

# World Vision

SUMMER 2007

## *happewells up*

COMMUNITIES CELEBRATE CLEAN WATER





# Spread the joy!

World Vision®

Building a better world for children

## Bring sponsorship to your church

Host an *A Child Is Waiting* event with your congregation or small group.

## Throw a Sponsorship Home Party

Invite others to hear your personal sponsorship experience.

## Become a Child Ambassador

Share the joys of sponsorship with neighbors, friends, and family.

Deborah sponsors three children but wanted to do more. After learning about a sponsorship home party, she knew: "This was my answer." What she didn't know at the time was how much she would enjoy finding sponsors for other children. "Now I am hooked. There is no greater joy than helping children in need."

—Deborah Eklund  
Sponsorship Party Hostess

Deborah



April Wright speaking to her church about Child Sponsorship



As a Child Ambassador Barbara got 50 new sponsors!

You can help even more children experience fullness of life. All you have to do is use your voice!



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# World Vision

SUMMER 2007

## *hope wells up*

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Age	Rate *
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75	7.1%
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85	9.5%
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(subject to change)

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[giftplanning@worldvision.org](mailto:giftplanning@worldvision.org).

**World Vision®**

Building a better world for children

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## WorldVision

VOLUME 10, NUMBER 4

**President** Richard E. Stearns  
**Editor-in-Chief** Milana McLead  
**Managing Editor** Jane Sutton-Redner  
**Senior Editor** James Addis  
**Assistant Editor** Ryan Smith  
**Contributing Editor** Kari Costanza  
**Photo Editor** Jon Warren  
**Design & Production** Journey Group, Inc.

### » ON THE COVER

**Girls play in front of a borehole well drilled by World Vision in Dara, Niger. 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 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 98063-9716 or e-mail us: [wvmagazine@worldvision.org](mailto:wvmagazine@worldvision.org).

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### » CORRECTION

In the Spring 2007 issue: 500,000 women die each year from childbirth complications.



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In much of West Africa, there is a simple solution to poverty.

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A dream realized in Papua New Guinea.

JON WARREN/World Vision (2)





## When Water is Poison »

According to my recent water bill, my family uses about 400 gallons of water each day. I realize that's a lot, but we have teenagers. For that privilege we pay about one penny per gallon, or about \$4 per day.

Clean, safe water is truly something we in America take for granted. But what would our lives be like if tomorrow, when we woke up, we no longer had running water in our homes? What if the only available water was more than a mile away in a small pond?

Try to imagine a typical day for your family. In the morning, there would be no shower or tooth-brushing; no coffee to start your day. In fact, you would have to start your day with a family hike: carrying buckets and jerry cans, filling them up at the pond, and lugging these very heavy vessels home—roundtrip, about two hours. Since you could only carry maybe 20 or 30 gallons per trip (30 gallons of water weighs 250 pounds), you'd have to think twice about using water for bathing. And you would likely have to make several trips each day.

So if the kids have to be at school and you have to be at work by 8 a.m., you'd probably have to start your hike by 5 a.m.—not

*“And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward.”*

—Matthew 10:42

a very appealing thought. Without showers or use of a washing machine, the whole family would begin to smell a bit ripe after a day or two. Washing clothes would become a daunting chore because you would have to lug them to and from the pond and hang them out to dry. Cooking and washing dishes would also be challenging.

This imaginary dilemma may sound amusing as you think about how dependent your family is on water, but let me add a more sinister dimension: Imagine that the water is teeming with deadly bacteria, parasites, and water-borne diseases. The very drinking water you are working so hard to obtain is poison, and it is literally killing you.

This is the grim reality for about 1.1 billion people in our world today. It is estimated that as many as 5 million people die

every year of water-related illnesses—and one child dies every 15 seconds. Can you imagine watching your 2-year-old die from something as simple as diarrhea?

But the tragedy of those who live without clean water has other dimensions. Diseases like Guinea worm and trachoma can result in disability and blindness. Millions of children are not able to attend school because of the hours they spend fetching water. Those who can go are chronically sick and struggle with learning. Thousands of productive work hours are lost seeking and hauling water, especially by women. These are hours that could be spent earning an income or contributing to the well-being of the family and community. Chronically ill men also become less productive in their work, reducing the agricultural output and food supply. Those whose immune systems have been weakened by AIDS or tuberculosis are further ravaged by diseases lurking in water. It's estimated that one-half of the world's hospital beds are occupied by people with a water-related illness.

But this is a tragedy that can have a very happy ending. In fact, since 1990, an estimated 1.2 billion people worldwide have gained access to safe drinking water. Over the past 20 years, World Vision has helped provide clean water for more than 10 million people. And here is the most amazing fact of all: The cost to bring clean, safe water to a community is roughly \$2

per person per year—that's less than a penny a day. This is a battle we can win. ■



*Rick Warren*



# FRONTLINES

Compiled by James Addis

## SMILES in Seattle

Sumeya Abdinoor, 6, is all smiles after receiving a basketball and a backpack full of school supplies from the World Vision Storehouse in Seattle, Wash. Sumeya's parents, who are refugees from Somalia, were grateful that their children could receive free school goods for the coming year.

In addition to supporting local families and organizations, the Storehouse serves as a teacher resource center, providing teachers in low-income schools with classroom supplies.

World Vision has Storehouses in 11 communities across the United States. In 2006 they provided more than 1.6 million people with warm clothing, building supplies, and school supplies. ■

Volunteer your time, talent, or treasure to the Storehouse near you. Find out how at [www.worldvision.org/thestorehouse](http://www.worldvision.org/thestorehouse).



ANDREA DEARBORN/WORLD VISION





JON WARREN/WORLD VISION



## WORLD WATCH

### INDIA | TREATMENT FOR AIDS CHILDREN »

A government move to ensure AIDS-affected children get access to antiretroviral treatment will get support from World Vision. The organization will identify HIV-positive children in Mumbai to ensure they access treatment centers. Earlier, estimates indicated there were 240,000 HIV-positive children in India but only about 1,000 were getting treatment.



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION



**PHILIPPINES** | TYPHOON CREATES CHOLERA RISK » World Vision rushed food to more than 10,000 families and organized cash-for-work schemes to clear roads and drains in the wake of Typhoon Durian in November 2006. About 300 affected families also received safe drinking water following a cholera scare. More than 700 people were killed by the tropical cyclone.



**LEBANON | WAR-HIT FARMERS BOUNCE BACK »** Organic foods produced by a World Vision business initiative to benefit Lebanese farmers were showcased at the Middle East Natural and Organic Products Expo in Dubai. The exposure will generate export sales in the Middle East and Europe. In last summer's fighting, many farmers lost their crops or could not get them to market.

**SOMALIA | AID REACHES WAR ZONE »** World Vision used planes, boats, and trucks to deliver medicines, blankets, and mosquito nets to thousands displaced by flooding in Middle Juba last November. Operations were undertaken by Somali staff after expatriates withdrew following fighting between the Union of Islamic Courts and the Transitional Federal Government.

**INDONESIA | PIPE DREAM COMES TRUE »** World Vision successfully overcame hills and jungle terrain to construct a 15-mile water pipeline in East Nusa Tenggara province. The pipe will allow more than 3,500 people in four villages to access clean water.

**CHILE | THOUSANDS SIMULATE EVACUATION »** More than 15,000 people, government emergency services, and World Vision participated in a massive evacuation exercise to test preparedness for a major earthquake. Loudspeakers blared sounds of chaos while teams of actors played wounded and hysterical victims. Early reports suggested services were in a good position to tackle an emergency.

**SRI LANKA | LIGHT FOR TSUNAMI SURVIVORS »** Thousands of tsunami survivors still living in transitional shelters without electricity have benefited from the installation of more than 1,000 solar light systems, thanks to a partnership between World Vision and Light Up the World Foundation. Previously, beneficiaries struggled to afford oil for kerosene lamps.

**ZIMBABWE | ORPHANS MANAGE LIVESTOCK »** A goat and chicken-rearing program will help nearly 1,000 orphans in Beitbridge. The World Vision project, run in conjunction with micro-lending company Pundutso, will mean each orphan will receive a goat and five chickens. Currently most orphans are too poor to attend school.

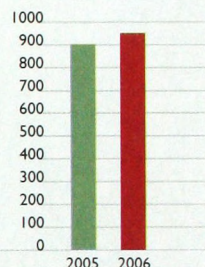
**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO | AID FOR DEMOCRACY »** World Vision successfully lobbied for a law to boost U.S. government assistance to the Democratic Republic of Congo. The law, signed last December, will see increased funding from the United States to Congo to promote democratic and economic reforms. Violence between the government and militias continues to flare in the country, despite a ceasefire declared in 2003. ■

## GOING UP

Strong support from donors has seen World Vision revenues to assist the poor soar.

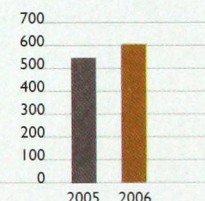
### Total Revenue (in millions)

**2006 » 944 million**  
**2005 » 905 million**



### Child Sponsors (in thousands)

**2006 » 604,000**  
**2005 » 553,000**



To see the 2006 World Vision Annual Review online, go to [www.worldvision.org/AR](http://www.worldvision.org/AR).

## DRINK THIS

**THE WORLD** spends \$100 billion a year on bottled water—a surprising statistic because most people who buy it usually have high-quality water piped to their homes for a fraction of the cost. Meanwhile, an investment of a mere \$30 billion a year would halve the number of people who have no access to clean water (currently about 1.1 billion) by 2015.

Source: Earth Policy Institute





World Vis



**FASTFACT** » **World Vision**

**is associated with almost 300  
Christian artists who help sign  
up more than 61,000 child  
sponsors each year.**

But his mother Sue, 54, who now lives in Kansas City, Mo., remembers him as a child with a heart to reach out to others.

During a World Vision Artist Associate concert featuring Child of the Promise, Matthew insisted his family take up the invitation to sponsor a child. He picked out Stephen—a fatherless boy from Kenya whose birth date was close to his own.

Shortly afterward, Matthew suffered a major seizure and died. But Sue says the dark days that followed have not been without purpose—giving the Metcalfs an even greater affinity for Stephen as he coped with the loss of his father.

"We've been able to see this little boy and his mom as part of our family and see how God is using us to help them," she says.

