

WorldVision

WINTER 2009

in ETHIOPIA,
MAX LUCADO
ENCOUNTERS
MIRACLES
in the MAKING

A TEEN'S LEGACY *page 20*
FORGIVING A KILLER *page 30*



“I always felt there was more I could do.

“I’ve been blessed through the years, so when I was preparing my will, I decided World Vision is the charity to leave my money to. This gave me the opportunity to contribute in ways I couldn’t otherwise.”

*My name is
Beth Feidenheimer*

And World Vision is helping me have a lasting impact.

We're here to help . . .

Do your current plans reflect the legacy you want to leave? If you have questions or would like assistance, call 1.888.852.4453.

Read more of Beth's story and others like hers at www.worldvision.org/mylegacy.

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Editor-in-Chief	Jane Sutton-Redner
Senior Editor	James Addis
Associate Editor	Ryan Smith
Contributing Editor	Kari Costanza
Photo Editor	Jon Warren
Production Manager	Karen Latta
Design & Production	Journey Group, Inc.
Intern	Amanda Jackson

» ON THE COVER

Sponsorship brings hope to children like Chaltu Dechasa, 7, in Ethiopia.

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 about 46 cents a copy to produce.

We welcome your comments or address change. Contact us at: *World Vision* magazine, P.O. Box 9716, Federal Way, WA 98063-9716. E-mail us: wvmagazine@worldvision.org. To request to be taken off our mailing list, e-mail us or call toll-free (877) 596-0290.

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Clarification: In the photo on page 23 of the Autumn 2009 issue, the HIV-positive mother chose to bottle-feed her baby to prevent transmitting the virus to him. World Vision strongly advocates for early and exclusive breastfeeding for all children.

ON THE WEB

Find World Vision magazine online at www.worldvision.org/magazine, including Web-exclusive content such as videos, audio, and photo features. Also, check out our blog at blog.worldvisionmagazine.org.

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FOOTPRINTS ON THE HEART » God gave 13-year-old Hannah Kosloski the gift of compassion. Even after the Minnesota teen's tragic death, she continues to inspire people to help children.

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SOMETHING TO LIVE FOR » AIDS brought death and persecution to a Dominican Republic mother. Nevertheless, she became an agent of change in her community.



JIM HONEGENESIS PHOTOS

Through Hannah's Hundreds, Jim and Sylvia Kosloski fulfill their daughter's dream.

IN EVERY ISSUE

FROM THE PRESIDENT

How to cure an insatiable desire for more stuff? Try to focus on those in the world who have less.

FRONTLINES

A former Marine keeps his promise to God, a troubled teen gets back on course, urgent need for project funding, and more.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

A former sponsored child becomes a high-flying lawyer and advocate for the poor.

INSPIRATION

Fifteen years after the Rwandan genocide, a survivor explains how she learned to forgive her mother's killer.

RETROSPECT

Sponsored children celebrate their birthdays in Bangladesh—many for the first time.

Max Lucado encountered joyful children when he visited communities in southwest Ethiopia.

JON WARREN/WORLD VISION



Too Much Stuff »

Consider the following story a confession of sorts. Recently, my wife and I did what we like to call “cleaning of the third kind”—emptying the closets, attic, and garage, sorting all the stuff, and giving things we don’t need to Goodwill. We started digging deeper than normal after the last of our five children went off to college, leaving the two of us alone in a house that now seems too big and too cluttered.

The sheer volume of stuff we no longer needed was astounding. While I always accuse my daughters of buying too many clothes, I must have put aside two dozen shirts, several pairs of pants (a little too tight these days), and some hideous neckties from my closet, along with a vibrating back pillow, two brand-new briefcases I received as gifts, a solar cell-phone charger I had never used (seemed like a good idea at the time), half a dozen pairs of shoes that once seemed stylish to me (though my children quickly corrected that idea), and a goofy-looking travel wallet to wear around my neck to protect my money, passport, and credit cards from pick-pockets. We collected several large bags of things the kids didn’t want, some old board games we never played, some books we never read, and even two pairs of crutches (we actually had three, although never has more than one family member been hobbled by a leg injury at a time).

Reneé and I dutifully loaded the boxes and bags into our Prius (because we don’t want to consume too much, right?) and drove to the Goodwill drop-off point. To our astonishment, there were eight cars in line ahead of us.

After the drop-off, we immediately headed to Costco—because, you guessed it, I needed more stuff—specifically, a new

“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?” —1 JOHN 3:17

pair of pants for an upcoming trip. I did not see the irony in this until I saw people mobbing the checkout lines with their shopping carts filled to the brim. Then it dawned on me: At Goodwill, we were lined up eight deep waiting to give our excess stuff away, and at Costco, we were lined up eight deep waiting to buy new stuff. Something was wrong with this picture.

