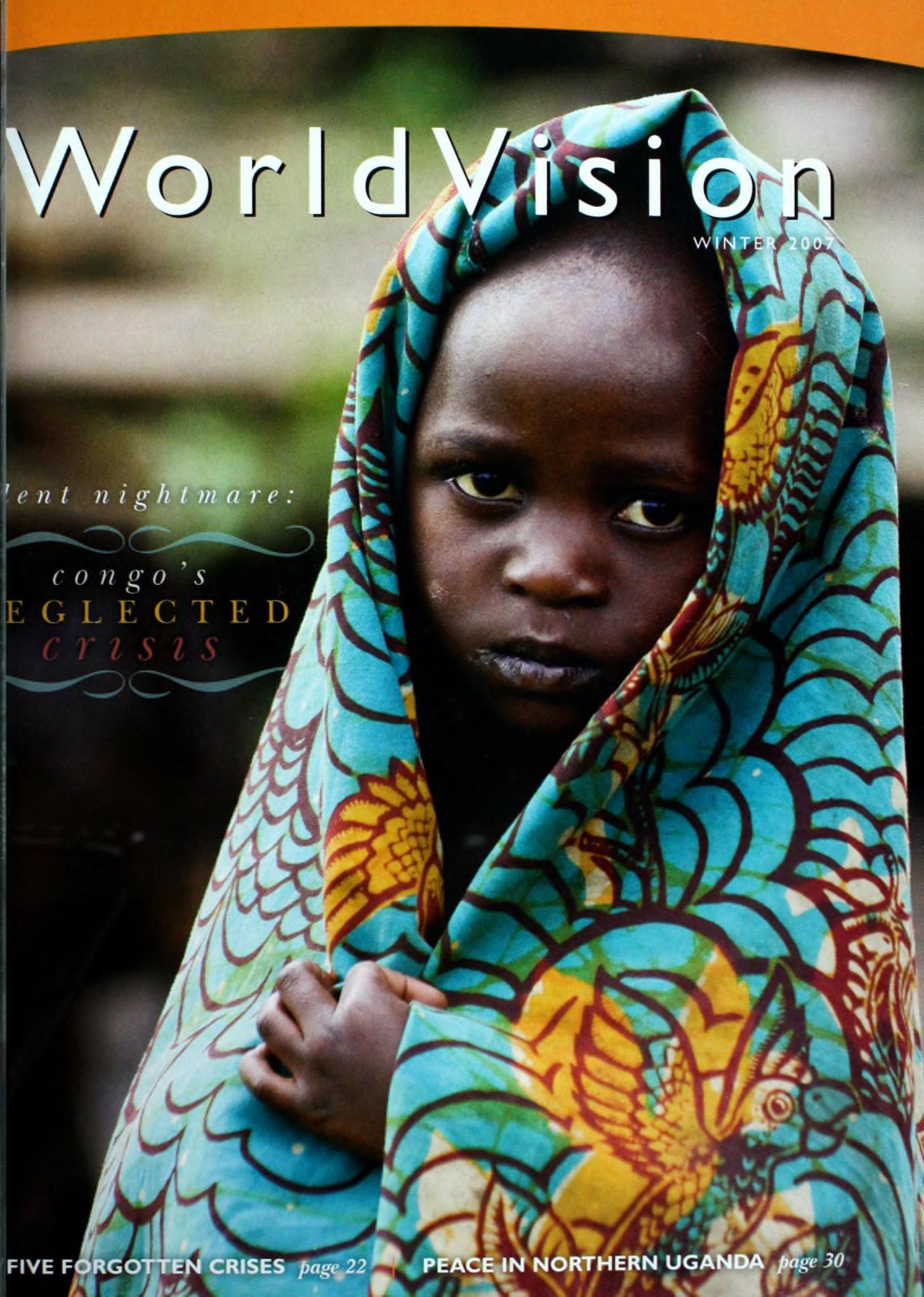


# WorldVision



WINTER 2007

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*congo's*  
**EGLECTED**  
*CRISIS*

**FIVE FORGOTTEN CRISES** *page 22*

**PEACE IN NORTHERN UGANDA** *page 30*

gift planning



## Increased income and a better tomorrow ... for life.

A World Vision **Gift Annuity** can help you meet your financial goals AND give children a brighter future.

