more than 30 years ago, my wife, Ellen, and I were watching television when World Vision aired one of its programs. We called,

and they sent us information about a little girl named Rita.

World Vision was excellent about sending us a report every six months, which was one of the reasons we could stay in such good contact. Also, Rita sent letters and cards.

At the time, I was retired from the U.S. Navy and working with the Boy Scouts of America. Even though we were raising four children, sponsoring Rita wasn't a burden.

When her sponsorship was ending, Rita wrote that she was going to nursing college. We offered to help her with tuition until she completed her schooling.

It was great news to us when Rita moved to the United States. A couple of years ago, my son Bill and I went to Washington, D.C., for a conference. I took a bus to Rita's Maryland address, only to find she had moved. So close and yet so far.

Last year she wrote that she would like to visit us. We were thrilled. On Aug. 8, 2005, a dream came true when Rita and her sister, Su, arrived. We had a wonderful visit, which included taking in local sights. Between all of us we must have taken more than 30 rolls of film, plus video.

We thank the Lord for giving us this opportunity through World Vision to know and have Rita in our family. ■



MARK MCKENNA/GENESIS PHOTOS

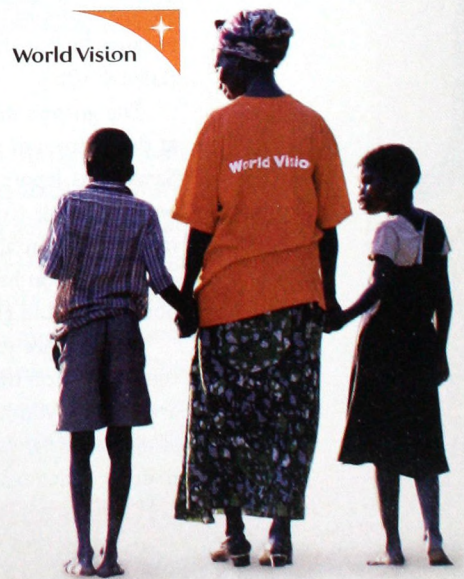
WHO WE ARE | World Vision is a Christian relief and development organization dedicated to helping children and their communities worldwide reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty.

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

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

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

YOU CAN HELP | Partnering with World Vision provides tangible ways to honor God and put faith into action. By working together, we can make a lasting difference in the lives of children and families who are struggling to overcome poverty. To find out how you can help return the envelope found between pages 16 and 17, or visit www.worldvision.org.



A Place at the Table >>

The Bible leaves no room for doubt about God's intention for us. God embraces us in love and stirs us to seek justice for those who are oppressed.

Concern for poor, hungry, and vulnerable people is pervasive in the Hebrew Scriptures. It flows directly from the revelation of God through the rescue of an enslaved people.

The New Testament ethic builds on the Hebrew Scriptures. Like them, it does not simply offer a platter of moral advice. Its teachings emerge from a divine act of salvation—the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Because “the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” conquered sin and death for us, we are forgiven, reconciled to God, born anew to be imitators of God, called to sacrificial love for others. Through the gift of eternal life, Jesus sets us free to make the doing of good our purpose in life (Ephesians 2: 8-10).

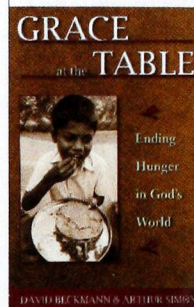
The nature of the good we are to do is not left in doubt, for we have the example of Jesus himself. He had a special sense of mission to poor and oppressed people—evidence that, in him,

“...if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light shall rise in the darkness, and your night be like the noonday.” — Isaiah 58:10

the messianic promises were being fulfilled. At the outset of his ministry, Jesus stood up in the synagogue at Nazareth and read from the prophet Isaiah: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor” (Luke 4: 18).

The gospels depict Jesus repeatedly reaching out to those at the bottom of the social pyramid—poor people, women, Samaritans, lepers, children, prostitutes, and tax collectors. Jesus was also eager to accept people who were well-placed, but he made clear that all, regardless of social position, needed to repent. For this reason he invited the rich young lawyer to sell all of his possessions and give the proceeds to the poor.

