

A photograph of two young children, a boy and a girl, smiling and hugging each other. They are in front of a blue wall. The boy is on the left, and the girl is on the right, wearing a white shirt with blue polka dots.

WorldVision

SPRING 2006

A SURGE OF Hope AFTER THE TSUNAMI

CRISIS: AN INSIDER'S GUIDE | Page 23

KATRINA RESPONSE | Page 8

one simple word

will bring a smile
to her face . . .

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It's a simple word.**

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Signature (required) _____

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SOURCE: I014341

World Vision

Building a better world for children

World Vision
Child Sponsorship
P.O. Box 70050
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WorldVision

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» ON THE COVER

**Children in Sri Lanka, see new
vitality in their community, than
to post-tsunami projects.**

Photograph by Jon Warren

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affirms people responding to God's cal
care for the poor by providing informa
inspiration, and opportunities for action
linking them with children and families
in nearly 100 countries where World
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On the Cover:

TURNING BACK THE TIDE

Tsunami-shattered families and communities in Asia rebuild, rebound, and keep the faith.

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Steve Matthews
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A teen girl in Pakistan overcomes a tragedy to help others.

CHANGE YOUR 19 *world*

Ways to TAKE ACTION with World Vision



1 FAMILY SPONSORSHIP

Break the cycle of poverty and sponsor a family.

2 VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

Promote child sponsorship in your church, community, or via the Internet through A Child is Waiting, Child Ambassador, or Connect Your World programs.

3 30 HOUR FAMINE

Get your school or youth group to join the fight against hunger.

4 LOVE LOAF

Help your congregation learn about poverty by collecting offerings.

5 REACHING OUT TO THE POOR

Let World Vision help your church reach out to the poor.

6 ONE LIFE REVOLUTION

Help your youth group combat HIV/AIDS.

7 WOMEN OF VISION

Advocate for women in developing countries.

8 U.S. PROGRAMS

Discover what World Vision is doing for U.S. children and teens.

9 ADVOCACY

Speak up for the poor and powerless.

10 MATCHING GIFTS

Learn how your employer can match your contribution to World Vision.

11 SCHOOLTOOLS

Discover ways your group can provide essential school supplies to children in need.

12 GET A KICK OUT OF SHARING

Donate soccer balls for children in need.

13 ARTIST ASSOCIATES

Help Christian artists promote child sponsorship by volunteering at a local concert.

To find out more, go to
www.worldvision.org/change,
or call toll free (866) 332-4453.

14 CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

Learn how your company can support World Vision

CHANGEagent



Name: Kevin Giblin

Home: Southborough, Mass.

Occupation: Developer, owner of B Homes Inc.

Program: Corporate Partnerships

Buzz: For every luxury home Kevin in New England, he donates money new home for a family in need in El

Salvador or Honduras. So far he's funded 22 hou Central America.

"It's great to help people who have little hope of owning their own home. To see pictures of need; families standing in front of new homes we help build is tremendously rewarding."

15 VISION VILLAGES

Work alongside families in Honduras to build new hom

16 TEAM WORLD VISION

Use your sports or fitness activities to help children fected by HIV/AIDS.

17 GIFT CATALOG

Gift gifts such as goats, bikes, and medicines to those in

18 GIFT PLANNING

Leave a legacy of hope. Put World Vision in your wil

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Simple steps to a personal relationship with Jesus.

the 'Katrina Scale'

gift planning

Are you leaving your legacy to chance?

Creating or updating your estate plan is one of the most important things you'll ever do.

A plan protects you

An estate plan ensures your loved ones—and the causes you care about—will be provided for as you wish after your lifetime. Without one, you forfeit the right to determine who will benefit from the assets you've worked so hard to build. That's why everyone needs an estate plan. No estate is too small!

You can create a tradition of caring

Passing along your values can be just as satisfying as providing for your loved ones. The legacy of generosity you foster now can change children's lives for generations.

(over, please)

FREE Legacy Planner!

Complete the card between pages 28 and 29 to request your copy of our Legacy Planner—a FREE resource for faithful friends like you.



relative to Hurricane Katrina. Does it surprise you that the recent earthquake in Pakistan and India took 62 times more lives than Hurricane Katrina? Yet U.S. media coverage of the South Asia earthquake was a fraction of that devoted to Katrina.

More surprising, look at the staggering loss of life from causes that occur every year but rarely grab the world's attention. On the "Katrina scale," malaria kills 1.3 million; child diarrhea related to unclean water, 1,833; HIV/AIDS, 2,583; and related causes, 7,333.

Responding to disasters like Katrina or an earthquake is clearly an urgent priority for relief agencies. Perhaps even more urgent is the need to respond to overlooked tragedies that claim millions more lives every year than all disasters combined. A child dying from malaria will never make front-page news, but World Vision will work just as hard to respond to those deaths as we do to respond to disasters.

What lies the difference between disaster relief and development. Relief involves an immediate response after a disaster, while development seeks to avert needless deaths by providing access to food and clean water, emphasizing prevention of disease like malaria and HIV/AIDS, and creating economic opportunities to lift communities out of poverty.

We are grateful for your compassion for the world and for your partnership with us. In every eye, every child is precious, and every child deserves a chance. ■

Rick Sta

"Katrina scale" puts the suffering in perspective.