If you are 65 or older, simply make a gift of cash or securities to World Vision, and you'll receive fixed payments for life—along with a variety of tax benefits. After your lifetime, the remaining funds will be used to help transform children's lives.

The older you are, the  
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Age	Rate *
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70	6.5%
75	7.1%
80	8.0%
85	9.5%
90	11.3%

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Building a better world for children

**WorldVision**

VOLUME 11, NUMBER 2

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### » ON THE COVER

**Florence, a 5-year-old girl in the Democratic Republic of Congo, has grown up in a country in chaos. 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.

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Building a better world for children

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## Foolish Things »

**B**et on the winners. ... Go for the sure thing. ... Don't throw good money after bad. ... Don't invest in a lost cause ... These phrases characterize a prevalent worldview in which the powerful, the wealthy, and the glamorous dominate our culture. But at World Vision, we have a different kind of worldview. When you get right down to it, World Vision is built around the idea of betting on the losers and investing heavily in the world's lost causes.

Why feed a child who will likely die of malaria, cholera, or dysentery before her fifth birthday? Why educate a deaf child in a place like Gaza, roiling with violence and despair? Why give a loan to a widow in Zambia dying from AIDS or bring clean water to a Congolese war zone? These are the questions that World Vision has to answer every day.

As Christians we are compelled to see the world through a different lens. Our God is the God of the lost cause, the mustard seed, the lost sheep, and the widow's mite. He values each life, each child, regardless of circumstances, as "precious in his sight."

*"But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him."*

—1 Corinthians 1:27-29

My wife, Reneé, teaches a devotion illustrating that "betting on a loser" is never foolish if you have confidence in God's promises. In Jeremiah 32 we read that Jerusalem was under siege and surrounded by the Babylonian army. The Lord tells Jeremiah to do something foolish, to purchase a piece of occupied land—a field at Anathoth—from his cousin. A modern-day equivalent might be to purchase land in Baghdad to build a vacation home. Jeremiah counted out the money and then publicly signed and sealed the deed. Why? Because God, in the midst of this tribulation, made a promise to Jeremiah that "houses, fields, and vineyards will again be bought in this land." And to a watching world, Jeremiah made a statement about the character of God.

I have visited World Vision projects all over the world and



**A boy from Congo: a lost cause?**

have met people trapped in some of the worst circumstances imaginable. But when World Vision sees people overcome with hopelessness, we respond with optimism. When others see a malnourished child, we see a future farmer. When some see a child without schooling, we see a future teacher and when others see a child huddling in a refugee camp, we see a future leader. We see the image of God in every person.

In June I met a South Korean man in New York. He told me about growing up poor after the terrible Korean War. But his face lit up when he talked about how he was able to go to school because of the work of humanitarian organizations in South Korea. He received clothes and school supplies, which gave him the courage to stay in school and believe that he could have a better future. His name was Ban Ki-moon, secretary-general of the United Nations, and he was not a lost cause.

At World Vision we don't believe in lost causes, and neither do the sponsors of 3 million children worldwide who have "bought a piece of land" behind enemy lines. As you read in this issue about places in need of hope, can I ask you to pray to the God of lost causes, that he will bring light into this darkness? Pray too for the thousands of World Vision

staff, who each day rise and walk alongside the downtrodden with their faith as their shield. ■



*Rick Shanley*

Compiled by James Addis

## First Aid

Margaret Namubiru was the first person in her village of Kasensero, Uganda, to get anti-retroviral drugs. Once she learned of her HIV-positive status, she did everything she could to warn fellow villagers about AIDS.