“Blessed are you who are poor,” said Jesus in Luke’s version of the Sermon on the Mount, and he added, “But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your comfort” (6:20, 24). Jesus once said, “It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God” (Mark 10:25).



The point is stark, intended to shock us—but how many sermons have you heard on it? We tend to duck, for in few aspects of life are we so prone to idolatry and self-deception in matters concern

our own material advantage.

In his portrayal of the day of judgment Jesus pictured people from all nations gathered before him. To the “sheep” he says, “Come, you who are blessed of my Father ... For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat ...” In their astonishment they ask, “When did we do that?” And he answers, “When you did it to the least of my brothers [and sisters].” Conversely, to the “goats” he says, “Depart from me, you who are cursed ... For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat ...” (Matthew 25:31-46).

Clearly, in both Old and New Testaments the intention of God that all people find a place at the table is combined with a responsibility on our part for those who are most vulnerable, most often kept from the table. This intention flows from the heart of God, who reaches out in love to all of us—rich, poor, and in-between.

—Excerpt from *Grace at the Table*, by David Beckmann and Arthur Simon, © 1999, Paulist Press, Inc., New York/Mahwah, N.J. Used with the permission of Paulist Press.

David Beckmann is president of Bread for the World, a Christian organization that seeks justice for the world’s hungry, founded by president emeritus **Arthur Simon** in 1974. Simon and Beckmann are ordained ministers and authors.

RETROSPECT



JUSTIN DOUGLASS/WORLD VISION

- M O N G O L I A -

Bat-Erdene's name means "durable treasure," and as he flings his ball heavenward, it seems appropriate. Although the 9-year-old has had to endure much pain, it's failed to crush his spirit. Bat's parents were killed in a car crash, so he now lives with his grandmother in Uvurkhangai—an economic wasteland of abandoned factories and unemployment. But Bat is a sponsored child. Money from his sponsor is providing better health care and education. One of the greatest days in Bat's life was when his sponsor came to visit. The photos taken on that occasion are among his most treasured possessions. Bat's T-shirt asks, "What is Love?" Tough question. But as Bat reads and rereads his sponsor's letters, maybe he will find some answers. ■

hoping for a sponsor like you

You can make a difference for a child in West Africa. Terrible drought and locust swarms have devastated the lives of children in Niger—already the world's poorest country.

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- I authorize World Vision to charge my \$30 monthly sponsorship gift to my credit/debit card each month: VISA MasterCard American Express Discover

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Our promise to you: World Vision will continue the monthly sponsorship on an ongoing basis to maintain the health and well-being of the families and communities. As a participant in World Vision's Automatic Giving Plan, you will receive advance written notice of any changes and will have the option to discontinue.

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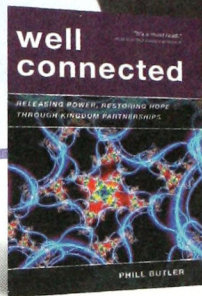
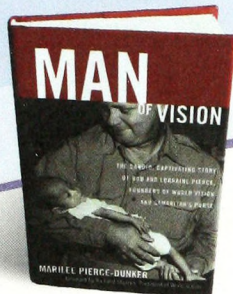
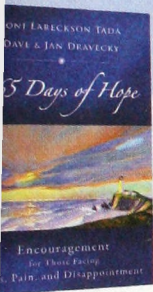
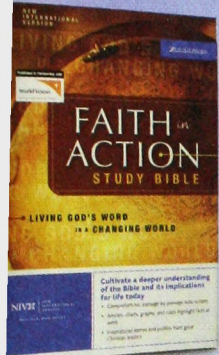
a faith at acts— and inspires action!

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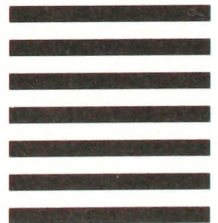
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Blessings,

Milana McLead
Editor-in-Chief
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Tacoma, WA
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