8,800,000 / 7,333

The plans of the righteous are just . . . the house of the righteous stands firm.

PROVERBS 12:5, 7

CHANGE YOUR 19 *world*

Ways to **TAKE ACTION**
with **World Vision**



1 FAMILY SPONSORSHIP

Break the cycle of poverty

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Promote child sponsorship
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Get your school or youth group
against hunger.

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collecting offerings.

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Let World Vision help your

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Discover ways your group can
supplies to children in need.

12 GET A KICK OUT OF

Donate soccer balls for ch

13 ARTIST ASSOCIATES

Help Christian artists promote
volunteering at a local con



Easy ways to continue your impact

We are deeply grateful for all you've done to turn
despair into hope for children in need. You've made
a lasting, life-changing impact!

Did you know there are many ways you can help
make a difference like this for even more children
and families beyond your lifetime? For example,
depending on your unique goals and needs, you
could name World Vision:

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- As a beneficiary of your **retirement assets**
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plans, please let us know. You'll allow us to thank
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the needs of children and families in years to come.

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today, please contact us at **1.866.332.4453** or
giftplanning@worldvision.org.

Complete the card between pages 28 and 29
today to receive your **FREE** copy of World Vision's
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World Vision

Building a better world for children

Nothing contained herein is
intended to provide legal advice
or services. It is recommended
that you consult with independent
legal and tax professionals to
address your individual needs.

e 'Katrina Scale'



Stearns tours Katrina-ravaged Waveland, Miss.

FOR MOST AMERICANS, the defining event of 2005 would undoubtedly be Hurricane Katrina. We were riveted to our television, overcome with heartbreak and despair. It has been called the greatest natural disaster ever to wreak havoc in the United States. It left more than 1,200 people dead and an estimated 1.3 million people homeless. Some estimates predict that the complete rebuilding process will cost \$200 billion and take a decade or more to complete.

But 2005 was also a horrific year for the world, as it faced the aftermath of the Asia tsunami, the South Asia earthquake, famines in Niger, Zambia, and Malawi, and continuing conflict in northern Uganda and Darfur, Sudan.

He has not despised or disdained the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help.
—Psalm 22:24

At World Vision, we are compelled both by mission and faith to respond to human suffering in the midst of tragedies like these. And because of your generosity we were able to do just that, as you will read in the following pages. We also are compelled to put events in perspective—to develop a “world vision” that enables us to prioritize our work and limited resources.

Take a look at the chart below, depicting what I call the “Katrina scale.” It shows the numbers of deaths related to specific causes

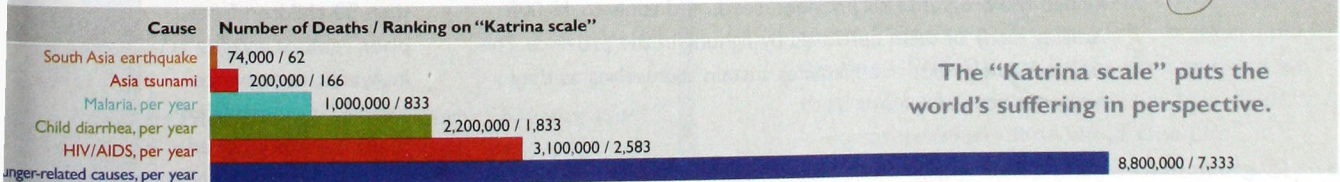
relative to Hurricane Katrina. Does it surprise you that the recent earthquake in Pakistan and India took 62 times more lives than Hurricane Katrina? Yet U.S. media coverage of the South Asia earthquake was a fraction of that devoted to Katrina.

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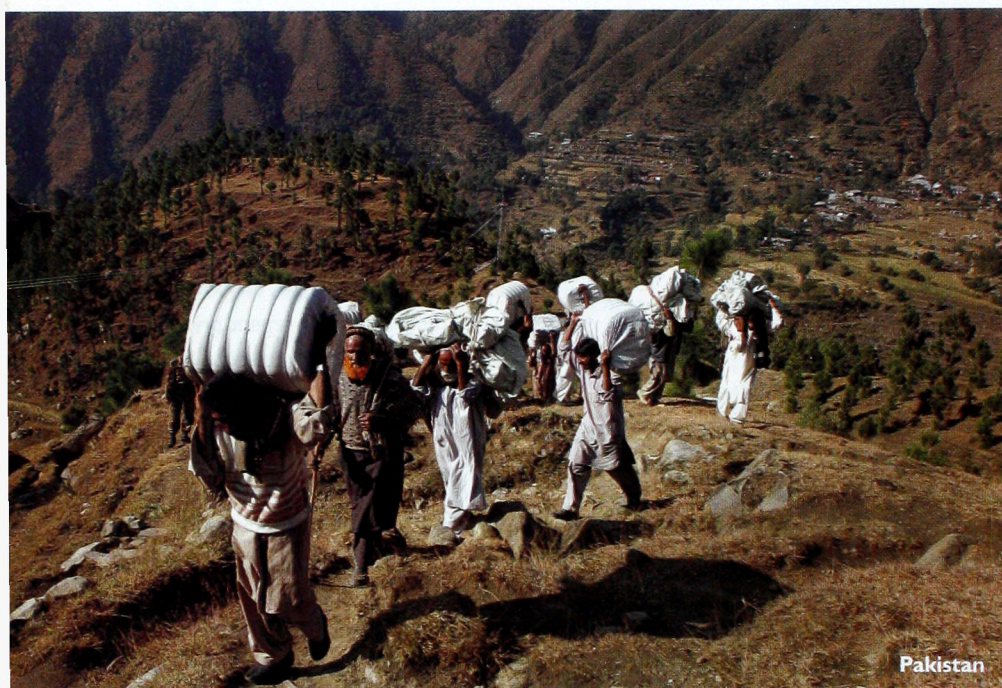
Herein lies the difference between relief and development. Relief involves an immediate response after a disaster, while development seeks to avert needless deaths by improving access to food and clean water, emphasizing prevention of disease like malaria and HIV/AIDS, and creating economic opportunities to lift communities out of poverty.