Now, Margaret works closely with World Vision to comfort the sick and dying. Here, she clutches her World Vision Caregiver Kit, containing supplies to attend to the sick. Churches, companies, and community groups in the United States put the kits together. Since the program began in October 2006, approximately 75,000 kits have been assembled. ■

For more information, go to [www.worldvision.org/carekits](http://www.worldvision.org/carekits).





LYNDEN STEELWHITE HOUSE PHOTO OFFICE (2)

## WORLD WATCH

**ZAMBIA** | FIRST LADY FIGHTS AIDS »

First lady Laura Bush helped assemble World Vision Caregiver Kits during a visit to Africa to highlight the Bush administration's support for initiatives to combat AIDS and malaria. The assembly took place at the World Vision-supported Mututa Memorial Center in Lusaka, which trains caregivers and is funded by the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. The first lady said partnerships between governments and faith-based programs were the key to turning the tide against malaria and AIDS.



# FRONT LINES

**ASIA | MILLIONS FLEE FLOODS** » The worst flooding in living memory prompted about 20 million people to flee their homes in India, Nepal, and Bangladesh. World Vision commenced delivery of food and other emergency supplies to 80,000 families in Bangladesh and 10,000 households in India.

**LEBANON | AID FOR WAR BABIES** » About 30,000 people fled fierce fighting between the Lebanese army and Fatah al-Islam—a militant Islamic group operating in Palestinian refugee camps. World Vision assisted the displaced by distributing supplies for newborns and water mattresses for special-needs children. World Vision also donated five tents to create Child-Friendly Spaces.

**NORTH KOREA | HOSPITAL HELP** » World Vision donated a mobile laboratory kit to a hospital in Anju, including equipment to analyze blood and urine. The Anju hospital serves 240,000 people but lacks essential medical supplies. In June, North Korean representatives to the United Nations thanked World Vision International President Dean Hirsch for the organization's assistance to North Korea and expressed the hope that it will continue.

**SUDAN | AGONY CONTINUES FOR DARFUR** » Displaced camps in Darfur are overflowing as hundreds of new arrivals turn up every day after fleeing an ongoing militia terror campaign. In February, World Vision registered 3,000 in Al Salaam camp; by June, the number had rocketed to 30,000. World Vision currently distributes food to more than 270,000 displaced people in 13 camps in the region.

**BRAZIL | FAIR TRADE DOLLS DELIGHT** » Within two weeks, buyers snapped up 25,000 miniature dolls produced for a fair trade project. The 1-inch-tall dolls can be attached to handbags and mobile phones to symbolize the owners' solidarity with fair trade principles. More than 40 poor women earn a living producing the dolls through Ética Comércio Solidário, an organization founded by World Vision.

**RWANDA | SWAPPING WORK FOR SCHOOL** » A rally to mark Anti-Child Labor Day prompted praise for a World Vision project designed to release children from the worst forms of exploitative work. Minister of Public Service Manasseh Nshuti told attendees that the KURET project had released more than 6,000 children from labor such as tea picking, quarrying, brick making, and gold mining and harvesting. About 70 percent of those released now attend school.

**ETHIOPIA | CHILD SPONSORSHIP EXPANDS** » Plans for two new development programs and the extension of three others will help World Vision assist an additional 200,000 people in Ethiopia. The child sponsorship-funded programs will boost education, food security, health, water, and sanitation in affected communities. Currently there are more than 169,000 World Vision-sponsored children in Ethiopia. ■



ETHIOPIA

JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

**QUOTABLE** » "Almsgiving tends to perpetuate poverty; aid does away with it once and for all." —Eva Perón

## SHORTCHANGED

Commitments by the world's most powerful nations—known as the G8—to increase funding to fight AIDS is less than half of what is required to meet the goal of universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, and care by 2010.