It also prompted Sue to become a passionate volunteer manning sponsorship stands at World Vision Artist Associate concerts—where top Christian artists sing for the Lord and draw attention to the plight of the world's poor.

She says that just as her family has been blessed by sponsoring, it was important to share the experience with others. "This is one way you can get in front of people, share the love of Jesus by pointing out these kids, and introduce them to someone they can care for," she says.

Sue adds that a big perk of the job is hearing great music from people with a Christian outlook, such as Casting Crowns, Third Day, Avalon, and Steven Curtis Chapman. ■

» To become an Artist Associate volunteer, visit [www.worldvision.org/change](http://www.worldvision.org/change).

# Music Lesson

*An Artist Associate volunteer finds comfort and purpose after her son's death.*

Before he reached his 11<sup>th</sup> birthday, the late Matthew Metcalf had endured leukemia, lost an eye, and suffered a stroke.

GENIK PARNELLE/GENESIS PHOTOS



## why I love

BEING A CHILD SPONSOR »

**I** always wanted to sponsor a child, but I thought there is no way I could afford it. One night I went to a church concert that turned out to be a benefit for World Vision children. After I got home, I knew God was calling me to do something.

Then I realized I didn't have to do it alone. If I could get 11 other people do this with me, then each of us would only have to pay one month to sponsor a child for a year.

I contacted my family and some close friends and made it happen. We have sponsored the same child now for five years. If someone had to drop out for personal reasons, I just called another friend and they filled the slot. I was so excited about how well this was going that I put an ad in our church bulletin two years ago asking for 11 disciples to join me to sponsor another child.

The response was overwhelming. Now we sponsor two girls from Uganda. It is a joy to read each letter we receive from them. I am thankful God gave me the insight to find a way to make sponsorship a reality in my life. ■

### TELL US YOUR STORY

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



CHRIS WHOLEY,  
GIG HARBOR, WASH

LAURA REINHARDT/WORD VISION



"I wrote to my sponsored kids to assure them that because of the plans that I've made, they don't have to worry about being sponsored. They have all written back and said that they are praying about our health. To have people all over the world praying for you—it's a great thing." —Howard Thomas

## change AGENT

**Name:** Howard and Esther Thomas, both 90

**Home:** Wallingford, Penn.

**Occupation:** Retired

**Program:** Gift Planning

**Buzz:** Howard and Esther wanted to ensure their 18 sponsored children will continue to receive support even after they pass on. World Vision helped them set up a Continuous Childcare Agreement to do just that. The couple began sponsoring in 1950 after hearing an impassioned plea by World Vision founder Bob Pierce. ■

» For more on Gift Planning and other ways to change your world, visit [www.worldvision.org/change](http://www.worldvision.org/change).

JEFF RAYMOND/GENESIS PHOTOS





**Dentist David Chin examines a patient in Malawi.**

# Smiles for Africa

*A California dental team triumphs in desperate conditions.*

THINGS GOT OFF TO A TERRIBLE START when a team of California dentists headed to a World Vision development program in central Malawi for a short-term mission trip.

The team crammed equipment into four large suitcases to help meet the needs of hundreds of people in Nkhoma, who have no access to dental care. But three of the bags got lost in transit.

Undeterred, the dentists improvised, operating out in the open, in school rooms, or church halls, using two weightlifting benches as dental chairs.

Team leader Dr. Stan Ye says the difficult conditions and poor lighting made for tiring work, but it was wonderful to see how God helped the team overcome obstacles. "A lot of the time we felt things were not going to work out, and then—boom—God took care of it," he says.

Stan had high praise for colleague Dr. Anthony Wong, who improvised a household electric drill to prepare fillings and also undertook root canals and implants. "This is really unheard of during a dental mission, but he had a heart—especially for the young people who maybe had lost a front tooth. He wanted to give them back a beautiful smile."

Stan says the most frequent operation was tooth extraction. Gum disease is extremely common because of the lack of dental hygiene. Most patients did not even own a toothbrush.

He adds that patients were extremely grateful, and he was touched by their deep

faith in God, even though they had so few material possessions. "We went to encourage them, but listening to their testimony gave us a lot of encouragement."

The team, which treated more than 600 patients in two weeks, comprised four dentists and six dental assistants. They are all connected with the First Evangelical Church Association—a group of Chinese churches based in southern California.

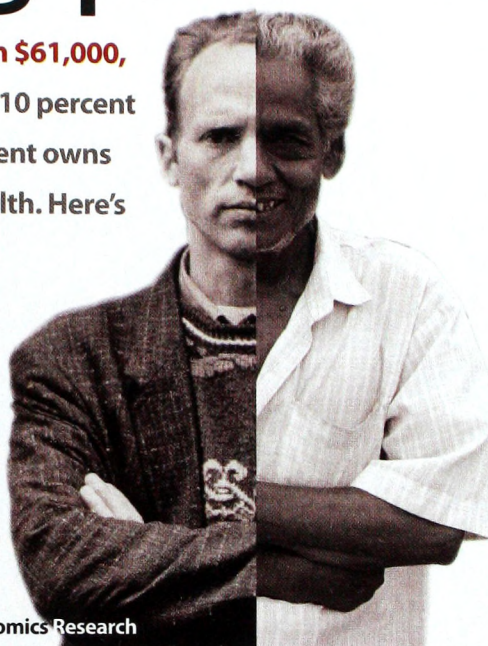
The group is part of a wider network of U.S.-based churches known as Y-Malawi. The network sponsors more than 2,000 children in Nkhoma and provided start-up funding for a World Vision development project in the impoverished region. The project is working with the community to provide access to clean water, health, education, and economic opportunities. ■



# Feeling poor?

If you have assets worth more than \$61,000, you are among the world's richest 10 percent of adults. Collectively that 10 percent owns 85 percent of the globe's total wealth. Here's how the figures break down:

- » Richest **1 percent** of the world's population owns **40 percent** of global assets.
- » Richest **2 percent** owns **50 percent**.
- » Richest **10 percent** owns **85 percent**.
- » Poorest **50 percent** of the world's population owns less than **one percent** of global assets.



Source: World Institute for Development Economics Research

## Toilet Troubles

Grim reading from the UNDP report, "Beyond Scarcity: Power, Poverty, and the Global Water Crisis."

More than one-third of the world's population (2.6 billion) do not have access to a decent bathroom.

Millions in Africa and Asia are forced to squat in streams, backyards, and fields, befouling the water they drink.

Each year more than 2 million children die due to sickness associated with poor sanitation and dirty water.

## Golf TIP

THE NARROW, TREE-LINED fairways at the Camaloch Golf Course, Camano Island, Wash., contain an unexpected hazard.

Botch your shot at the 14<sup>th</sup> hole and your ball will quite likely sail into the backyard of Jaclyn and Jared Greathouse, aged 10 and 7.

The pair gathers balls at the rate of 10 a day during the summer months and

quickly amassed a collection of more than 700. Then they hit on the idea of hopping over their garden fence and selling balls back to golfers, donating the proceeds to World Vision to help orphans and vulnerable children.

"I decided to give the money to them so they can have a home and food and stuff they need," says Jaclyn.

So far, golfers have been happy to fork out 50 cents per ball, and Jaclyn and Jared have raised a modest \$75. But the enterprising youngsters are already thinking of ways to boost their profits. Jaclyn says they now have a pretty good idea of which are high-quality balls and are likely to charge a premium for the good ones. Golfers—you have been warned. ■

» **IDEAS?** Do you have an innovative idea for serving the poor through World Vision? Write to the editors at [wvmagazine@worldvision.org](mailto:wvmagazine@worldvision.org).



LAURA REINHARDT/World Vision

## what's on

### FAITH IN ACTION

Turn your church inside out by encouraging your congregation to put feet to their faith and share God's love in a practical way during October. [www.putyourfaithinaction.com](http://www.putyourfaithinaction.com).



PAT RHODES/World Vision

### 30 HOUR FAMINE

Youth fight hunger, Oct. 27-28, [www.30hourfamine.org](http://www.30hourfamine.org).

### PASTOR'S VISION TRIP

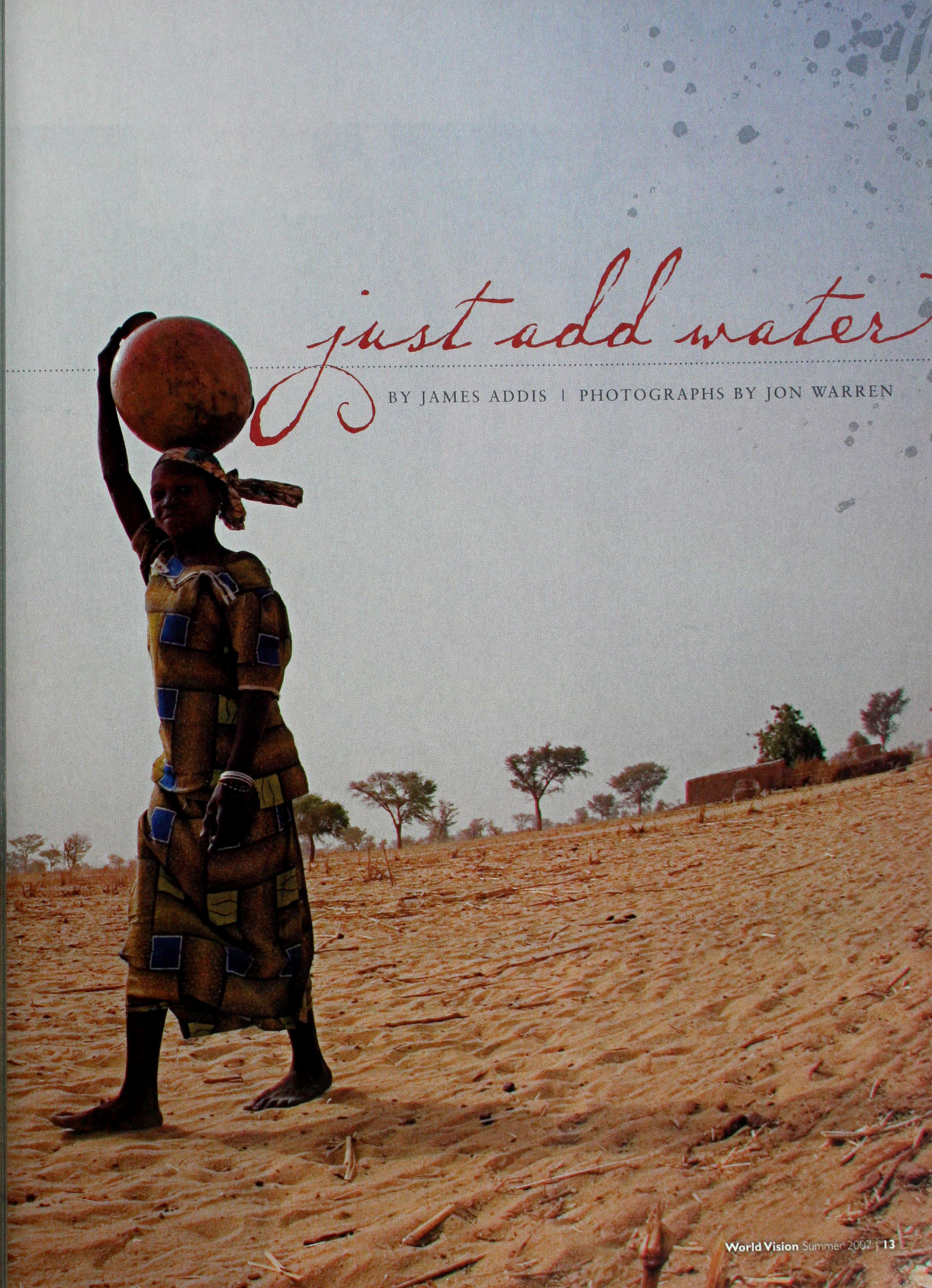
Join other pastors to see the impact of AIDS in East Africa, Oct. 23-Nov. 1, [www.worldvision.org/c2c](http://www.worldvision.org/c2c).