Many of us have things we just don’t need, yet we continue to buy more things all the time. I think it’s because we don’t do a very good job distinguishing between our real “needs” and our more



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

numerous “wants.” I really didn’t need new pants, but I did want them.

This would be humorous if everybody in the world lived in abundance, but—as I know better than most—that is not the case. Tragically, we live in a world where many have only the clothes on their back.

So how do we cure this insatiable desire for more stuff? I don’t have any magic answers. My family struggles with this as much as the next family. I think it has to begin with a reordering of our priorities and a keener sense of the disparity between ourselves and the “have-nots” in our world—those Jesus called “the least of these.” I sometimes wonder if I should write, “What would Jesus do?” on the inside of my wallet or on the front of my credit cards—kind of like putting a “I need to lose 20 pounds!” banner on the door of the fridge. Indeed, denying our material “wants” might even be harder than losing those 20 pounds.

One thing more and more people are choosing to do at Christmas is to give gifts from the World Vision Gift Catalog instead of buying those hideous neckties and solar phone chargers that end up at Goodwill. Items like goats, clothing, fruit trees, and Bibles truly address “needs” rather than “wants”—and they won’t clutter up your garage. ■

» FIND MORE INFORMATION

about the Gift Catalog between pages 16 and 17 and online at www.worldvisiongifts.org.



Rick Shan

FRONT LINES

Compiled by James Addis

A young girl in a red headscarf is holding a baby in a red dress. The girl has a serious expression and is looking off to the side. The baby is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. The background is dark, making the red clothing stand out.

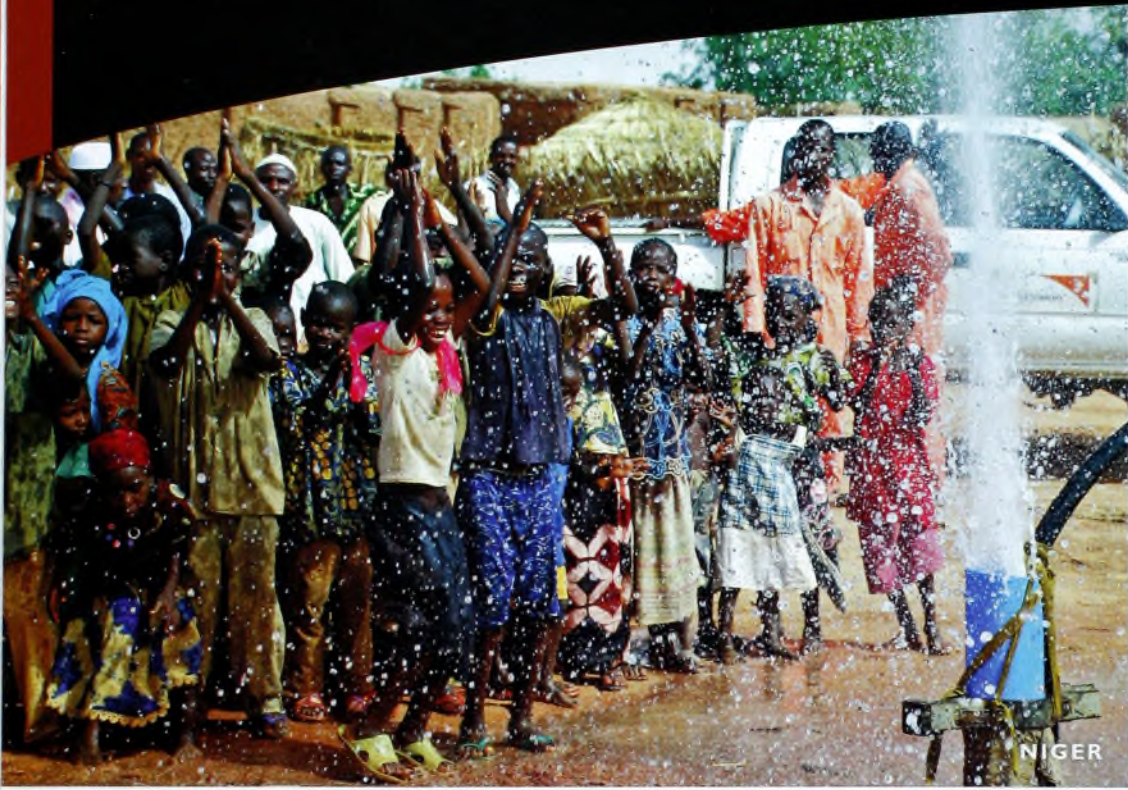
Running on Empty

Saima, 12, and her 10-month-old sister, Sana, fled fighting between government forces and insurgents in northwest Pakistan. "There was a time I couldn't walk another inch because of ulcers under my feet. But the fear kept us going somehow," Saima says.