- » **Funding required by 2010:** \$23 billion
- » **Funding committed by G8 by 2010:** \$10.4 billion



Source: UNAIDS and DATA

## LIFECUTSHORT

Countries with the world's lowest life expectancies.

Swaziland	32.23
Angola	37.63
Zambia	38.44
Zimbabwe	39.50
Lesotho	39.97
Liberia	40.39
Sierra Leone	40.58
Mozambique	40.90
South Africa	42.45
Malawi	42.98

Source: CIA Factbook 2007



## Every House Gets a Cow

*A real estate agent spreads the word on rural poverty.*

**G**rowing up desperately poor on a small farm in Pennsylvania made a lasting impression on real estate professional Rose Johnson.

But instead of remembering those hardscrabble experiences with resentment, she has managed to do something with them that provides a lot of fun for clients while alleviating some of the dire needs suffered by the world's poorest farmers.

*"I know from personal experience what an impact [a cow] can make."*

» To donate animals for families in need through the Gift Catalog, see the insert between pages 16 and 17.

Rather than present clients with a gift each time she closes a sale, Rose—now based in Puyallup, Wash.—donates the money she would have spent on a gift to World Vision to buy farm animals for the rural poor. She says a few extra goats, chickens, or a cow can radically transform the fortunes of a family in need.

"I know from personal experience what an impact it can make," she says.

Clients don't miss out on the deal—the donation is made on their behalf. Each receives a soft toy cow to remind them of their contribution. Clients are invited to name their cow, and they receive an adoption certificate for the animal.

Rose says the level of enthusiasm among clients is extraordinary. Some make painstaking deliberations over the name, while others proudly display their cow in their new home to use as a talking point with guests.

Rose keeps the level of interest rolling in her monthly mailings by noting how many cows have been added to the "pasture."

She says the project does not help her do more business, but it does help raise awareness and shows a practical way people can help the poor. "I don't expect to get more deals, but I want to spread the word of helping others," she says. ■

## why I love

World Vision



DIWA GACOSTA/WORLD VISION

In a crisis, **CHILDREN**  
get hurt most. Help  
World Vision bring relief.

You can help! Complete the form on the reverse side and return it along with your gift, in the envelope between pages 24 and 25.

OR »

side in Los  
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Spider-Man,  
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nose who don't

worldvision.org.



GREG SCHNEIDER/GENESIS PHOTOS



CLARENCE TABB JR./GENESIS PHOTOS

change  
AGENT

**Name:** Heather Buchanan Smith

**Home:** Detroit, Mich.

**Occupation:** Sales Manager,  
Centex Homes

**Program:** U.S. Programs

**Buzz:** When Heather won National Sales Manager of the Year at a rally in Las Vegas, her prize was the lease on a new BMW. But she cringed at the thought of driving a foreign car in her hometown, Detroit. She was impressed with World Vision's local ministries—providing school tools to poor children and new outfits to struggling moms so they can get jobs. Heather decided to donate the cash value of her prize, \$18,000, to World Vision's Storehouse in Detroit to support the work. ■

Somewhere between Las Vegas and home, I had a *vision*.

I don't really *need* a car. If I *donated* the monetary value to World Vision, *some good* things would happen.

— HEATHER BUCHANAN SMITH

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



## Every House

*A real estate agent spreads*

**G**rowing up desperately poor on a farm in Pennsylvania made a lasting impression on real estate professional Rose Joh

But instead of remembering those hard experiences with resentment, she has made something with them that provides a lot of joy for clients while alleviating some of the dire needs of the world's poorest farmers.

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**YES!**  
I want to help children affected by emergencies!