IN MUCH OF WEST AFRICA,  
THERE IS A SIMPLE SOLUTION TO POVERTY.

A woman treks to a traditional well in Dara, Niger.  
In some regions, women spend as many as seven  
hours a day gathering water.





# *just add water*

BY JAMES ADDIS | PHOTOGRAPHS BY JON WARREN

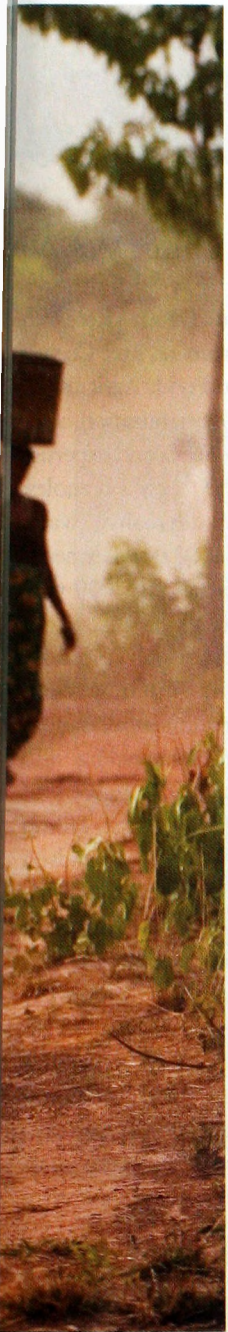




**ABOVE, OPPOSITE PAGE:** Women in Kpalang, Ghana, draw water from a dirty pond. "We know the pond is infected with Guinea worm," says a local girl, "but that is our only source of water." **RIGHT:** Meimunatu, a mother of four in Kpalang, lost one baby to diarrhea. She worries about the new baby on the way.







In West Africa, poverty assumes many guises. Take the village of Kpalang in northern Ghana. Here, both children and adults suffer regular bouts of typhoid, cholera, and diarrhea and often play unwilling host to a debilitating parasite known as Guinea worm (see sidebar, page 20). Villagers have less energy to devote to farms, meaning less food and lower incomes. Children such as 13-year-old Amina must devote their entire day to the stern task of simply staying alive—luxuries like going to school are out of the question. Children die often and early; those who don't frequently go blind due to trachoma—an eye infection that can usually be successfully countered by face-washing.

It might seem incredible that all these grievous problems—problems that have been evident for centuries—could have a simple solution. But they do—it's water. Ironically, in an age where we can send astronauts into outer space, one in five people in the developing world—1.1 billion people—struggle in abject poverty for want of a basic natural resource.

Until that commodity is reached, Amina, like generations of West African children before her, must spend her day making several trips to draw water from a filthy pond that is prone to dry up. She then has to lug the water home in a bucket that, when full, can weigh about 50 pounds.

And what disgusting water it is. When Rich Stearns, president of World Vision in the United States, visited Kpalang last year, he dipped a glass into a bucket of water drawn from the same pond Amina gathers from every day. Holding the sample up to the light, he discovered he was holding a gray stew of mud and animal feces. Even the thought of drinking it would make most Westerners retch.

"I can't imagine letting my children drink this," said Stearns, "but it is what I can't see that frightens me even more"—a reference to the harmful bacteria that Kpalang villagers are forced to ingest with every sip they take.

Amina's mother, Meimunatu, tries to make the best of it by straining the water through a sack to get rid of most of the



*"I can't imagine letting  
my children drink this."*

— RICH STEARNS

muck, but the weariness in her voice suggests she is facing a losing battle.

"I had a baby last year who got sick and died because of the water," she says. Soon Meimunatu will bear another child. It's not an occasion for rejoicing. She holds out little hope for her newborn's survival unless clean water comes to the village fast.

While it's clear that water is the answer to West Africa's problems, providing it



*"We felt it was where we could have maximum impact on the most lives for the monies invested."*

— STEVEN HILTON, about WAWI



**ABOVE, OPPOSITE PAGE:** Through the West Africa Water Initiative, World Vision is drilling more than 1,000 borehole wells in Ghana, Niger, and Mali. Borehole wells, which are capped and fitted with pumps, are usually conveniently located and easy to use for women and children (**BELOW**).

calls for money, determination, and imaginative thinking on a global scale. In 2002 the United Nations organized the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa. At its conclusion, nations recommitted themselves to work toward a United Nations' Millennium Development Goal of halving the number of people lacking access to safe water and basic sanitation by 2015.

This would not be the work of governments alone. The summit ushered in a new era of partnership—governments, businesses, academic institutions, and aid organizations would combine forces to tackle global problems. One partnership in particular epitomizes the new thinking: the West Africa Water Initiative.

For years, the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation and World Vision have worked together to bring clean water to poor rural areas in Ghana. In 2002 these organizations joined forces with eight others, includ-

ing the Nevada-based Desert Research Institute, the U.S. government, and Cornell University's Institute for Food, Agriculture, and Development. Each organization committed to bring their resources and expertise to drill more than 1,000 new boreholes, open up scores more alternative water sources, and provide 10,000 new latrines—an effort expected to benefit 500,000 people in Ghana, Mali, and Niger.

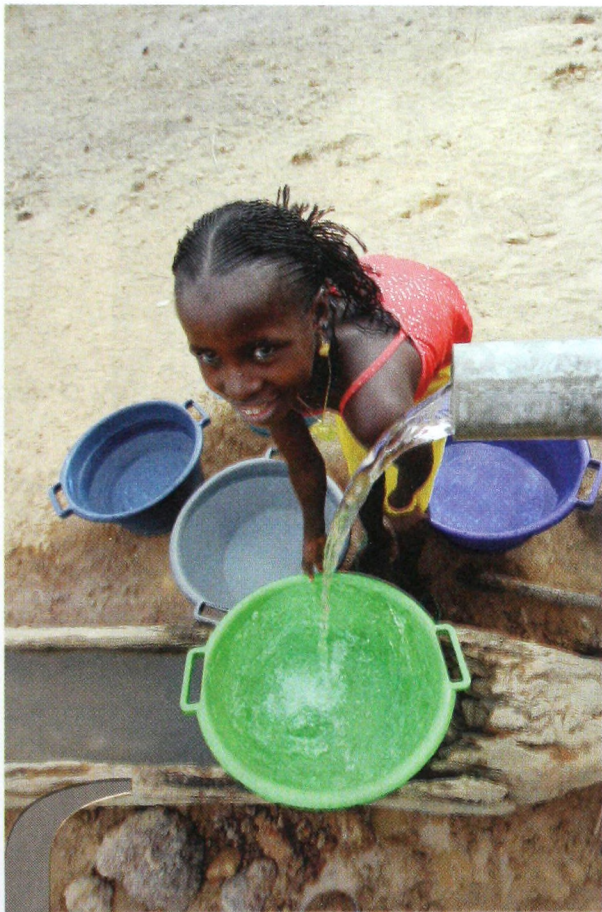
World Vision is responsible for drilling most of the wells, educating communities about well maintenance, sanitation, and hygiene, and channeling into the program more than \$23 million of donors' money—matched by the Hilton Foundation. As Steven Hilton, grandson of the hotel chain's founder, said of WAWI: "We felt it was where we could have maximum impact on the most lives for the monies invested."

Almost five years down the track, World Vision's six well drilling teams and associated staff—hydrologists, sanitation specialists, and civil engineers—are working hard to complete all project goals by the end of 2008. So far the initiative





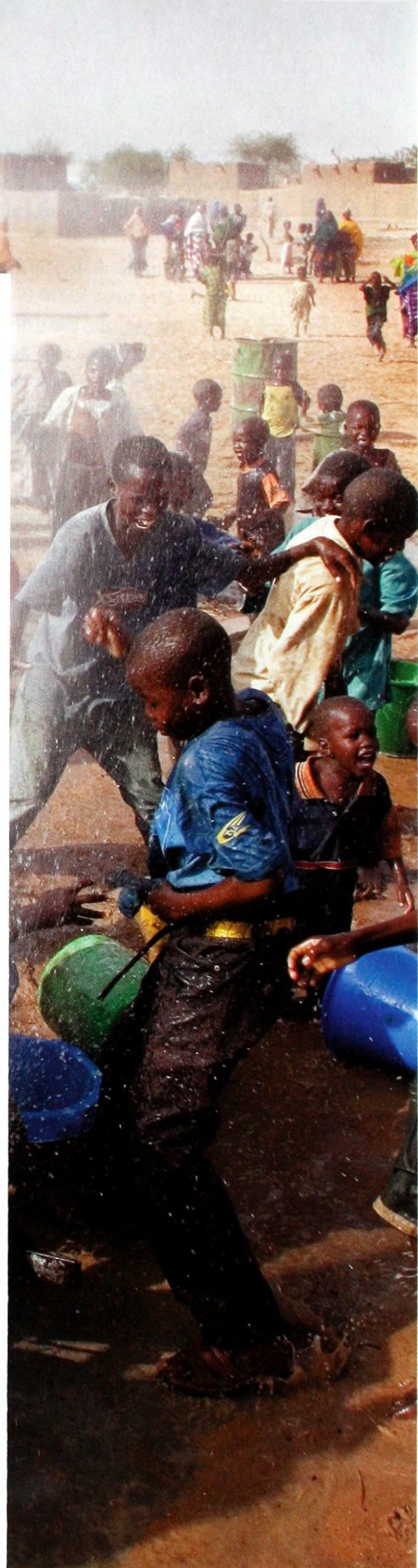
World Vision



PAUL BETTINGS/WORLD VISION

# Water *is* life

When a community gains access to clean water, its child mortality drops by half.