The children sheltered in a private home in a rural village in Buner after walking more than 12 miles over rugged terrain. Generous host families took in the bulk of the 2 million displaced. Following intense fighting, Pakistani forces forced insurgents into hiding in nearby mountains, prompting thousands of people to return home. But they face a difficult future with schools and other infrastructure destroyed and basic supplies in short supply.

World Vision's emergency response in Pakistan includes supplying food, water, shelter, cooking utensils, and hygiene kits for affected families. ■

TO SUPPORT World Vision's emergency relief efforts, visit www.worldvision.org/emergencies.



DANA PALADE/WORLD VISION

NETGAINS

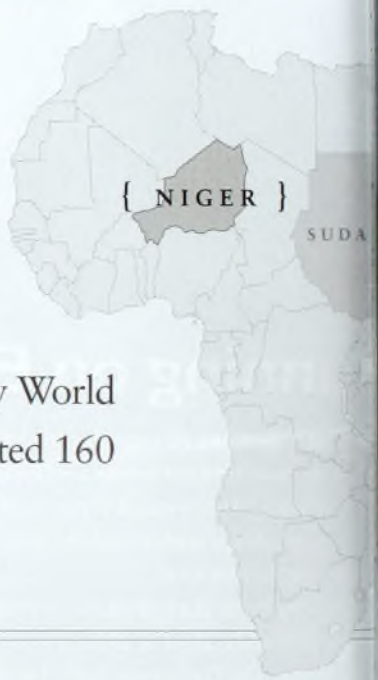
Countries with the largest increases in the percentage of children sleeping under insecticide-treated bed net to combat malaria.

Country	Net use in 2000	Net use in 2008
Rwanda*	4%	51%
Zambia*	1%	4%
Togo	2%	3%
Gambia	15%	4%
Guinea-Bissau	7%	3%
Ethiopia*	2%	3%
Sierra Leone*	2%	26%
Tanzania*	2%	2%
Malawi*	3%	2%
Sao Tome & Principe	23%	4%

* World Vision operates malaria program in these countries. (Source: UNICEF)

WORLD WATCH

NIGER WATER WORKS » The start of a new phase in the West Africa Water Initiative (WAWI) will help bring clean water to almost 200,000 people in three of the most water-deprived areas of Niger. The project will provide 400 boreholes and 5,000 latrines in 200 villages. So far, WAWI, an initiative led by World Vision with funding from the Hilton Foundation, has constructed 160 boreholes in Niger, serving 67,000 people.



MICHAEL ANUNGA/WORLD VISION

SUDAN

SUDAN REBELS REGROUP » An effort to crush the rebel Lord's Resistance Army failed to halt its continuing campaign of killing, looting, and abduction, which has forced tens of thousands to flee their homes. Forces from Uganda, Central African Republic, and Sudan attacked LRA hideouts in the Democratic Republic of Congo in March, but rebels escaped into the jungle and regrouped. World Vision is assisting the displaced in Sudan with food and other essential supplies.



DAWN VILLELAGENESIS PHOTOS

UNITED STATES MALARIA ADVICE » Former first lady Laura Bush joined the advisory council of World Vision's End Malaria campaign. She joins Ray Chambers, the first U.N. Special Envoy for Malaria; Malaria No More CEO Scott Case; Rep. Donald Payne (D-NJ); and Dr. Daniel Hussar of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy.

SRI LANKA MONSOON MISERY » Monsoon rains worsened conditions in displacement camps where tens of thousands took refuge after a government push to quash rebel Tamil Tigers. Residents suspended babies in saris to keep them above flood waters. World Vision is supplying drinking water, shelter materials, and food for the displaced.

THAILAND TB TACKLED » World Vision and the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration announced plans to combat Bangkok's high prevalence of tuberculosis. The initiative will include training 600 health volunteers to give care and counseling to vulnerable communities. Every year, about 15,000 cases of TB are recorded in Bangkok. ■

LATIN AMERICA SWINE FLU » A rise in the prevalence of the H1N1 virus, also known as swine flu, has prompted World Vision to prepare contingency plans in the event of a major outbreak. World Vision operates in 14 Latin American countries reporting incidences of swine flu. In April, World Vision warned of poor health services in several countries made the continent especially vulnerable to the disease.

ROMANIA TRAFFIC WARNING » The success of a program to combat human trafficking in Ceplentia has spurred World Vision to replicate it in four other rural communities in Iasi county. Children are taught about the dangers of trafficking. Some translated what they learned into a play to educate their peers. Last year, 60 percent of trafficked victims came from rural areas, many of them from Iasi.

U.K. LEADERS LAMPOONED » In a parody of the film "The Italian Job," World Vision campaigners wearing masks of G8 leaders toured London in MINI Cooper cars, brandishing fistfuls of cash. The stunt highlighted concern that money pledged to reduce global poverty might be falling short. Following the G8 Summit in Italy, World Vision praised the G8 for committing \$20 billion to tackle global hunger.