We are grateful for your compassion for children and for your partnership with us. In God’s eyes, every child is precious, and every child deserves a chance. ■



The “Katrina scale” puts the world’s suffering in perspective.

➔ News From the Field



Pakistan

ADHISTEAN TRAPPE

Distributions of food and supplies will help to sustain Pakistani earthquake survivors through a harsh winter.

Pakistan: Quake Relief > Some 36,000 survivors in the North West Frontier Province will receive food assistance through World Vision and the World Food Programme through April. Initial distributions in late 2005 reached more than 12,000 people—half of them children—living at high altitudes. These quake-affected districts are among the most chronically food insecure in Pakistan; heavy winter snowfall only worsens their plight. World Vision's rations provide enough food for a family for two months.

Sudan: Seeds of Hope > Farmers in south Darfur are looking forward to a generous harvest of grains, fruit, and vegetables after receiving agricultural assistance from World Vision. The Food and Agriculture Organization and the European Union funded the program that provided seeds and tools to 10,000 families, many of them uprooted by fighting in the province. The assistance helps displaced families sustain themselves as they return to normal lives.

Thailand: Inspiring Women > Tsunami survivors were

among those featured in the December issue of *Her World*, Singapore's largest women's magazine. Stories of strength and determination included Kaesom Thongsongso who lost her husband and now participates in a World Vision batik-making project, a Sanam Puangsawang, who took refuge in a World Vision shelter after her spa business and home were destroyed. *Her World* has a circulation of 84,000 people in Singapore, Thailand, and Malaysia.

United States: Trendy Thread

More than 800 people displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita received brand new clothes donated to World Vision by urban clothing company FUBU. Television talk-show host Montel Williams and FUBU founders Daymond John and Keith Perrin participated in the October 2005 distributions in Louisiana. "Every little bit helps," said beneficiary John Addison, who had lost everything. "With four kids, new clothes and shoes cost a fortune."

Peru: Glorious Smiles

Children with cleft lips, scars, burns, and other deformities received reconstructive surgery through World Vision's Project Gloria last September. Volunteer surgeons operated on more than 30 children from poor, remote villages in Ayacucho province. World Vision provided medicine and covered hospital fees and

ESTER LUIS/WORLD VISION





Uganda

JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

ing former combatants pray at World Vision's Children War Rehabilitation Center.

nsportation for the patients and their families. Project Gloria been helping Peruvian children since 1999.

Uganda: Bank Check > Standard Chartered Bank Uganda ned an agreement with World Vision to construct a school for dren displaced by war in the north. Bank CEO David Cutting ivered the \$100,000 check, saying, "The continued suffering of dren in northern Uganda is very devastating and needs the mbined efforts of all stakeholders to overcome." The 19-year r has caused a massive displacement of both teachers and ool children. The new classrooms in Gulu town will help ease ercrowding of existing schools. ■

Overheard

I am very sorry that all these years, you ave not had any peace. I am going to o my best to end this war and increase e security in the region so that you an live happy like children again. I am lad that despite your pain, you are still ble to smile. You continue trusting in God, and never stop thanking him for is endless protection."

—Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni at World Vision's Children of War Rehabilitation Center in Gulu, northern Uganda, addressing children once captured into combat by the Lord's Resistance Army rebels.



School Helps Kids Fight AIDS

Class is now in session in the Mike Yaconelli Memorial School in Kisasa, a small village in northwestern Zambia.

The bright yellow-and-blue classrooms are a tribute to the Christian author, speaker, and founder of Youth Specialties who died tragically in October 2003. Before his death, Mike Yaconelli took a stand against HIV/AIDS by teaming up with World Vision to create One Life Revolution, a way for U.S. youth to combat the pandemic.

The school is also a significant gift to the people of Kisasa, which in the local language means "something of no value." At times, villagers might have found the name fitting. Here, as in the rest of HIV/AIDS-ravaged Zambia, disease and chronic poverty thwart progress—especially for children.

World Vision targets this vulnerable generation with education about HIV/AIDS. In the Musele development project, which includes Kisasa, 36 teachers and 45 pastors have been trained in HIV/AIDS prevention in order to influence the young.