*"We felt it was where we could have maximum impact on the most lives for the money invested"*



**ABOVE, OPPOSITE PAGE:** Through the West Africa Water Initiative, World Vision is drilling more than 1,000 borehole wells in Ghana, Niger, and Mali. Borehole wells, which are capped and fitted with pumps, are usually conveniently located and easy to use for women and children (**BELOW**).

calls for money, native thinking the United Nations Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg concluded, nations set themselves to work Millennium Development Goals. The number of people with access to water and basic sanitation is increasing.

This would be a new era of private businesses, academic organizations, and governments tackle global problems. In particular, epitomized by the West Africa Water Initiative.

For years, the World Vision Foundation and the United Nations joined forces to

## YES! I want to help provide clean WATER!

- ☐ Please use my gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to provide clean, safe water for children.
- ☐ I want to sponsor a child for \$30/month.  
 GENDER: ☐ BOY ☐ GIRL  
 LIVING IN: ☐ ASIA ☐ AFRICA ☐ LATIN AMERICA  
☐ MIDDLE EAST/EASTERN EUROPE  
☐ WHERE MOST NEEDED
- ☐ I want my one-time donation to go where it's needed most.  
 AMOUNT: \$\_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Check payable to World Vision
- ☐ Credit card payment

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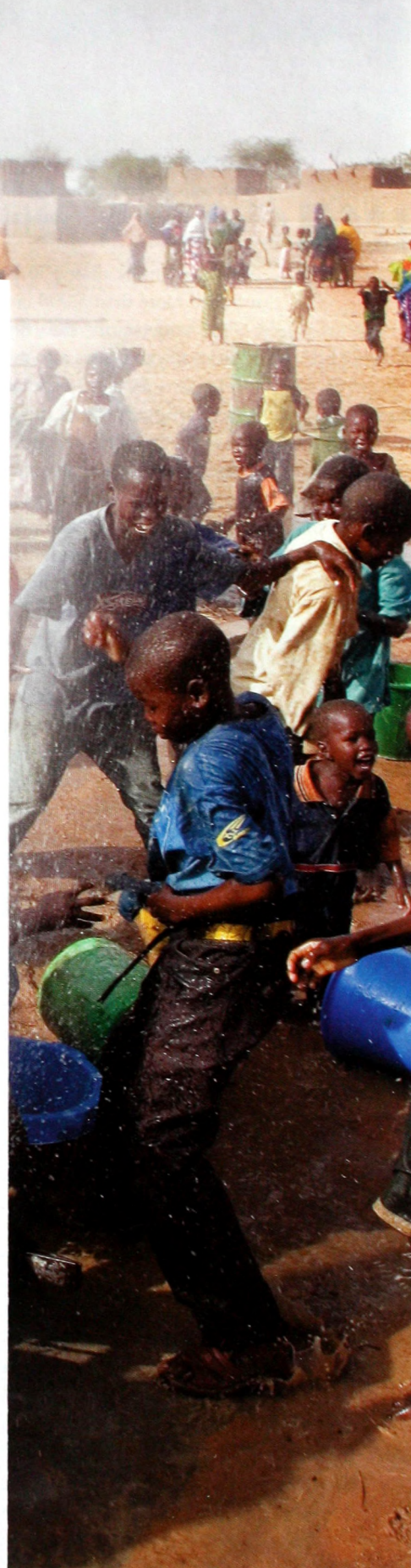


HOREB BULAMBO/WORLD VISION

**Millions of children** struggle daily with diseases and other conditions related to dirty water. Every 15 seconds, a child dies from one of these easily prevented illnesses.

World Vision's water projects around the world have given 10 million people access to clean water and improved sanitation. Clean water radically changes a child's chances for a full, healthy life.

**You can be a part of this simple solution to poverty!**





*"We felt it was where we could have maximum impact on the most lines for the money invested."*



**ABOVE, OPPOSITE PAGE:** Through the West Africa Water Initiative, World Vision is drilling more than 1,000 borehole wells in Ghana, Niger, and Mali. Borehole wells, which are capped and fitted with pumps, are usually conveniently located and easy to use for women and children (**BELOW**).

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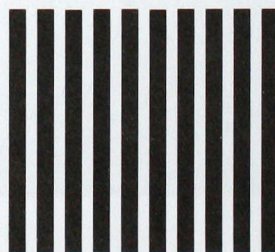
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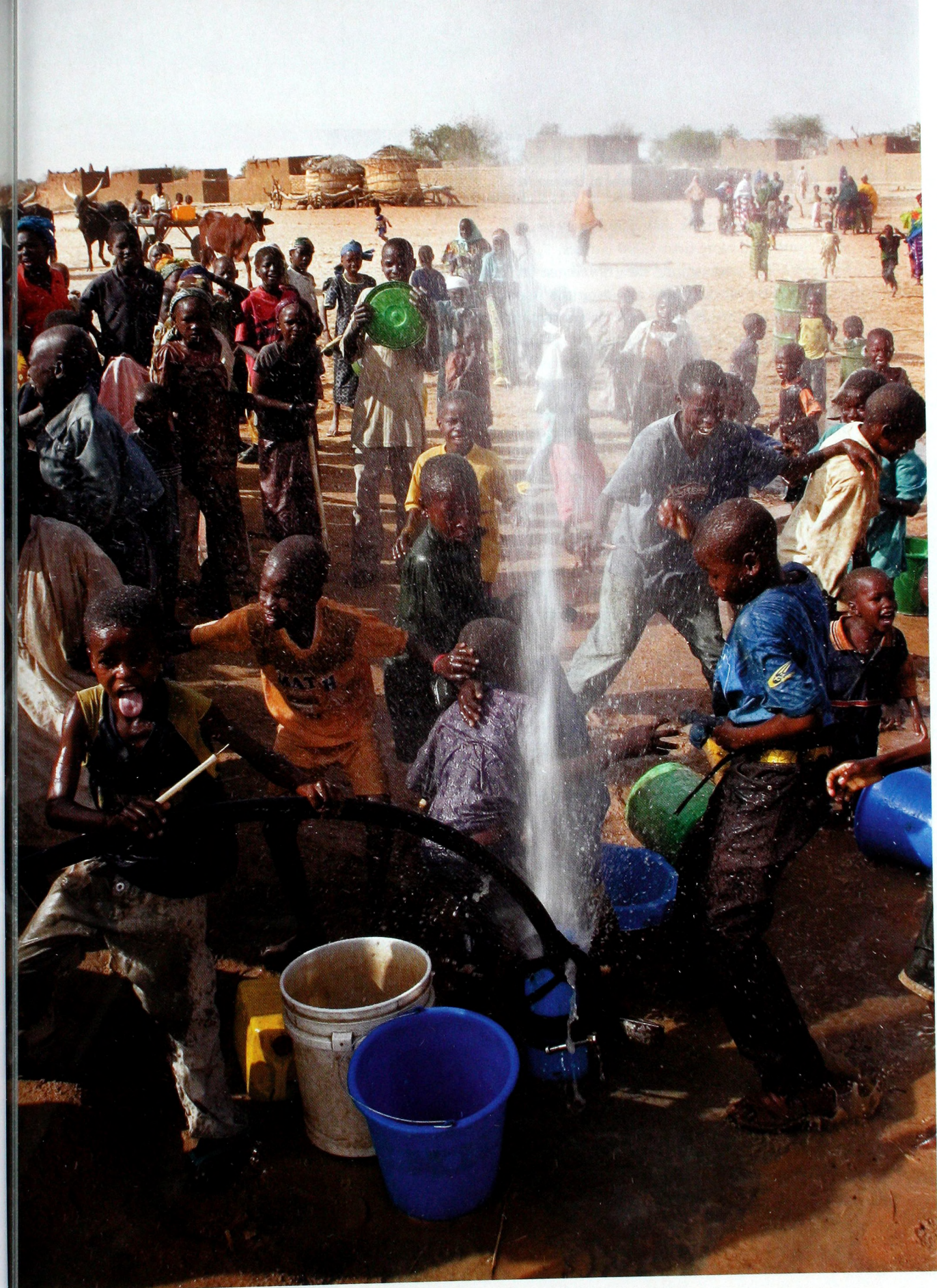
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**CLOCKWISE:** Abida helps her mother fetch clean water before school. In her spare time, she sells small mugs of water at the market.

has drilled more than 500 boreholes and installed more than 5,000 latrines.

To understand the difference this makes, one can take a look at the transformed lives in dozens of villages that are now enjoying the fruits of ready access to safe water. In Dara, a village in Niger that nudges the southern edges of the Sahara desert, it's interesting to watch the face of any local person who recollects the day a borehole was successfully drilled in their village. The eyes grow bright and the smile develops slowly until it illuminates the whole face.

Nobody recalls the first fountain of water spurting from the new borehole better than 10-year-old Abida Issa. "All the children were wet because they ran into the water, shouting and singing. It was a celebration," she says.

Abida is responsible for providing most of the water for her family's needs and must make six trips to the borehole to carry water home every day. But such labor does not dent her enthusiasm. The water is clean and the borehole is just a two-minute walk from her home. She easily accomplishes the job before school starts.

Today, the village schoolroom is crowded with enthusiastic pupils studying French, geography, history, and math. Attendance has doubled since the borehole was installed. No longer are women and children forced to wait hours to draw water from a poorly supplied, polluted hand-dug well.

*continued on page 20 »*



*"Now that water is plentiful, women have time to make a better life for themselves and their families."*

**- HALIMA, ADIMA'S MOTHER**



# NOTHING DRY ABOUT THIS ACADEMIC

*Painful personal experience motivates World Vision's water chief.*

**T**he man who oversees World Vision's component of the West Africa Water Initiative, Braimah Apambire, was born to an illiterate mother and semi-literate father in the poorest region of northern Ghana.