JOHN D. RICHUGH

ON THE GROUND

Zakaria Amadou is a World Vision nutrition expert in Maradi, Niger.

In my role, I see a lot of malnourished children. I don't like to see them, but they are always before me. Most of our people don't know what I mean when I say "balanced diet." My role is to teach them to put peanuts and beans into the cereal they eat. My hope is that maybe in two or three years there will be a difference. All will know how to have a balanced diet with our local foods. With healthy children, you'll have a healthy vision, and we'll have a healthy tomorrow. ■



ANDREA PEER/WORLD VISION



LAURA REINHARDT/WORLD VISION

Course Correction

A troubled teen finds new direction.

By the time Anthony Mackey reached the sixth grade, he was so familiar with the principal's office that he jokes it could have been his office.

Things only got worse when he started at Southside Middle School in Albany, Ga., and joined a gang. Katheryn Coe, the school's parent liaison, says, "Anthony was destined for the jailhouse or the cemetery."

One day, after another painful meeting with the principal, Anthony met John Watson, a Youth Outreach Worker with World Vision. John gave Anthony his phone number, saying, "Call anytime." Anthony was unimpressed; John was "just another person trying to get on my nerves," he recalls.

Not long afterward, Anthony accidentally started a house fire and wrecked his grandmother's kitchen. With no one to turn to, Anthony called John. They met and talked. They've been talking ever since.

John introduced Anthony to the River Road Church of Christ. Anthony began to spend more time with people in the church.

In 2007, World Vision started a program called the Youth Empowerment Project (YEP). John invited Anthony to join a team to learn how to advocate on behalf of their community. The culmination of the training was a trip to Washington, D.C., where youth met with their members of Congress to encourage them to continue funding a sexual abstinence program. At first, "I just couldn't picture myself in that environment 'cause of where I'm from," Anthony says. "I was out of my comfort zone."

But he persevered. The team's request for additional funding was granted.

Anthony, now 20, attends Darton College where he is studying early-childhood education. Every Saturday, he helps John lead the YEP meetings at River Road Church. He also has begun mentoring a troubled young man. "I feel like my life is not about me anymore. I feel like it's about the youth," he says. ■

—By Laura Reinhardt

» **LEARN MORE** World Vision's YEP program operates in 12 cities, training young people in difficult circumstances to be empowered community advocates. To learn more, visit www.worldvision.org/empower.

WHAT CAN I DO?

The global economic crisis affected World Vision donors and left dozens of critical



World Vision



SOPHEAK KONG/WORLD VISION

SITUATION

CRITICAL

THE GLOBAL RECESSION

has caused serious funding shortfalls for vital projects that lift children out of poverty. You can help restore hope.

Fill out the form on the reverse side and return it in the envelope between pages 24 and 25.



GHANA

ESPERANZA APPAH/WORLD VISION



MYANMAR

MATHIRA SUTIWATANANT/WORLD VISION



EAST AFRICA

DAVID DUCHERIN/WORLD VISION



ANGOLA

TATIANA GOREI/WORLD VISION



EASTERN EUROPE

JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

CHANGE AGENT



COURTESY AMY ZIPF

Name » Amy Zipf

Hometown » Middletown, Conn.

Occupation » Full-time mother of three

Program » 30 Hour Famine

Buzz » While participating in the 30 Hour Famine—World Vision’s program to combat world hunger—Amy decided to try a bowl of cornmeal porridge based on a recipe World Vision uses for emergency food distributions. Amy admits the meal, though highly nutritious, is rather unappetizing. But she reflected that many people walk miles to get the porridge and are grateful because it’s the only food they have. She decided to eat cornmeal porridge for lunch for a year and donate the money she saved to World Vision. Further inspired by *The Hole in Our Gospel* by World Vision U.S. President Rich Stearns, she bought 20 copies to give to friends and invited them to join her for regular cornmeal lunches and a discussion of the book. ■

Every day it reminds me to be grateful, to speak on behalf of those who don’t have anything, and to be a part of making change.

— AMY ZIPF

» **TO PARTICIPATE** in the 30 Hour Famine and combat hunger, visit www.30hourfamine.org.

than \$18 trillion to keep the financial sector afloat, Africa.” — U.N. SECRETARY-GENERAL BAN KI-MOON



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One day, after another painful meet

Course Correction

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By the time Anthony Mac the sixth grade, he was so with the principal's office it could have been his offic

GIVE ONLINE!

www.worldvision.org/

ReadandRespond

PLEASE REMOVE BEFORE MAILING

YES! I want to restore hope.

Here is my one-time gift for "Situation Critical" projects, currently short of funding due to the global recession. AMOUNT: \$ _____

I want to sponsor a child for \$35/month.