- Please use my gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to support World Vision's disaster response.
- I want to sponsor a child for \$30/month.  
 GENDER:  BOY  GIRL  
 LIVING IN:  ASIA  AFRICA  LATIN AMERICA  
 MIDDLE EAST  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

VISA  MASTERCARD  AMERICAN EXPRESS  DISCOVER

CARD NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

CARD EXPIRES \_\_\_\_\_

NAME ON CARD \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

TO RECEIVE PERIODIC UPDATES ABOUT THE IMPACT OF YOUR GIFT

1127121

PLEASE UPDATE IF NECESSARY

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

( )

TELEPHONE

STATE

ZIP

E-MAIL

# why I love

BEING A CHILD SPONSOR »

**M**y name is Hassan Sleiman. I'm originally from Lebanon but now reside in Los Angeles. I have four sponsored children, one through World Vision. His name is Ngongoi Medoti Lekerere, now 6 and a half years old. He lives in Tanzania, a country that suffers greatly from AIDS. I eagerly await all the letters that he sends me. It's amazing how much someone can thank you for so little.

In one of his letters he thanked me for sending him coloring books of Spider-Man, Superman, and Mickey Mouse for his birthday. He said that he couldn't give me anything but that his home in Tanzania is my home. I hate to admit it, but it made me tear up. If he only knew how much he has given me. He has given more than anyone I've ever known.

All of us who live in countries like the United States are so lucky. It's time that we share the basic human necessities that we all take for granted with those who don't have them. ■

## TELL US YOUR STORY

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



**HASSAN SLEIMAN**

Los Angeles, Calif.

CLARENCE TABB JR./GENESIS PHOTOS



## change AGENT

**Name:** Heather Buchanan Smith

**Home:** Detroit, Mich.

**Occupation:** Sales Manager, Centex Homes

**Program:** U.S. Programs

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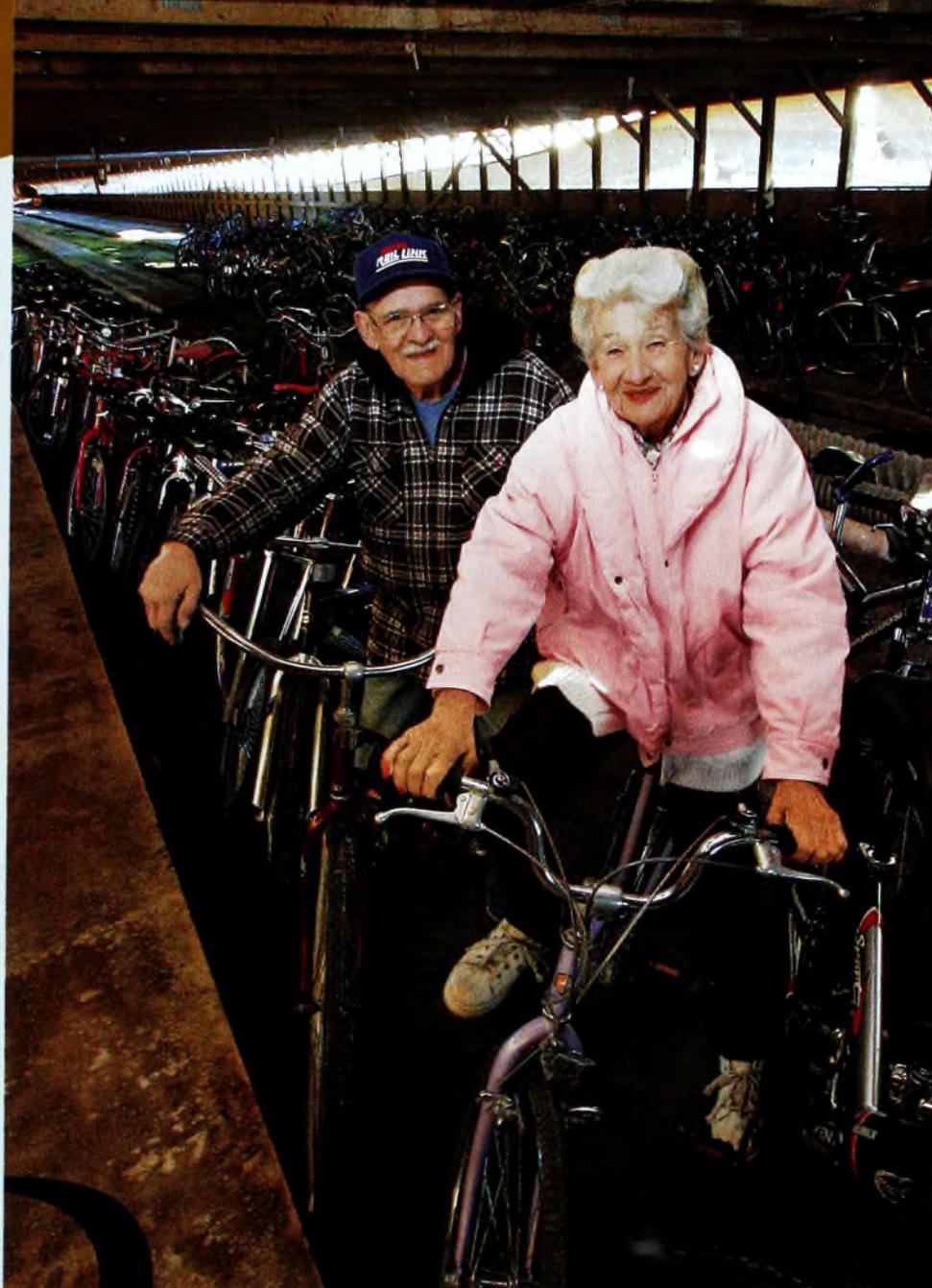
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— HEATHER BUCHANAN SMITH