But those humble beginnings failed to prevent him from pursuing a stellar academic career, earning a doctorate in hydrogeology from the University of Nevada. He puts his achievement down to God's grace, personal determination, and supportive parents.

Braimah delighted in a life of research and teaching, but when the opportunity came to work for World Vision to bring relief to water-starved communities around the globe, he describes it as a "calling from God."

It's hardly surprising that the work should be close to his heart. As a child, he sometimes had to walk up to four miles to fetch water during the dry season.

He vividly remembers the sense of relief and ecstasy when in 1979 the Canadian government funded a well in his home village of Zuarungu—about 100 miles north of where World Vision currently operates.

"Having had this experience myself, I felt it would be very important for me to contribute my technical skills to support this kind of work," Braimah says.

He says it's a rewarding job. A favorite memory is bringing water to the village of Nabule, Ghana, where women were forced to compete with angry bees to draw water from a pathetically inadequate mud hole. World Vision brought in one of its bore-hole drilling teams. After drilling 100 feet, there was still no water, and the geological assessment on the chances of finding it was virtually nil. The team started praying and kept drilling. At 115 feet they hit the jackpot. Now Nabule has the highest-yielding well in the area and has become a thriving community.

Braimah says that coming from a water-hungry African community is a huge advantage in performing his job. Many water projects in the developing world have failed in the past because engineers did not understand or engage the community in which they worked.

"They would put these water systems in place, but within a year or two something would go wrong—maybe something that could be fixed for less than five dollars. But because there was no understanding in the community, the whole system would be left unused."

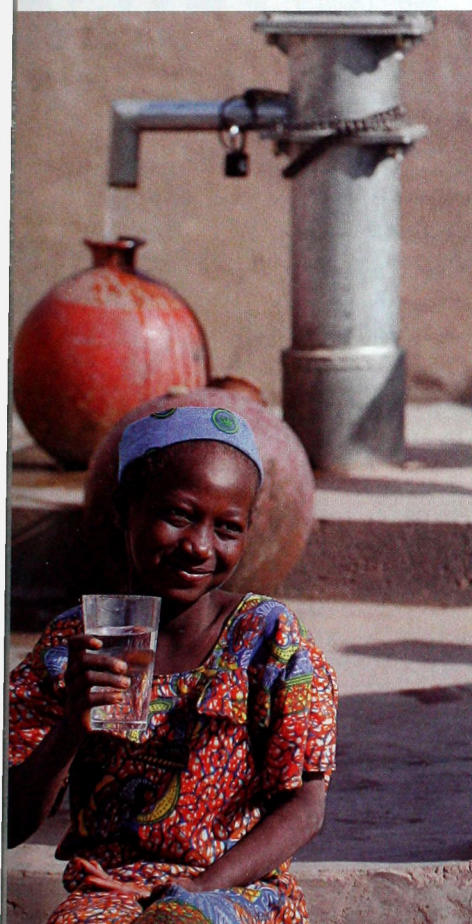
The West Africa Water Initiative addresses the social dimension by integrating water projects with existing, long-term World Vision development programs funded by child sponsors. Development staff teach communities how to maintain wells and manage their water resources to ensure a continuous supply of clean water for years.

"We think of ourselves as social workers first and engineers or scientists second," Braimah says. ■

—James Addis

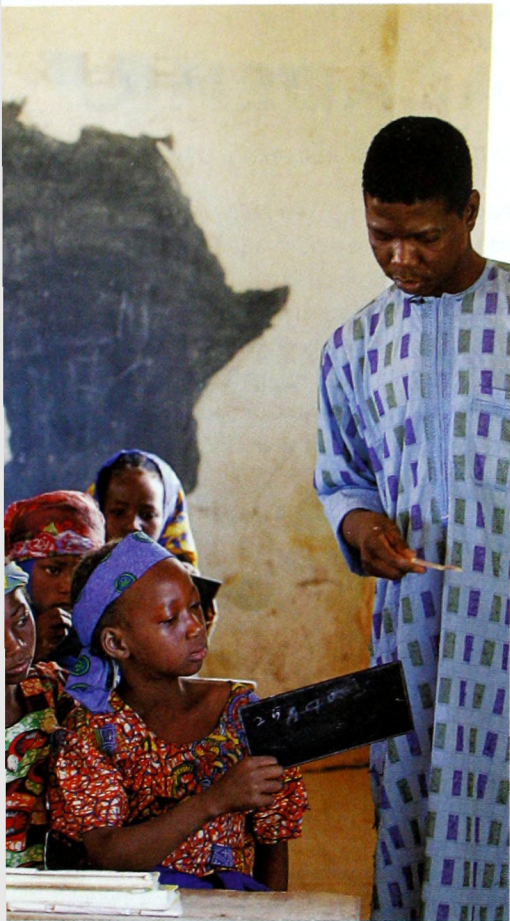


**Braimah Apambire, director of World Vision's water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programs, hails from a water-scarce place.**





continued from page 18 »



Community health worker Maazou Nouhou says that many common childhood ailments have simply disappeared. “Before, you would see children with trachoma and other problems, but now there are no such diseases in the village,” he says.

Abida’s father, Mallam—a village elder—recalls the way the lack of water blighted village life for years. Even an inadequate hand-dug well was the envy of surrounding villages, and people would come for miles to draw filthy water from it. “People were drawing water in the night because it was the only well. It was very difficult for women. They were even sleeping at the well to stay in the queue for their turn to get water,” he says.

What a difference today. Abida’s mother, Halima, says now that water is plentiful, women have time to make a better life for themselves and their families. She has joined with other women to begin a soap-making business (see sidebar, page 21). Even Abida makes a little extra money by decanting water into clay pots and selling a refreshing drink to thirsty market-goers.

Meanwhile, with more water, the health of livestock has improved. Building con-

struction is undergoing a transformation. There is now time and water to make clay bricks—villagers are gradually replacing straw walls to make better, sturdier homes.

Today, Mallam marvels at the different life his daughter can enjoy. He is especially pleased by her success in school. She is one of the brightest in her class. “I think she’s fantastic,” he raves. “I have many hopes for her because she can go to school. I’m only sorry I did not get the chance to go.”

But while one can rejoice with the people of Dara, it pays not to lose sight of girls like Amina, and the villagers of Kpalang, whose experiences are a window on what it is like for millions and millions who still suffer every day for want of clean water. So far World Vision has drilled two boreholes in Kpalang, but neither was successful. The hard rock in the area makes the task of finding water especially difficult.

The drilling team will keep trying. World Vision is committed to the global effort to provide clean water for all—millions of children like Amina deserve nothing less. ■

—With reporting by Mary Peterson and Tom Costanza

## WORMS OF WOE

Of all the diseases associated with drinking dirty water, few are more horrid than Guinea worm. Although the menace has been eliminated from most countries of the world, it still lingers in communities in West Africa. Villagers—including many children—unwittingly ingest the microscopic larvae when they drink water from a stagnant pond.

The parasite lives inside the body for a year, growing into a spaghetti-like worm. When the worm escapes by puncturing the skin from the inside, the pain is excruciating.

Victims must endure the worm’s emergence for up to three months. They are usually incapacitated by fever and nausea. To speed things along, people carefully wind the worm around a stick as it emerges, being careful not to pull too hard. If the worm breaks, it will retract into the body, causing severe inflammation. Most sites where worms emerge get infected, and the worst cases result in permanent crippling or death. ■

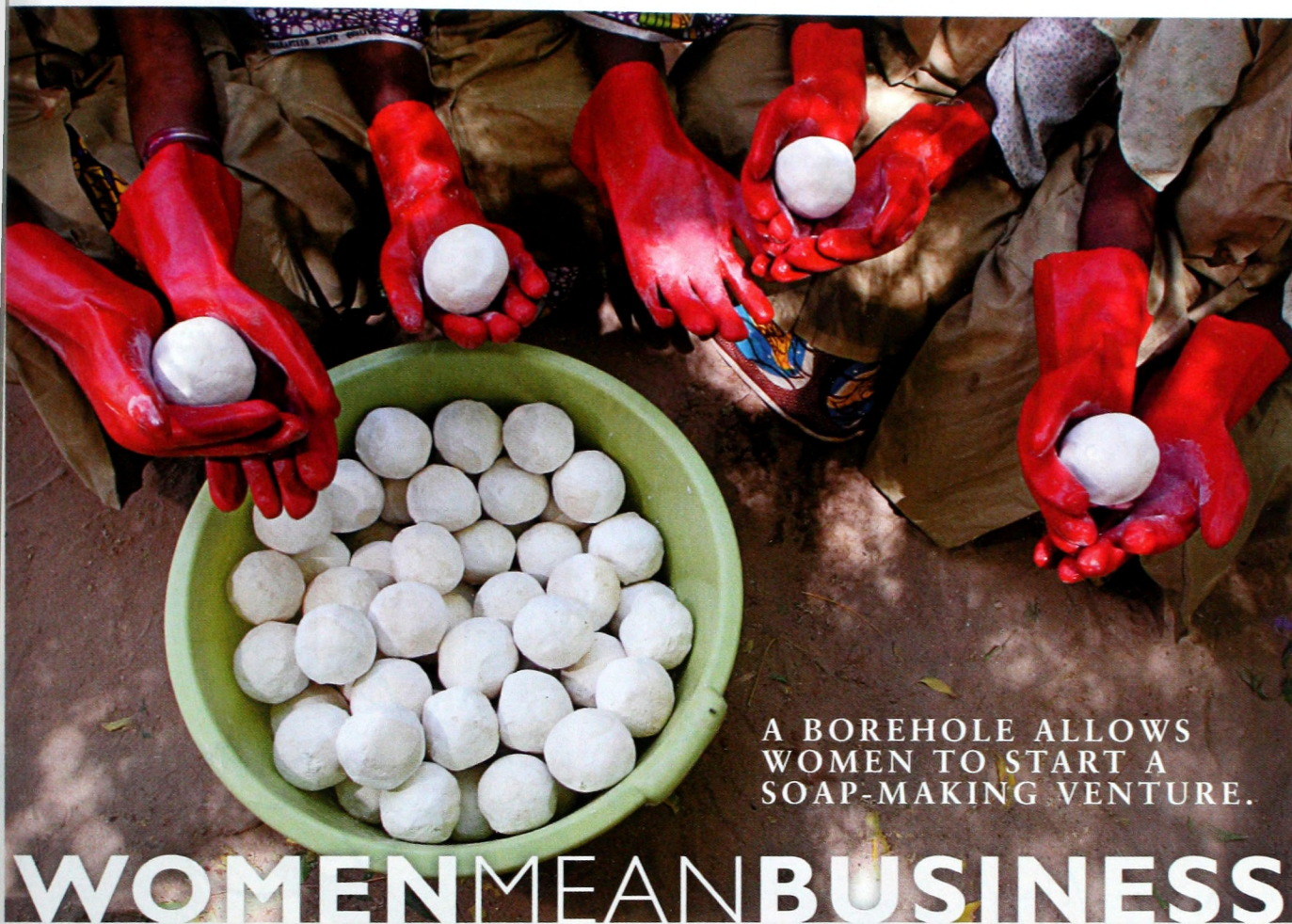
—James Addis



**TOP:** Abida excels in her class in Niger.  
**ABOVE, RIGHT:** Children in Guinea worm-prone Ghana aren’t so fortunate. Sickness keeps them out of school.