GENDER: BOY GIRL

LIVING IN: AFRICA LATIN AMERICA

ASIA MIDDLE EAST/EASTERN EUROPE

WHEREVER MOST NEEDED

Check payable to World Vision Charge my gift to my debit card/credit card
 VISA MASTERCARD AMERICAN EXPRESS DISCOVER
 USE MY CARD NUMBER ON FILE

CARD NUMBER

CARD EXPIRES

NAME ON CARD

SIGNATURE

E-MAIL

TO RECEIVE PERIODIC UPDATES ABOUT THE IMPACT OF YOUR GIFT.

SOURCE 1298181

WHAT CAN I DO?

The global economic crisis affected World Vision donors and left dozens of critical projects desperately short of funding. Here are five you can help today.

Water » GHANA Rural Water and Health More than 4.6 million people in Ghana lack access to safe drinking water. This ecologically sensitive project is restoring access to clean water and sanitation and reducing the prevalence of waterborne disease.

Children in Crisis » MYANMAR Protection from Trafficking The border crossings between Myanmar and Thailand are dangerous for street children who are vulnerable to being trafficked and exploited—either for labor or sex. This project helps children escape the streets and equips them to avoid predators.

Economic Development » EAST AFRICA ISMA Project In AIDS-shattered communities, orphans and families get poorer and struggle to provide for orphan children. This project helps tens of thousands of hardworking mothers access loans to develop small businesses and boost their incomes.

Agriculture and Fishing » ANGOLA Cabinda Fisheries The Cabinda province has abundant access to high-quality fish—a resource largely untapped. This project develops the skills of local fishermen, improves their equipment, and helps them find new markets for their catch.

Christian Commitment » EASTERN EUROPE Youth Bible Curriculum Decades of communist rule has led to a dearth of Christian literature for children. The Youth Bible Curriculum fills the void with stimulating, culturally relevant resources. ■

TO GIVE to the general fund for Situation Critical projects, send the attached coupon in the envelope between pages 24 and 25, or give online at www.worldvision.org/ReadandRespond. To support a specific project, call (888) 852-4453.



ESPERANZA AMPAH/WORLD VISION
COURTESY AMY ZIPF



MATHIRA SUTWAKANIT/WORLD VISION



DAVID DUCHERINI/WORLD VISION



TATIANA GOMES/WORLD VISION



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

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Every day it reminds me to be grateful, to speak on behalf of those who don't have anything, and to be a part of making change.

— AMY ZIPF

» TO PARTICIPATE in the 30 Hour Famine and combat hunger, visit www.30hourfamine.org.

QUOTABLE » “Surely, if the world can mobilize more than \$18 trillion to keep the financial sector afloat, we can find more than \$18 billion to keep commitments in Africa.” — U.N. SECRETARY-GENERAL BAN KI-MOON



Sponsorship Deal

A former Marine keeps his promise to God.

Child sponsor Arthur Brubaker, 79, keeps a photograph that always brings tears to his eyes. The picture was taken in Korea in 1952 and shows an orphaned girl, about 5 or 6 years old, sheltering in Arthur's lap.

At the time, Arthur was a 22-year-old Marine sent to keep communist forces above the 38th parallel—the infamous line dividing North and South Korea.

Previously, North Korean forces had overrun much of South Korea, and American troops had suffered massive casualties in the effort to expel the invaders and their Chinese backers. As the battles raged, millions of civilians were caught in the crossfire. Hundreds of thousands lost their lives, and thousands of children became orphans.

Shortly after Arthur landed at Incheon, the little girl approached him as he waited to board a truck for the frontlines. She spoke only a few words of broken English, but the pair instantly clicked. Despite fearing for his own life and missing his wife of only six months, Doris, Arthur was both moved and cheered that the little girl reached out to him. "I think God did it. She was a little angel for me—that I am sure of," he says.

Sadly, Arthur had to leave his new friend behind before he even found out her name. He never saw her again. After leaving

Arthur Brubaker will never forget the girl who melted his heart 50 years ago.

her, Arthur prayed: "Lord, if you take me through this thing and get me home in one piece, I will support a needy child as long as I live."

On his return home to Manheim, Pa., Arthur shared his prayer with Doris, and the couple has sponsored children with World Vision ever since.

Arthur says his experiences made him sensitive to those in dire straits. The couple donates to humanitarian crises around the world. But Arthur says that sponsoring children remains his first duty.

"I am absolutely going to continue doing that," he says. "I will not break my promise with God." ■

» TO SPONSOR A CHILD fill out the form between pages 8 and 9 and send it in the envelope between pages 24 and 25. Or sponsor online at www.worldvision.org/ReadandRespond.

Why I love BEING A CHILD SPONSOR

Theresa Lungu, Chestnut Hill, Mass.

I was born and raised in Zambia and migrated to the United States 10 years ago. My sponsored child is Azhelina Zhinguluka from Zambia. She is 10 years old and wants to be a nurse when she grows up. Being in school is the highlight of her day.