At the Mike Yaconelli Memorial School, students copy down a poem called, "AIDS the Destroyer" in their notebooks. The four stanzas spell out the danger of AIDS and exhort the children to "stand tall and shout, 'Halt to AIDS, fight it by all means.'"

Beyond warning of AIDS' danger—something the children know firsthand—the poem reminds them that they can play a role in preventing the spread of the disease.

It's just that message that Mike Yaconelli hoped to advance through One Life Revolution. Describing the program, he explained, "It says to [teens], 'Don't wait for the adults to get around to figuring HIV/AIDS out. By the time you wait for that, another 40 million people will have died.'"

For more information about One Life Revolution, visit www.oneliferevolution.org. ■



Kisasa children celebrate their new school.

BRIAN SYTSMA/WORLD VISION

Kids Can Be Kids

Transitional schools bring healing for hurricane-scarred children.

by Carla Gawthrop

NEW ORLEANS MOTHER Deshon Hardy usually ignores hurricane forecasts, but Katrina was different. Before the storm struck, she took the advice of her aunt who said she and her children should get out.

But that was easier said than done. The family joined the tens of thousands who headed for the Louisiana Superdome last August, but by the time they got there the place was already overcrowded. Instead they were directed to a bus bound for Baton Rouge.

Given the nightmare conditions that subsequently emerged at the Superdome—no relief from the heat, overflowing toilets, and lack of food and water—Deshon thanks God she got away.

But her journey was far from pleasant. The family spent two days camped out at a school before joining 6,000 others at the Red Cross Baton Rouge River Center. Later they moved to a small

trailer provided by FEMA—one of more than 500 spread out over a wide, treeless gravel lot north of the city.

The upheavals have taken a heavy toll. “I wanna break down, but I can’t,”

Deshon confesses, looking exhausted as she sits on the trailer steps and tells her kids yet again, to stop throwing dust and gravel. The lot is their only playground. “I gotta be strong for them. If I’m not strong for them I don’t know who will be,” she says.

Deshon registered her school-aged children, DiYana, 7, and Dazjha, 10, at a Baton Rouge elementary school, but when it was time for them to go, they couldn’t face being parted from their mother.

“They cried, ‘Mama, I don’t wanna leave you!’ They begged me to let them stay.”

Fortunately there was another option. When Sister Judith Brun, 62, a nun, former high school principal, and education advocate saw hurricane evacuees pouring into Baton Rouge, doubling the city’s size, she thought immediately of the vulnerable children.

“I knew I was responsible for creating some opportunity for children to be children again,” she says.

Sister Judith started the “Ready To Go” program for evacuee children, which included a tent school based at the trailer park where DiYana and Dazjha lived.

“For the first 10 days we engaged the children in play. A lot of them had kind of lost their hopes,” Sister Judith says. “We were able to awaken their spirits. Give them freedom to enjoy themselves and help them once again believe life is good.”

“Ready to Go” was among scores of

Hardy children: (left to right) D’Allen, Dazjha, and DiYana. “I gotta be strong for them,” says mother Deshon.



PAUL PECK/WORLD VISION (2)



Sister Judith Brun

establishing a plan for their family's future. Sister Judith says World Vision's support helped hire teachers, social workers and provided play and art equipment for the transitional school. She adds that attendance is steadily increasing despite chilly mornings and the thick blanket of dust, which blows from the gravel lot and covers all the books and furniture. Despite the difficult conditions, Sister Judith says the children keep her motivated. "I see some of the children who maybe did not speak to us earlier but now they run and give you a big hug," she says. "It's like you've awakened from this long, terrible setback. You can't imagine the exhilaration when we get to see something like that." Deshon's daughter DiYana is among those feeling good about school. Her verdict on her first day: "It was fun." she says. ■

fyi World Vision donors contributed more than \$19 million in goods and cash for the first phase of emergency relief efforts following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Money and goods were channeled through churches and community organizations to provide schools, shelter, mattresses, blankets, water, and hygiene items.



PAUL PECK/WORLD VISION



Goat Capers

The young people of Maple Valley Community Church in Maple Valley, Wash., are already among the top fund-raisers for the 30 Hour Famine, but it hasn't stopped them thinking of madcap ideas to boost their efforts.

This year they plan to draft in a goat called Bubba, who will turn up uninvited to neighborhood back yards. The youngsters figure locals will be happy to chip in a few extra dollars to ensure he forages elsewhere.



JAMES ADDIS/WORLD VISION

Maple Valley youth brief Bubba on his new role.

Youth leader Sandy Krzyzanowski hastens to add that Bubba is well behaved and a tight rein will be kept on his activities to ensure he doesn't gobble prize plants and flowers.

The World Vision 30 Hour Famine runs over three weekends each year. During the event young people fast for 30 hours to raise money for hungry children in the world's poorest countries.

Last year, about 20 young people at the Maple Valley church took part, raising a whopping \$24,000.

Sandy says the youth group works tirelessly, knocking on doors every weekend in January and February to achieve the high total.

"We could have a Saturday where they go door-to-door for six hours and maybe have raised hardly anything. Then the final door they knock on, they'll find a person who will write a check for \$300," she says. "It really forces our young people to step out in faith."