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

GREG SCHNEIDER/GENESIS PHOTOS



NAOHI LASDON/GENESIS PHOTOS

## Pedal Power

*A homespun bicycle ministry joins the fight against AIDS.*

It all started when Jackie Phillips saw a story on TV about a man who worked two jobs to provide his children with new bicycles for

Christmas. Sadly, his garage was broken into on Christmas Eve and the bikes were stolen.

The story broke Jackie's heart, and though she did not have the opportunity to help the man featured on the news, she vowed she would dedicate her life to ensuring that poor children could have bikes for Christmas.

She and her husband, Bill, now both in their 70s, started The Bicycle Ministry from their home in Gates, N.C. At first, they collected and began repairing beaten-up bikes retrieved from Dumpsters. Word got around. Bikes in various states of disrepair poured in from around the state. "At one time," says Jackie, "I had 3,000 bicycles sitting in my front yard."

Then Jackie got the idea of approaching the Gates Correctional Center to see if inmates could help out. Now three state prisons and one federal institution all have prisoners busily repairing bikes for the ministry. Parts are sent to a paint shop to be professionally re-sprayed. Jackie says that by the time they leave the workshops, the bikes are as good as new. Come Christmas, the ministry distributes the bikes to delighted children.

World Vision was so impressed with the bikes that it asked for some to send to Zambia for volunteer AIDS caregivers. The organization trains thousands of caregivers to bring comfort and basic medical care to HIV-sufferers. Most have no transport and are faced with walking miles to reach their patients. So far, about 1,000 bikes have been shipped to support World Vision's work.

Jackie herself travels up to 100 miles a day, picking up bikes or parts and delivering them to prison workshops. She has no intention of slowing down. "You don't ever want to sit down," she says, "or you will die." ■

# Courageous Leadership Award

*A faulty statistic ignites a church's passion.*

The AIDS ministry of Fish Hoek Baptist Church of Cape Town, South Africa, had an unusual beginning.

It came about after senior pastor John Thomas heard a statistic that turned out to be incorrect. Back in 1999 he was told that 4 percent of people living in the church's community were HIV-positive. Later he learned the true figure was nearer 17 percent, but by then it was irrelevant.

"God used that [faulty statistic] to kick me and ask, 'What are you going to say to me on judgment day if you have done nothing about this AIDS crisis all around you?'" he says.