I chose Azhelina because I know the hardships children in rural Zambia face every day. At one point, I was a young girl walking long distances to school with nothing to eat every day. I would not like Azhelina to experience that, nor would I like her to know the embarrassment of being pulled out of class because her school fees were not paid.

The experience of being a child sponsor is one that has helped me grow spiritually. I look forward to Azhelina's letters and

DAVID KAMERHANG/GENESIS PHOTOS



pictures and reading about all the wonderful projects in her community. I am really honored to be able to enhance the life of this young girl. I know she will make a great nurse one day. ■

» TELL US YOUR STORY

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

ENGAGING ON POVERTY

Three new study tools enable you and your church to respond to a hurting world.

The Hole in Our Gospel Six-Week Quest » Go deeper into *The Hole in Our Gospel* by World Vision U.S. President Rich Stearns and respond with wholehearted obedience to a complete gospel. Resources include DVDs, small-group curriculum, journals, and more. www.theholeinourgospelquest.com

Start » Becoming a Good Samaritan » Author and pastor John Ortberg hosts this six-session DVD course. Featuring perspectives of Desmond Tutu, Philip Yancey, Kay Warren, Rob Bell, and many more, this curriculum explores what it means to be a Good Samaritan today. www.juststart.org

Advent » Hope, Love, Joy, Peace » Free, downloadable sessions enable individuals and small groups to anticipate the birth of Christ while putting their faith into action during Advent. Also available, a children's study: *Sharing Christ's Love*. www.worldvisionresources.com ■

DAWN VILLELLE/GENESIS PHOTOS



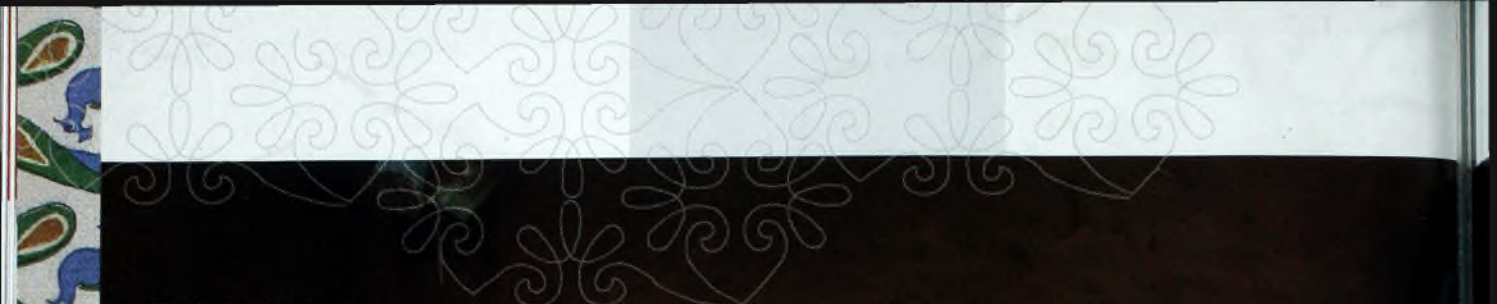
INSPIRE YOUR AUDIENCE

Need an engaging speaker for an event? World Vision's Speakers Bureau can provide authoritative and passionate speakers to address some of the world's most critical issues, including global hunger, poverty, HIV and AIDS, child trafficking, and many more. ■

» FOR MORE INFORMATION

visit www.worldvision.org/speakers or e-mail speakers@worldvision.org.