A BOREHOLE ALLOWS  
WOMEN TO START A  
SOAP-MAKING VENTURE.

# WOMEN MEAN BUSINESS

**N**ame your favorite labor-saving device—dishwasher, washing machine, clothes dryer, food processor?

For Halima Issa of Dara village, Niger, the choice is easy. The village's borehole means she no longer wastes hours every day fetching water from remote sources, nor does she have to treat children who would otherwise be falling sick due to drinking polluted supplies.

Finally, the mixture is rolled into tennis-ball-sized spheres ready for sale at the market. Each fetches 150 francs (about 30 cents), undercutting the price of imported soaps.

It's good soap, too. Halima shyly admits profits have been down a bit because village women have taken to using the product themselves—it makes their skin softer and smoother than other soap. Nevertheless, they anticipate the business will ultimately generate a healthy income. The women are not only

thinking of nice things they can buy with the extra cash but also ways they can invest in new enterprises such as raising chickens.

World Vision hydrologist Braimah Apambire says such ventures show how shortsighted organizations have been in the past by not

making access to water a priority. Although the health benefits of good access are obvious, he says, investing in water resources also provides a good economic return.

"The truth is, once people have water, there will follow many things," he says. "Agricultural development, economic development—everything will follow when you are able to provide water." ■

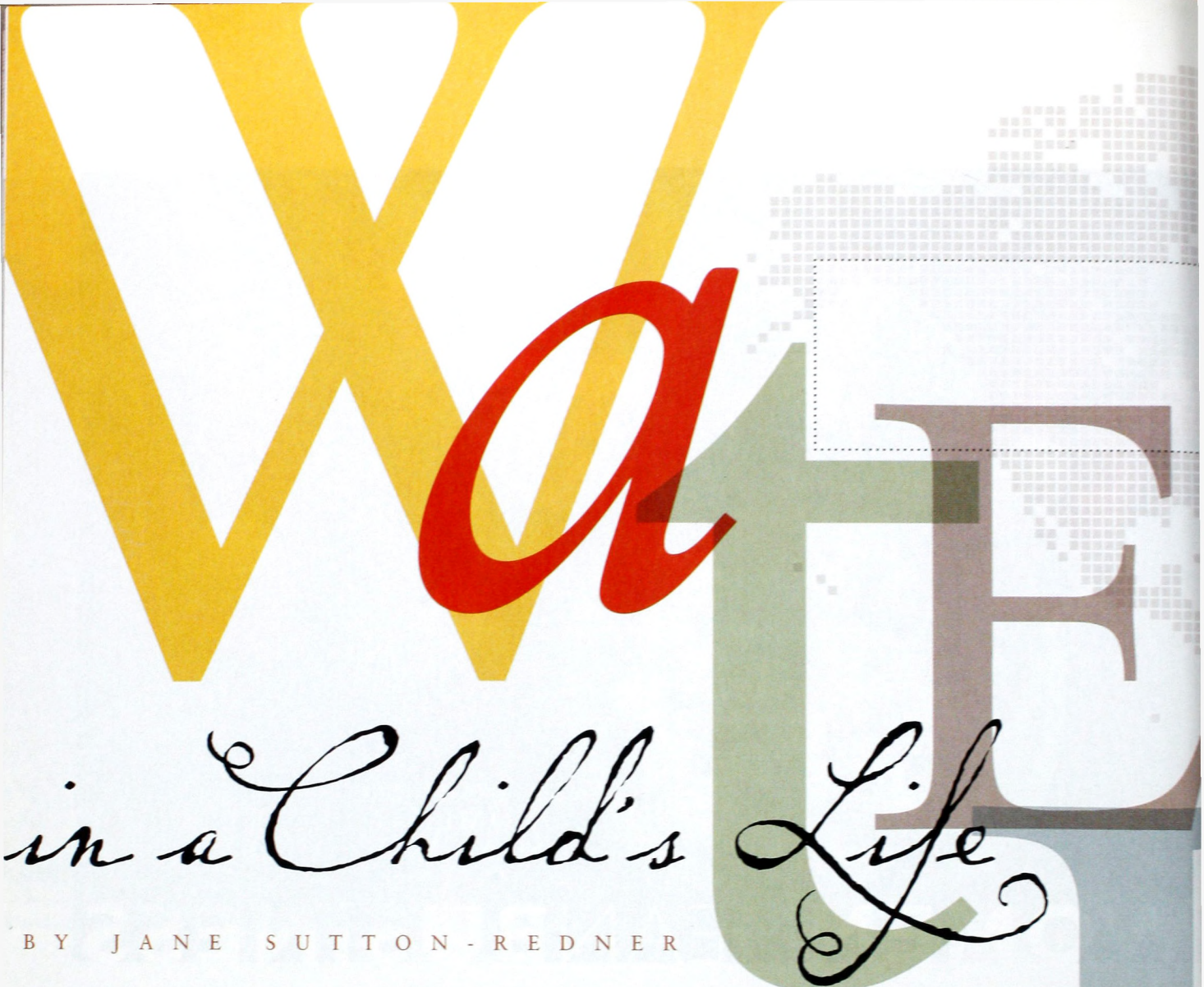
—James Addis with reporting by Mary Peterson and Tom Costanza

*"Everything will follow when you are able to provide water."*

But time saved does not mean she is putting her feet up. She and about 40 other village women have started a fledgling soap-making business, established with World Vision's help.

The women meet regularly under a sweet-smelling *neem* tree and help each other with each stage of production, creating a sense of camaraderie. First, vegetable oil is boiled and strained. Then soda powder, glue, and powdered detergent are added.





# Water

*in a Child's Life*

BY JANE SUTTON-REDNER

Turn on a water tap in front of a child in any country in the world, and the same thing happens: He delightedly reaches out to put his hands in the stream. Children have an inherent understanding of water's significance. Its abundance or scarcity shapes the quality of their lives.

When clean water can't be found, children suffer the consequences. They are vulnerable to a wide range of water-related diseases and infections, some merely uncomfortable, many deadly—all preventable. They can't bathe regularly. Their families' crops are dependent on rain, so the food supply can literally dry up at the weather's whim. Long trips to distant water sources keep them out of school. Good-paying jobs aren't available for their parents. Those families who can leave the area in search of greener pastures do, draining talent and vitality from the community.

Clean water changes everything, especially for a child. From it flows all advantages: good health and nutrition, education, vibrant communities, and a hopeful future. On these pages, explore the role of this precious resource in a child's life.



# Where IN THE WORLD

Countries where less than half of the population have sustainable access to clean water:

- Niger » 46 percent
- Democratic Republic of Congo » 46 percent
- Mozambique » 43 percent
- Chad » 42 percent
- Cambodia » 41 percent
- Papua New Guinea » 39 percent
- Ethiopia » 22 percent

(Human Development Report, 2006)

DID YOU  
Know?

When a community gains access to clean water, its child mortality rate drops by half. (United Nations Millennium Campaign)



RICHIE NAZZARI/WORLD VISION

**QUENCHING THIRST IN A CRISIS** | Conflict in July 2006 in Beirut, Lebanon, uprooted families and destroyed infrastructure, including water systems. During the crisis, World Vision volunteers distributed daily portions of potable water. After the cease-fire, staff replaced water tanks and provided generators to power wells, benefiting 64,000 people.



# Typhoid KILLED OUR Child

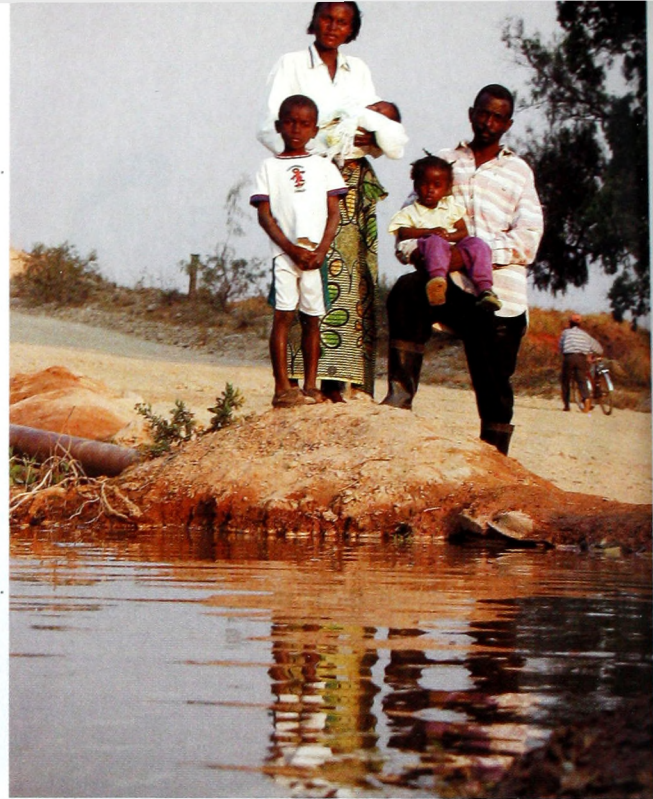
Justine Kasongo still mourns her daughter, Muleka, who died a few years ago at age 9. Justine brought the feverish child to the hospital in Kolwezi, Democratic Republic of Congo, but in three days Muleka never responded to treatment.