It was a question that could not be ignored. The 300-member church founded the Living Hope Community Center, which now offers counseling, testing, treatment, and palliative care to thousands of AIDS sufferers in the Western Cape region.

In August, Fish Hoek won the first annual Courageous Leadership Award—a joint project of World Vision and Willow Creek Community Church, designed to honor churches helping AIDS-affected communities. The first prize of \$120,000, contributed

by two private donors, will be used to further the center's work.

World Vision President Rich Stearns said the award was especially fitting when Thomas revealed that almost half the congregation left the church and he nearly lost his job due to initial opposition to the AIDS ministry. "When we talk about courageous leadership, this was an example," Rich says.

Fish Hoek was selected among nearly 100 award entries. Two runners up each received \$40,000:

**West Angeles Church of God in Christ, Los Angeles, Calif.:** The church has raised more than \$7 million for its AIDS ministry, which works with churches in 21 African nations, serving more than 100,000 children, many of them orphans.

**Rockland Community Church, Golden, Colo.:** Members built an AIDS orphans center in Tanzania, which cares for more than 150 children and their extended families.

Next year's award will be presented at Willow Creek's annual Leadership Summit. For more information, visit [www.courageousleadershipaward.com](http://www.courageousleadershipaward.com). ■

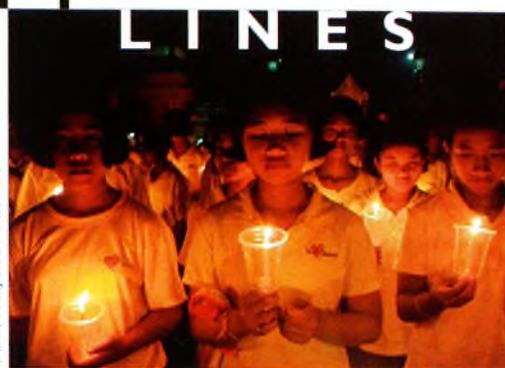
—With reporting by Dean Owen



**JOHN THOMAS**  
Cape Town, South Africa

PIRE NICHOLS/WORLD VISION

PAIWAN BENJAKUL/WORLD VISION



## WHAT Can I Do? 5 WAYS TO FIGHT AIDS

**1. World AIDS Day** | Unite with others around the world to take action against AIDS, Dec. 1.

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

**2. 2008 Chicago Marathon** | Start training now to raise funds for AIDS-affected African families, Oct. 12, 2008.

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

**3. Pastor's Vision Trip** | Tell your pastor about this opportunity to see the impact of AIDS in southern Africa, Jan. 29-Feb. 7, 2008.

[www.worldvision.org/c2c](http://www.worldvision.org/c2c)

**4. World Vision Global Vigil** | Vigils held in cities around the world, starting in New York, will remember the 6,000 children orphaned by AIDS every day. Begins Nov. 29.

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

**5. World Vision Experience: AIDS** | See the interactive exhibit that invites you to walk in the footsteps of a child impacted by AIDS.

[www.worldvisionexperience.org](http://www.worldvisionexperience.org) ■

### » WANT MORE OPTIONS?

Go to [www.worldvision.org/change](http://www.worldvision.org/change).

**FAST FACT** » Debt cancellation and targeted aid have helped 20 million more African children go to school between 2000 and 2004.

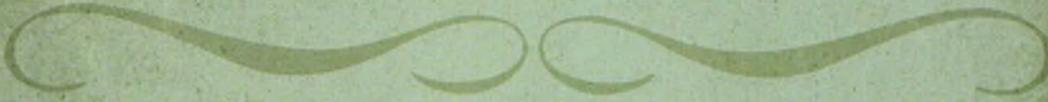
Source: DATA



Waiting for safety at home,  
a young boy in Mugunga  
camp battles hunger, disease,  
and sheer boredom.