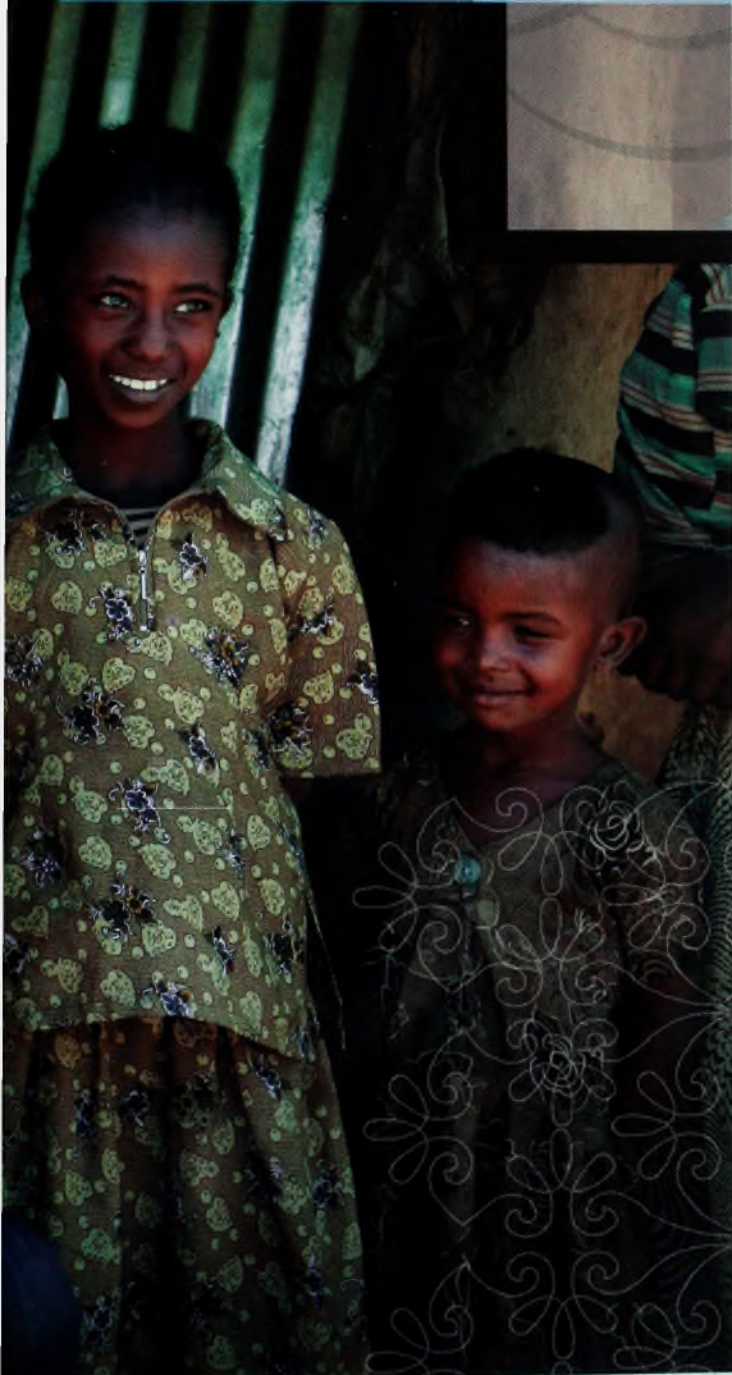




Two families become one
as Max and Denalyn Lucado
meet their new sponsored
child, Mimi Dadhi, 6.



PROMISE *of a* NEW LIFE



BESTSELLING CHRISTIAN
AUTHOR **MAX LUCADO**
REFLECTS ON ACTS CHAPTER 3
AND HIS RECENT TRIP TO
ETHIOPIA IN THIS EXCLUSIVE
EXCERPT FROM HIS UPCOMING
BOOK, *OUTLIVE YOUR LIFE*.

BY MAX LUCADO
PHOTOS BY JON WARREN



Now a man crippled from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful ... (ACTS 3:2)

A gate called beautiful. The man was anything but. He could not walk, but had to drag himself about on his knees. He passed his days among the covey of real or pretend cripples who coveted the coins of the worshipers entering Solomon's court.

Peter and John were among them.

The beggar saw them and thrust himself in their direction, lifted his voice and begged for money. They had none to give, yet still they stopped and looked. Intently. Straight in the beggar's eye. Square in his face. They locked their eyes on his with such compassion that "he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them" (Acts 3:5). This was no embarrassed glance, irritated shrug, or cynical dismissal, but an honest look.

A difficult task. It is hard to look suffering in the face. Wouldn't we rather turn away? Stare in a different direction? Fix our gaze on fairer objects? The facts of human hurt are not easy on the eye: 25,000 children under age 5 die of preventable deaths every day; 5 million people die of water-related illness each year; more than 11 million children under age 18 worldwide are orphaned by AIDS.

I'd rather not look at the faces behind the facts—the dusty cheeks of the Pakistani refugee or the wide-eyed stare of the Peruvian orphan. Or the salt-and-pepper tangle of a beard worn by the drifter, Stanley, I met in Pennsylvania.

Stanley Shipp served as a father to my young faith. He was 30 years my senior and blessed with a hawkish nose, thin lips, a crown of white hair, and a heart as big as the Midwest. His business cards read simply, "Stanley Shipp, Your Servant."

I spent my first post-college year under his tutelage. One of our trips took us to a small church in rural Pennsylvania for a conference. He and I happened to be the only two people at the building when a homeless drifter, wearing alcohol like a cheap perfume, knocked on the door. He recited his victim

spiel. Over-qualified for work. Unqualified for pension. Lost bus ticket. Bad back. His kids back in Kansas didn't care. If bad breaks were rock-and-roll, this guy was Elvis. I crossed my arms, smirked, and gave Stanley a "get-a-load-of-this-guy" glance.

Stanley didn't return it. He devoted every optic nerve to the drifter. Stanley saw no one else but him. *How long, I remember wondering, since anyone gave the fellow such attention?*

The meandering saga finally stopped, and Stanley led the man into the church kitchen and prepared a plate of food and sack of groceries. As we watched him leave, Stanley blinked back a tear and responded to my unsaid thoughts. "Max, I know he's likely lying. But what if just one part of his story was true?"