"In the last hours, I just talked to her. I told her she was going to get better, that this would pass," says Justine. "It was 1:35 in the morning when she died. I just started to cry. Typhoid killed our child."

Local World Vision staff suspect the cause of Muleka's illness was the unprotected well outside the family's house. Many families in Congo draw their water from holes and wells that fill up with waste matter. A contaminated source becomes a "warehouse of microbes," says World Vision water and sanitation expert Jean Pierre Kalondo.

"All the main diseases come from water: cholera, malaria, verminosis, typhoid, and diarrhea," he explains. "Since everybody needs water, if the water is contaminated, the whole population can be contaminated."

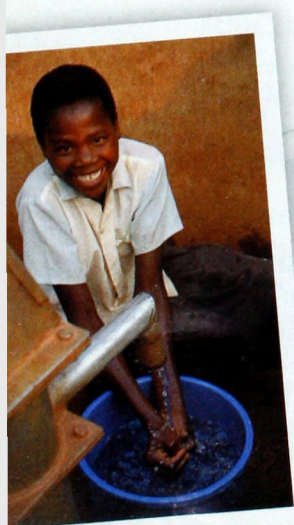
Children are especially vulnerable because of their contact with the dirty environment, says Peke Ngoy, a doctor in Kolwezi. "Children say 'Bonjour' and clasp hands—they pass on dirt. They put their fingers in their mouths. Typhoid fever and blood diseases come from dirty hands."



Justine Kasongo's family once had to drink dirty water, with tragic consequences.

Muleka's death was a preventable tragedy that Jean Pierre is working to avert for other children in Kolwezi, where World Vision has already drilled a borehole well. "This is just the beginning," he says, describing plans for drilling more wells and installing tanks and piping. With these measures, water will again become a source of life in Kolwezi—rather than an agent of death. ■

—by Kari Costanza



ANDREA DEARBORN/WORLD VISION

**SPONSORSHIP MAKES THE DIFFERENCE** | Elina Tonga, 14, a sponsored child in Makungwa, Zambia, finds fetching water easy from the borehole constructed by World Vision with sponsorship funds. "Before, we used to draw water at a stream 500 meters [about 500 yards] from the village," she says. "There were a lot of diarrhea cases before. Now, not so many. We are grateful for the well."

## BEATING BIRD FLU |

Concern over avian flu in Ialomita county, Romania, compelled World Vision to renovate bathroom facilities and provide education for 2,000 school children. The improved sanitary conditions help prevent germs from spreading child-to-child. "Our teacher told us how dangerous bird flu can be and how important it is to wash our hands," says Cristina, 6. "We are so blessed to have running water in our kindergarten."



IRINA DUPU



# How Water **sick** MAKES CHILDREN

## DID YOU KNOW?

Diseases such as diarrhea and parasitic infections cost 443 million school days a year, equivalent to an entire school year for all 7-year-olds in Ethiopia. (UNESCO)

## BAD WATER BY THE MILLIONS

**1 MILLION** | Number of children killed by malaria each year

**1.6 MILLION** | Child deaths due to diarrhea each year

**6 MILLION** | People blind today due to trachoma

**12 MILLION** | People affected by typhoid fever each year

**400 MILLION** | School-age children infected with parasitic worms

### WATER-BORNE DISEASES

**Cause** | Drinking water contaminated by human, animal, or chemical waste

**Examples** | Diarrhea, cholera, typhoid, polio, hepatitis A

**Prevention** | Accessing clean water and improving sanitary conditions

### WATER-RELATED DISEASES

**Cause** | Being bitten by insects (mosquitoes or flies) that feed or breed in water

**Examples** | Malaria, dengue fever, river blindness

**Prevention** | Limiting insect bites, e.g. through use of mosquito nets

### WATER-BASED DISEASES

**Cause** | Ingesting organisms that spend part of their life cycle in water

**Examples** | Guinea worm, bilharzia

**Prevention** | Staying out of infected rivers, straining or boiling water

### WATER-SCARCE DISEASES

**Cause** | Having poor hygiene or washing with contaminated water

**Examples** | Scabies, trachoma, lice

**Prevention** | Regular washing with clean water

(Johns Hopkins School of Public Health)

**COMMUNAL WELL MAKES A SPLASH** | Father of five José in Telpochapa, Nicaragua, hoped to build a well for his family (including baby Francisco, pictured). He joined with five families in the effort, and when it came to bringing the water up from the well, they called on World Vision. Staff supplied a rope pump. "Before this, we had to look for a place to wash and take a shower," José says. Now, that place is home.



RODOLFO LOPEZ AYESTAS / WORLD VISION

**CLEANER, SAFER COMMUNITY** | After the 2004 tsunami, children became sick from drinking water from a river in Tangalle, Sri Lanka, that was polluted by waste, debris, and corpses. World Vision helped to clean out the river, as well as latrines and septic tanks, and taught villagers new ways to dispose of waste to keep water sources clean. Kanishke, 11, learned how to use compost in his family's garden.



PAUL BETTINGS / WORLD VISION



# HARD TO GET

Clean water becomes even more scarce during natural disasters. Drought sends children digging deep into dry riverbeds. And in floods, water may be everywhere, but none of it is suitable to drink.

AMIO ASCENSION/WORLD VISION



PHILIP MAHER/WORLD VISION

## MAJOR USES FOR FRESH WATER

(Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations)

### AFRICA

- Industry | 7.3 percent
- Domestic use | 8.6 percent
- Agriculture | 84.1 percent

### NORTH AMERICA

- Domestic use | 13.3 percent
- Agriculture | 38.7 percent
- Industry | 48.0 percent

# Water IN OUR LIVES

At home, the average American uses 80-100 gallons of water a day. Where some of it goes:

- » Flushing the toilet: 5 gallons per flush
- » Brushing teeth with the water running: 2 gallons
- » Running the dishwasher: 12 gallons
- » Taking a five-minute shower: 25 gallons

## COUNTERPOINT

The average African family uses a total of five gallons of water a day. (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, World Resources Institute)



### WATER FOR ALL SEASONS |

In the high altitudes of Bolivia, families' access to water often depends on the weather and the season. World Vision provided technical and financial assistance for five Altiplano communities to construct their own water systems. "I am happy, because now I have water in my house," says Bernabe Ari, "and I have helped in building the systems."

RAMI MENDEZ/WORLD VISION



### LET YOUR FEET DO THE WATERING |

A treadle pump is a foot-operated irrigation tool that draws water from nearby sources and transfers it to farmers' gardens. With a constant water supply, farmers can harvest two or even three times a year. Treadle pumps are easy for women and even children to use. Here, Ntiwuza Nkhali, 8, irrigates her family's maize crops in Malawi.

PAUL BETTINGS/WORLD VISION





## WHAT YOU CAN DO

**Sponsor a child.** Your gifts, combined with those from other sponsors, fund community improvements such as wells, water tanks, and irrigation systems. Use the envelope between pages 16 and 17 to become a child sponsor or to share sponsorship with a friend.

**Support World Vision's worldwide efforts to provide clean water.** See the envelope between pages 16 and 17 for details.

**Help provide a well for a community.** Visit [www.worldvisiongifts.org](http://www.worldvisiongifts.org) to purchase a share of a traditional or deep well.

**Pray.** Ask God's favor on all efforts—from global movements such as the Millennium Development Goals to small-scale local projects—that seek to provide clean water for children.

**Learn more about water and poverty.** "Water Wise," teachers' guides and materials, are available at [www.worldvisionresources.com](http://www.worldvisionresources.com). Or find educational information online at [www.watmatters.worldvision.org.nz](http://www.watmatters.worldvision.org.nz).

# GIRLS GO THE DISTANCE



In the developing world, much of the arduous work of fetching water falls to girls. It's literally a dead-end job; the time-intensive task often excludes girls from going to school and developing their minds.



SAMUEL CHUNGA/WORLD VISION

## DID YOU KNOW?

World Vision's water projects around the world have given 10 million people access to clean water and improved sanitation.

JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

**MORNING ROUTINE** | When sponsored child Ho Thi Ha wakes up in Quang Nam province, Vietnam, she goes to a well in her garden to wash her face and brush her teeth. Later in the day, she participates in her school's efforts to keep the environment clean by collecting recyclable plastic containers and giving them to her teachers.

**WATER INSPIRES** | Mother of three Bukiri Bodurri was so excited about the clean water piped to her home in Shelcan, Albania, that she wrote a poem describing her community celebrating "this dream of many, many centuries, now become true." The water system provided by World Vision sponsorship enables her husband to stay there instead of migrating to Greece or Italy for work. ■



KHUAT QUANG HUNG/WORLD VISION



ARUNEE RAISUWANSAKUL/WORLD VISION



Sri Yatini leads a creative activity at World Vision's Child-Friendly Space.

who need help," Sri says.

With her help, the first Child-Friendly Space was opened in the area for more than 100 children. Sri quickly connected with the children, and her work led to greater responsibility as full-time facilitator for the center. To date, her team has established 20 Child-Friendly Spaces in Bantul and Klaten, with a goal of creating five more.

Seeing children live through difficult circumstances brought back memories from her own childhood.

Sri became a World Vision sponsored child in 1991 when the organization supported several community development projects in Central Java. Eleven years old and in the fifth grade, she was sponsored along with her brother and stepsister.

"Sponsorship started at the right time, when the economy of my family collapsed," Sri says. Sariyem, her widowed mother, struggled to support her children. Sariyem sold souvenirs to tourists visiting the well-known Prambanan Hindu temple near her village, but it required long hours, and the income was not reliable.

"The fact that my older brother, younger sister, and I got sponsorship at about the same time really lightened our family's burden," Sri says. "My mother just needed to concentrate on how to find money for our meals, because all the schooling needs and health care had been paid through sponsorship."

In addition to providing for her basic needs, sponsorship gave Sri a spark of hope. "When I first received the letter and photo from my sponsor, I was so elated. I

## Compassion Comes Full Circle »

*Inspired by her sponsor, a former World Vision beneficiary reaches out to children in need.*

By Ryan Smith and Bartolomeus Marsudiharjo

In the chaos following an earthquake that rocked central Indonesia last May, Sri Yatini, 27, found a familiar comfort. It was a phone call from World Vision—but this time it wasn't about receiving aid. Instead, it was an opportunity for this formerly sponsored child to provide aid for others.