*congo: portrait of a*  
N E G L E C T E D  
*CRISIS*



More than 1,000 people die daily of hunger or disease. Life expectancy is a scant 43 years. Nearly half of all school-age children aren't in school. Yet these facts of life and death in the Democratic Republic of Congo don't typically make the nightly news. One of the world's most neglected crises, Congo continues to suffer the grisly vestiges of war—quietly and off-camera.

But it is people, not numbers, who fill in the picture of a country in crisis. Here are three stories of families striving for normal lives amid the turmoil. »

BY KARI COSTANZA  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY JON WARREN

**T**HIS IS WHERE he might have found her: high on hill, her bare feet firmly planted in soft, rich earth—soil as black as the volcano from which it came. She would be working, gently tugging away at the weeds that threaten her cassava and bean plants, a breeze fluttering down the mountain, cooling her face against eastern Congo's warm sun.

Perhaps she would hear him coming, breathless from his climb up the steep mountain path, a package in his hand. He was always spoiling her. "He knew my weakness for clothes," says Leoni Kabatsi, 43, of her husband, Ftaki. "When he came home from a journey, no matter where he was, he always came to find me. He was not a perfect man, but since he died, love, for me, died."

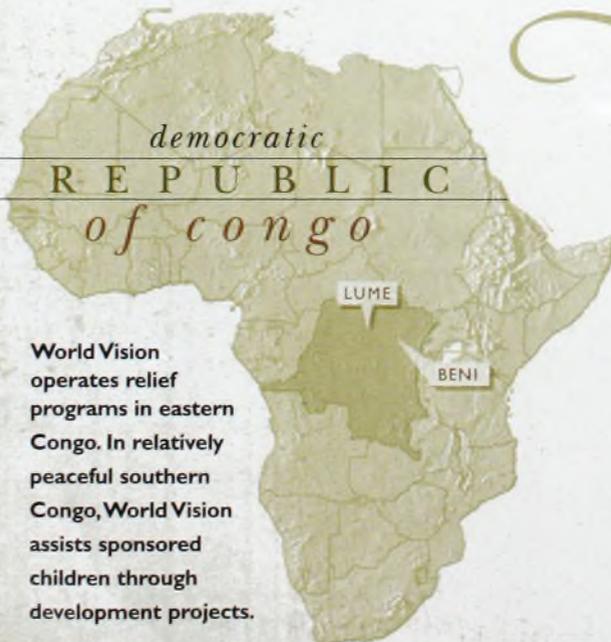
In 1998, Ftaki's life ended in tragedy. "A tank came from Goma," says Leoni. "It started shooting. He started running. When he arrived home, his blood pressure was dangerously high. Stress killed him."

Leoni's husband was just one of nearly 4 million people who have perished in the Democratic Republic of Congo since 1998. Not since World War II has a conflict cost so many lives. Today, there is fragile peace, and in 2006, the



Following in her husband's footsteps, Leoni is now a skilled farmer.

*"He was not a perfect man,  
but since he died, love, for me, died."*



World Vision operates relief programs in eastern Congo. In relatively peaceful southern Congo, World Vision assists sponsored children through development projects.

country held its first free elections in 40 years. But the misery hasn't ended. Every day, 1,200 men, women, and children die from disease, malnutrition, and violence. Skirmishes between various rebels and government forces continue, driving people away from their homes and into squalid camps (see "Snapshot of Suffering," page 18).

Congo, home to 65 million people, looms large in Africa. About one-fourth the size of the United States, Congo contains the lion's share of the continent's natural resources. Its borders flank nine other nations—many of them also war-torn. But other crises and conflicts regularly eclipse this country's troubles.

Forgotten by the world, Congo desperately needs humanitarian aid. So do mothers like Leoni, who soldier on, continuing to search for a better life for their children, in spite of all that conflict stole.

—continued on page 17



Finally at peace, Lume village—  
at the base of the Rwenzori  
Mountains—once was the scene  
of abductions and murder.

a portrait of  
D E T E R M I N A T I O  
- l e o n i -