Like to participate? The next national 30 Hour Famine event runs from February 24-25 and after that from April 28-29. For details go to www.30hourfamine.org. ■

—James Addis



Two of a Kind

Ordinary girls overcoming extraordinary challenges meet in Thailand.

by Cecil Laguardia

Ketsara Sae-sia (left) was inspired by Bethany Hamilton's message: "Never give up—never quit." **FACING PAGE:** Bethany found Thailand to be like her home state, Hawaii: "The waves are smaller, but the people are warm and friendly."



BETHANY HAMILTON, a 15-year-old competitive surfer from Hawaii, has inspired millions with her Christian faith and resilience after losing her left arm in a near-fatal shark attack while surfing on Oct. 31, 2003.

On a visit to Thailand in August 2005, she met her match—another girl with a tragic story and a hopeful heart.

Bethany traveled to Phuket, a coastal area devastated by a tsunami the day after Christmas in 2004. She was eager to meet and encourage survivors, especially children, and visit World Vision pro-

grams that are helping them cope.

In a temporary shelter in Ban Nam Khem, she met Ketsara Sae-sia, 12, who lost her mother and brother when killer waves washed over their home close to the sea. Ketsara was away looking after nephew at the time. Afterward, she cried for three days. In the months since, she struggled to accept the loss.

Bethany told Ketsara about the shark attack and her ordeal at the hospital. She explained that she has come to accept that her arm is gone forever, but she refuses to give up doing things she loves, especially surfing.

"Ofentimes, good things come out of our bad experiences," Bethany said. "I lost my arm, but I [wouldn't] be in Thailand visiting you and other children if it did not happen to me."

Ketsara agreed. A few good things have come her way, especially a trip to China July 2005 sponsored by the government of Thailand for children affected by the tsunami. "It was amazing how my being an orphan opened the door for an opportunity to see another country," she said.

She has also received assistance from World Vision—food, water, and household goods immediately after the disaster, and now school supplies and transportation to school. The Thai teen enjoys computer class and hopes to become a teacher someday.

"My mother did everything for me, and I miss her so much," Ketsara told Bethany. "But she taught me to be strong. She will always be in my heart."

Bethany said, "Despite losing my arm,

JON WARREN/World Vision (2)



I am still fortunate because my parents are with me. I still have so much because I have my parents to love me." She told Ketsara, "I will also share your story to my friends in Kauai, so that they will appreciate what they have."

As the girls talked, language and culture seemed to melt away as the girls found common

ground and inspiration in each other's strength. They even have the same favorite color, blue—the color of the sea they both still love, despite what it took from them. ■

Paula Laguardia is the communications manager for World Vision Hawaii Island Tsunami Response.

Glad You Asked

What happens when there's an emergency in my sponsored child's community?



KIT SHANGLIANG/WORLD VISION

CHILD SPONSORSHIP assures an on-the-ground presence for World Vision in more than 40 countries. So when a crisis such as a natural disaster strikes a community assisted by sponsorship, the local staff—many of whom are trained in disaster management—are the first to respond. One of their first priorities is to check on the status of sponsored children and their families. Often this takes time; roads might be blocked and communications down. Staff also make arrangements for medical care, food, and emergency supplies for families in greatest need.

If sponsored children are seriously harmed or killed, World Vision notifies sponsors as soon as possible. When a crisis affects an entire country or region, World Vision sends general updates to sponsors via email and voicemail. ■



Upcoming Events

Go without food for 30 hours ... present child sponsorship at your church ... pray with other Christians across the United States.

MARCH 2006

- > **18-24 Vision Villages** trip to build a house for a family in Honduras.
www.worldvision.org/visionvillages
- > **22 World Water Day.** www.worldwaterday.org

APRIL 2006

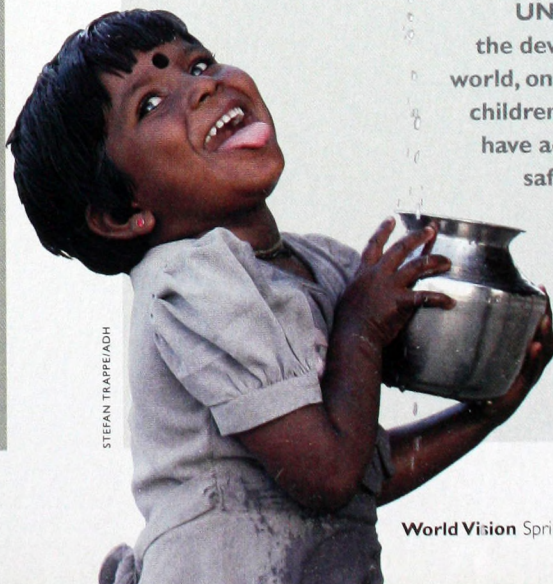
- > **22-28 Vision Villages** trip to build a house for a family in Honduras.
www.worldvision.org/visionvillages
- > **25-May 4 Pastor's** trip to see the impact of HIV/AIDS in Southern Africa. www.worldvision.org/c2c
- > **29-30 30 Hour Famine** for youths fighting hunger. www.30hourfamine.org

May 2006

- > **Every Sunday A Child is Waiting**—present sponsorship at your church.
www.worldvision.org/achildiswaiting
- > **4 National Day of Prayer.**
www.nationaldayofprayer.org
- > **2-4 Ministry Summit** for World Vision church partners in Federal Way, Wash.,
www.worldvision.org/FlyIn2006
- > **20-26 Vision Villages** trip to build a house for a family in Honduras.
www.worldvision.org/visionvillages



According to UNICEF, in the developing world, one in five children do not have access to safe water.