We both saw the man. I saw right through him. Stanley saw deep into him. In certain Zulu areas of South Africa, people greet each other with a phrase that means "I see you." Doesn't kindness begin with a generous look?

Simon the Pharisee once disdained Jesus' kindness toward a woman of questionable character. So Jesus tested him: "Do you *see* the woman?" (Luke 7:44, emphasis mine).

Simon didn't. He saw a hussy, a loose woman, a scamp. He didn't see this woman.

Do we see as Jesus saw? "When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd" (Matthew 9:36).

This word "compassion" is one of the oddest in Scripture. The New Testament Greek Lexicon says this word means "to be moved as to one's bowels, hence ... (for the bowels were thought to be the seat of love and pity)." It shares a same root system with "Splanchnology," the study of the visceral parts. Compassion, then, is a movement deep within—a kick in the gut.

Perhaps that is why we turn away. Who can bear such an emotion? Especially when we can do nothing about it. Why look suffering in the face if you can't make a difference? Why look long and hard at human hurt if you can't alleviate it?

FACING PAGE,
CLOCKWISE: What
Max saw: camels
laden with water jugs;
beautiful children;
visual reminders
of Ethiopia's rich
Christian heritage;
bountiful bananas.

Yet, what if you could? What if your attention could reduce someone's pain? This is the promise of the encounter.

Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. ... Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God" (Acts 3:6-8).

Passersby began to stop: priests who were bringing the afternoon sacrifices, Levites who came to lead the Psalms, multitudes who had come to press their faces on the marble court and pray for the coming of the Messiah.

The crowd thickened around the trio. The apostles laughed as the beggar danced. Other beggars pressed toward the scene in their burlap coverings and tattered robes and cried out for their portion of a miracle. "I want my healing! Touch me! Touch me!"

So Peter complied. He escorted them to the clinic of the Great Physician and invited them to take a seat. "It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him ... Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord ..." (Acts 3:16-20).

About this time in the story, I'm looking at the just-healed man and wondering if he realizes what Peter is offering. His entire existence can be re-routed. Crippled body: healed. Tainted soul: cleansed. Eternal life: secure. It's all his for the taking. And it all began when Peter gave him an honest look and a helping hand.

I'm writing this by the dim light of an Ethiopian hotel only a few miles and hours removed from a modern-day version of this story.

Bzuneh Tulema lives in a two-room cinder block house at the end of a dirt road in the dry hills of Adama. Maybe 300 square feet. He's painted the walls a pastel blue and hung two pictures of Jesus, one of which bears the caption: "Jesus the Goos [sic] Shepherd." The floor is dirt, and the air hot, and I didn't dare inhale too deeply for fear I'd inhale a fly.

Yet across from us, Bzuneh beams. No king was ever prouder of a castle than Bzuneh is of these four walls. And, as the 35-year-old related his story, I understood why.

He was the town drunk. He drank away his first marriage and came within a prayer of doing the same with the second. He and his wife were so consumed with alcohol that they farmed out their kids to neighbors and resigned themselves to a drunken demise.

Enter the story of Christ. The promise of a new life. The offer of a second chance. Neighbors from a local church taught his wife, Billie, about Jesus. She believed.

Bzuneh was not so quick. He kept drinking, until one night a year later, he fell so hard he knocked a dent in his face that remains until this day. Friends found him in the gully and took him to the same church and shared the same Jesus. He hasn't drunk since.

The problem of poverty continued. They owned nothing more than their clothing and mud hut. The church connected them to Meskerem Trango, a World Vision worker. He helped Bzuneh acquire a cow, build a shed, and taught him to turn cow manure into methane and fertilizer. The wife cooked with the gas, and the husband sold the fertilizer, and within a year, had bought four cows, built his house, and reclaimed his kids. "Now I have 10 livestock, 30 goats, a TV set, a tape recorder, and a mobile phone. Even my wife has a mobile phone," he smiled. "And I dream of selling grain."

All it took was an honest look and a helping hand. Could this be God's strategy for human hurt? Kind eyes meeting desperate ones. Strong hands helping weak ones. First, the look. Next, the touch. Then, the miracle. We do our small part, God does the big part—and who knows how many people will get to dance? ■

This article is adapted from Max Lucado's upcoming book, *Outlive Your Life*, to be published by Thomas Nelson in August 2010. In addition to writing more than 50 books, Max is the minister of writing and preaching at the Oak Hills Church in San Antonio, Texas.

FACING PAGE, TOP: Max met Bzuneh Trango (and his wife, Billie), once a town drunk, now a respected businessman. BOTTOM: A massive irrigation project turned barren land near Bzuneh's community into an oasis for farmers.

Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. (ACTS 3:8)