After the quake left about 1 million people homeless, World Vision rushed to assist to more than 40,000 people, distributing tarpaulins, blankets, tools, and hygiene kits. To support children, World Vision opened Child-Friendly Spaces, which provide a safe place for children to play, attend classes, and receive emotional support.

World Vision staff needed all the help they could find. A staff person remembered Sri from her days as a sponsored child and contacted her. Sri volunteered to assist in any way she could. "Here, I get a chance to repay the kindness of my sponsor by helping others

HENDRO SUWITO/WORLD VISION (2)



*Here, I get a chance to repay the kindness of my sponsor by helping others who need help.*

was so happy that there is someone—a Westerner—who knew about me and helped me,” Sri recalls.

With that support, Sri worked hard in school. An elementary-school teacher remembers Sri as her “beloved student.” She was ranked first in her class for several years.

She saved enough money by helping her mother sell souvenirs to enroll at the Yogyakarta National University. There, she continued to excel, achieving a degree in construction education.

Shortly after her graduation, the earthquake struck, and Sri received the call to assist World Vision in the relief program. Her first paycheck was a real joy. “I was so astonished when World Vision paid me, because I did not expect to get any money. What I did was merely to help my neighbors,” she says.

Recently, Sri has transitioned to a job with World Vision that specifically uses her college education. She is an infrastructure facilitator, assessing permanent housing and determining which families should be assigned to newly built homes.

Sri says she is very grateful for World Vision sponsorship, which assured her education and gave her confidence to pursue her dreams.

“Sponsorship, to me, is the realization that someone has been pushing me forward to excel, to nurture my potential,” she says. “Now that I’m a grown-up, I have the urge to pay back what I have received in the past. I have the urge to help other needy people, particularly needy children.” ■

**“The attention of my sponsor made me optimistic to reach my dreams,” Sri says.**



## About World Vision

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

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

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

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

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



## A Sacred Gift of Love »

For many countries around the world, particularly in West Africa, water poses a paradox. Its absence or scarcity causes millions of people to move from one place to another in search of a better life, leaving behind wives, children, and the elderly. At the other extreme, heavy downpours rage a merciless war, ravaging people's livestock, homes, land, and, very often, their lives.

The paradox of having too little or too much water highlights the need to manage this source of life—politically and socially, but also spiritually.

In the Sahel, south of the Sahara, the coming of the rainy season is a time of intense spirituality. The whole life of the community is in limbo until God grants them rain. When the first rains fall, the first water lifted from a well or pumped from a borehole is in its very nature sacred, and is used in rituals to protect and bless communities. It's with this belief that heads of families, even in urban settings, take water before the sun rises and pour it over the thresholds of their homes, repeating wishes of peace, blessings, and prayers for the households.

For Christians, the Bible is full of references to the spiritual symbolism of water. The first chapter of Genesis tells us how water came before almost everything else in creation. God used water in the flood during the time of Noah to correct people's

*"If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him."*

—John 7: 37-38

first rebellion against him. In the book of Exodus, when Moses and the people of Israel were caught between an enraged enemy and the waters of the Red Sea, God intervened. Water's main purpose is to physically sustain people, but in the hands of God, it is a means of blessing, correction, and liberation.

It was in the waters of the Jordan that Jesus himself started his ministry by a public act of baptism. This was how he chose to identify himself with humanity. It was there that he received the public approval of God: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased" (Luke 3:22).



Elsewhere, in a critical moment in his ministry, Jesus made an appeal, saying: "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him" (John 7: 37-38). This is the most complete symbol that water portrays: the Holy Spirit, the most piercing light of God's grace toward a suffering world.

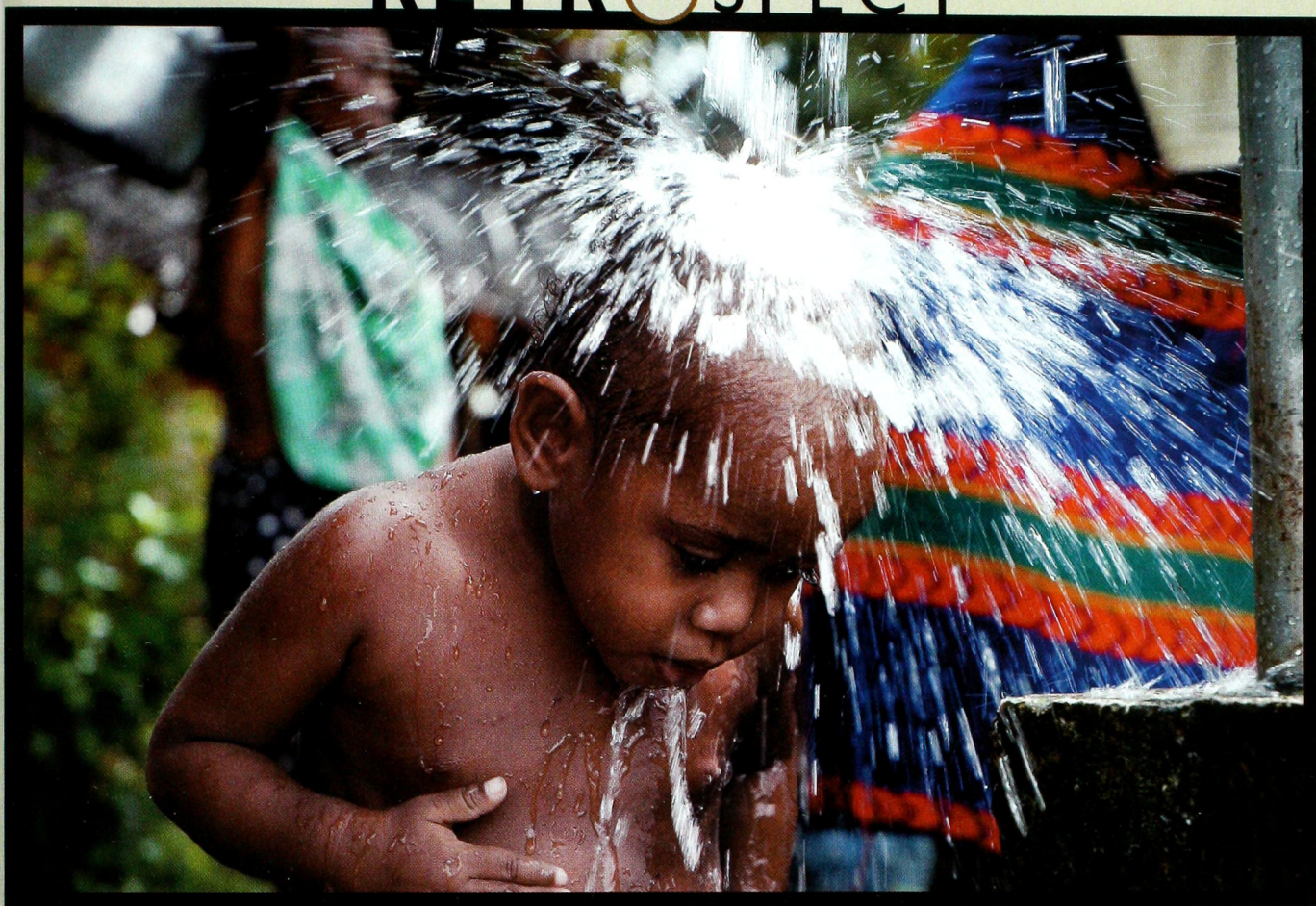
We know that water is an element that touches people physically, socially, and spiritually. The Sahel—dry and barren—teaches us that you can't achieve lasting human development without mastering water. It shows us that a water crisis should be a time for unity between people who are aware of their own humanity.

In Senegal, offering water to someone in a village carries a strong message—above human solidarity, it's a sacred act of love. Since 1986, World Vision has drilled and equipped 630 borehole wells in rural communities in Senegal, providing clean water to hundreds of thousands of people. Each time it's an occasion to offer a gift of love in the realm of the divine. ■

**Adama Diouf is a pastor and director of the Evangelical Theology Institute of Senegal. Previously he served with World Vision in Senegal.**



# RETROSPECT



PAMELA SITKO/WORLD VISION

## P A P U A   N E W   G U I N E A

Clean water is a dream realized in Bougainville, Papua New Guinea. For years, residents of this coastal region had to trek high and low for water that wouldn't make them sick. A decade of conflict forced many problems to fester, including a grievous lack of access to clean water—affecting fully 80 percent of Bougainville's population, according to the national health department. Then World Vision's "Water is Life" project turned the tide by providing borehole wells and gravity-fed water systems, benefiting 16,000 people. Says one local father, "Before World Vision came here, it was foolish to dream that my children would ever have access to a pump and clean water." ■



# the end of poverty starts with her

Want to help end global poverty? Recent studies have shown that the most effective way to overcome poverty is to strengthen the girls and women it affects.

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Below are three of the 24,000 girls waiting right now for a compassionate sponsor like you. Show one of them God's love by providing her with access to things like clean water, better nutrition, health care, education, and economic opportunities—benefits that will extend to her family, her community, and other children in need.



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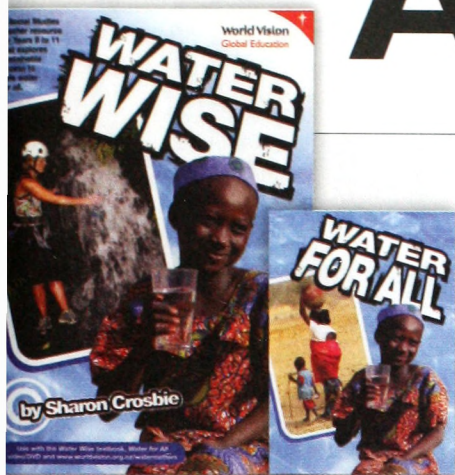


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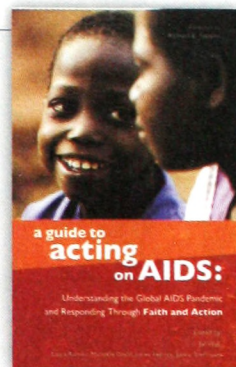
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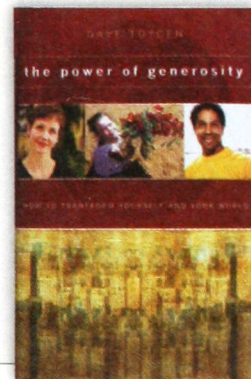
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