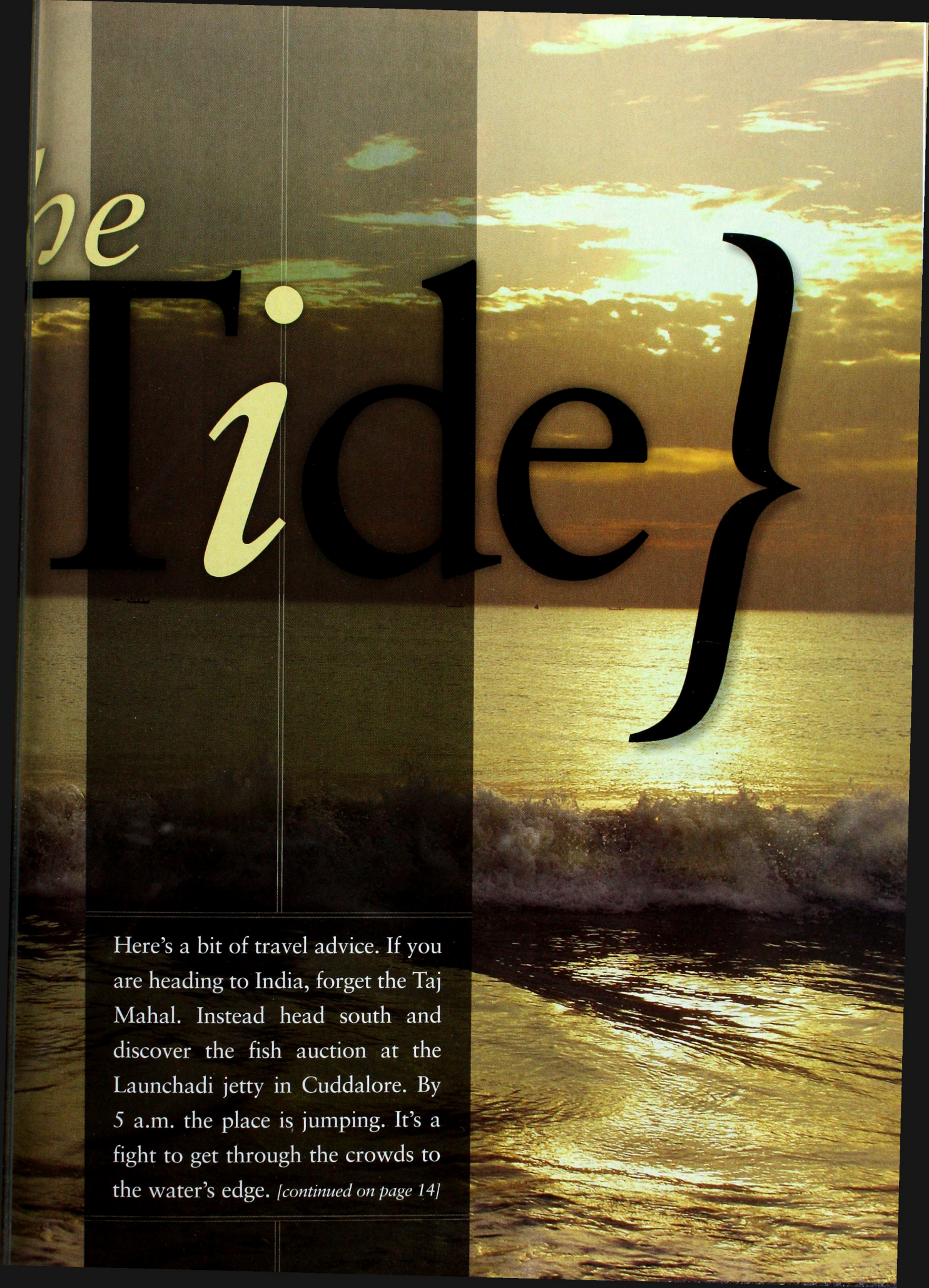
STEFAN TRAPPE/ADH

{Turning Back

One year after the tsunami
Asia bounces back.

BY JAMES ADDIS / *Photographs by Jon Warren*





he

Tide}

Here's a bit of travel advice. If you are heading to India, forget the Taj Mahal. Instead head south and discover the fish auction at the Launchadi jetty in Cuddalore. By 5 a.m. the place is jumping. It's a fight to get through the crowds to the water's edge. *[continued on page 14]*



A piece of unselfconscious, *live theater* played out ever

Men, stripped to the waist, skip between boats and shovel fish into buckets and crates. Women brush past with heavy baskets of mackerel balanced securely on their heads. Small traders with load-carrying tricycles nudge up against the big boys with their refrigerated trucks. A man with an enormous pole thumps it into a large wooden bucket to smash great blocks of ice. Fish to be turned into chicken feed are strewn across the ground where flies go wild.

By long tradition the auctioneer is a woman—often a poor woman, maybe a widow—who makes a living by taking a small percentage of the catch she trades. She yells out prices above the melee. A deal is struck. Fish are hauled into the waiting trucks or trikes. It is a piece of unselfconscious, live theater played out every day that would beat the pants off most Broadway productions. What makes it even more compelling is that a year ago the jetty was a desolate mass of rubble and smashed boats. For 100 days after one of the world's worst natural disasters of all time—the Asian tsunami of a year ago—no auction was held here. The fishing industry—the backbone of Cuddalore's

After the tsunami, the Launchadi jetty was desolate. Today it thrives. FACING PAGE: New boats will restore the family fortunes of Sri Lankan girls Iraisha, 9, and Shakila, 5.





would beat the pants off most Broadway productions.





“If we had *not had help* it would have been *hell* for

ABOVE: Yesterday: Mountains of debris, mud, dead fish, and soil ruined by salt water. Today: A bountiful harvest in the fields of Sri Lanka. **RIGHT:** Bagoos Latheef, his wife, and children outside their soon-to-be completed house. “This new house has given me strength to live.” **FACING PAGE:** Sri Lankan children rejoice. Their new homes are better than anything they have ever known.



onomy—was broken.

That today there is not a hint of the savage blow delivered on Dec. 26, that once again the market is boisterous and vibrant, is tribute to the outpouring of compassion from around the world that followed the disaster.

If the tsunami was big, the world's capacity to open its wallet was more spectacular. Three days after the waves hit, World Vision's U.S. website crashed—unable to cope with



World Vision



KIT SHANGPLANG/WORLD VISION

Lives
in ruins...
What's
ahead?

Winning Reapers

Lankan farmers are learning to smile again.

75-year-old Abeysingha Kankanamge has farmed the same two acres in Mantota, Sri Lanka, for 20 years, but he says he had lost it for good when the tsunami struck. "I thought my land was going to be permanently under the sea," he says. When the waters did recede, but there was little to be excited about. Abeysingha says his land was covered in mountains of debris, mud, and fish. His rice crop was gone.

When you meet Abeysingha today and those memories seem little more than a bad dream. In September he was employing nine workers to plant a new rice crop.

Abeysingha says the turnaround began when World Vision paid for tractors and labor to clear the debris from his land. Then they gave further assistance by providing new seeds, fertilizer, and pesticides.

Abeysingha says that without this help he would have had to sell assets and borrow money at exorbitant interest to restore his land. Local loan sharks charge as much as 10 percent per year.

"If we hadn't had help, it would have been a disaster for us," he says.

“If we had *not had* help it

ABOVE: Yesterday: Mountains of debris, mud, dead fish, and soil ruined by salt water. Today: A bountiful harvest in the fields of Sri Lanka. **RIGHT:** Bagoos Latheef, his wife, and children outside their soon-to-be completed house. “This new house has given me strength to live.” **FACING PAGE:** Sri Lankan children rejoice. Their new homes are better than anything they have ever known.



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☐ Please use my gift of \$_____ to help families rebuild after an emergency.

☐ I want to sponsor a child for \$30/month.

☐ a girl ☐ a boy 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: \$_____

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I want to provide

long-term

assistance

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JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

Disasters strike swiftly, but the recovery is often lengthy and slow. Survivors of the South Asia earthquake saw their homes crumble in an instant last October... and now they face the daunting task of starting over.

You can provide long-term assistance to such families through the HELP fund. World Vision designed this fund to target needs beyond emergency aid—such things as a permanent water supply, new schools and hospitals, income generation, or counseling for traumatized children and families. Your gifts to HELP will be used for long-term rebuilding of communities affected by major disasters around the world.

Winning Reapers

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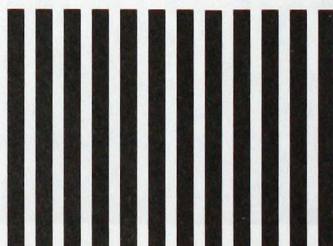
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“If we had *not had h*

ABOVE: Yesterday: Mountains of debris, mud, dead fish, and soil ruined by salt water. Today: A bountiful harvest in the fields of Sri Lanka. **RIGHT:** Bagoo Latheef, his wife, and children outside their soon-to-be completed house. “This new house has given me strength to live.” **FACING PAGE:** Sri Lankan children rejoice. Their new homes are better than anything they have ever known.

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If the tsunami was big, the world's capacity to open its wallet was more spectacular. Three days after the waves hit, World Vision's U.S. website crashed—unable to cope with unprecedented volume of donors trying to give. It was quickly fixed and after World Vision's offices worldwide raised more than \$350 million, the organization took the extraordinary step of declining further donations.

It's at places like Cuddalore that one begins to see the impact of this generosity. World Vision zone manager Andrews Devarajan cannot walk more than a few steps at a fish auction without being hailed by a beaming trader or fisherman like some long-lost friend.

For it was Andrews and his dedicated team who set up the cash-for-work plan that gave shattered members of a desperate community a means of earning cash by hauling the garbage off the jetty as a first step to reconstruction. Then it was a case of supplying the practical necessities to make the industry sing again: new fishing boats and nets for fishermen; scales, tricycles, crates, and establishment of new business associations for fish traders.

For fishermen like Vinayaga Moorthy, things are better than ever. Formerly he could only work as a laborer on other people's boats. Now he owns a share in his own vessel. "What does the new boat mean?" he asks. "It means dignity, and that's a fact. Whatever profits I make, I make for myself."

And not just for him. In his village of Akkarakori, there are now 58 fishing boats—26 supplied by World Vision, the rest from other agencies. Before the tsunami there were only 10.

FARMER ABEYSINGHA KIRIGORIS



Grinning Reapers

Sri Lankan farmers are learning to smile again.

Seventy-year-old Abeysingha Kankanamge Kirigoris has farmed the same two acres in Hambantota, Sri Lanka, for 20 years, but he thought he had lost it for good when the tsunami struck. "I thought my land was going to be permanently under the sea," he says.

The waters did recede, but there was little to get excited about. Abeysingha says his land was covered in mountains of debris, mud, and dead fish. His rice crop was gone.

But meet Abeysingha today and those memories seem little more than a bad dream. By September he was employing nine workers to harvest a new rice crop.

He says the turnaround began when World Vision paid for tractors and labor to clear the junk from his land. Then they gave further assistance by providing new seeds, fertilizer, and pesticides.

Abeysingha says that without this help he would have had to sell assets and borrow money at exorbitant interest to restore his fields. Local loan sharks charge as much as 214 percent per year.

"If we hadn't had help, it would have been hell for us," he says.



Recovering Beautifully

Hairdresser Imelda, 30, was devastated when she returned to her beauty salon in Mealaboh, Indonesia, after the tsunami struck.

She recalls the cars outside crisped up “like fried chips,” the water-damaged interior of her salon, and the corpses clogging up the entranceway.

Most heartbreaking of all was when she discovered that about 50 of her regular clients were dead.

“My regular customers were very close—almost like a family,” she says.

Hope came when 11 Mealaboh salon owners got together to ask World Vision to help re-establish their businesses. The agency agreed, supplying basics such as hair dryers, scissors, mirrors, and electric clippers.

Despite the terrible financial losses endured by locals, Imelda says prospects now look as bright as ever for the beauty business.

“Before the tsunami, women were very tight about spending money on themselves. Now they have a more carefree attitude. They realize they can lose all their possessions in an instant, so they might as well spend money looking nice,” she says.

M.S. Hanumugam, the top government official responsible for tsunami relief in Cuddalore, says that thanks to agencies, local people will soon enjoy a standard of living substantially better than they had previously. Better roads and schools are in the pipeline, and destroyed shacks are being replaced with quality homes featuring water and sanitation facilities previously only dreamed of.

His verdict on the international response: “Splendid. We could not have asked for more.”

Better Than Ever

Coming back stronger: It’s a theme repeated many times in many poor communities across Asia now suddenly benefiting from the world’s largesse.

Take the Kalmunai base hospital on Sri Lanka’s east coast. When the tsunami hit, about 1,000 injured people poured in and 500 corpses were carted to the hospital grounds for disposal. But the under-resourced institution was in no position to face the strain. Its water supply broke down, and it had no means to dispose of dangerous medical waste. Superintendent Kandasamy Muruganathan recalls that the hospital grounds were a “jungle.” Discarded needles, syringes, and broken vials were littered everywhere. Dogs and cats rooted among the stinking garbage.

It’s a different picture today. World Vision arranged for regular water delivery, installed a beefed-up incinerator to get rid of the trash, and re-equipped the medical lab.

Lab technician V. Ibrahim has worked at the hospital for nine years. “We’re in better shape than ever before,” he says.

Further south at the fishing village of Kirinda, hundreds of adults laugh and gossip while their children scamper around their soon-to-be completed homes. These will be the first of hundreds of permanent houses that World Vision plans to build in the country. The mood is buoyant, and

“Before the tsunami, women were very tight about spending money on themselves.”





about *spending money*.
 they have a *carefree attitude*.” — HAIRDRESSER IMELDA



ABOVE: Having desks and chairs at a World Vision-built elementary school in Aceh makes a pleasant change from sitting on the floor in tents and shelters. **LEFT:** Some communities still rely on World Vision for the delivery of safe drinking water. More than 500,000 survivors benefited from World Vision food distributions during the early phases of the relief effort. **FACING PAGE:** Annakodi Mathivanan of Akkarakori village got a replacement sewing machine from World Vision. Money earned from tailoring pays for her children's school fees.

not just because the families will soon escape their cramped, sweltering temporary shelters for pleasant brick-and-tile two-bedroom homes, but also because they, too, will be in better shape than ever before.

Fisherman Bagoos Latheef says his former home was built on lowland and flooded regularly. His new house will not only be better appointed, it's going to be a lot drier. Neighbor Thakileen Pakirdeen adds that his old house was built on government land and had no secure title, whereas his new house will come with a deed.

Small wonder the community has big plans for housewarming parties where they will be tucking into plenty of *pani bath*—the traditional Sri Lankan food of celebration—a sweet rice dish made with milk, nuts, and dates.

Challenges Ahead

So is life now a bowl of cherries, or should one say *pani bath*, for tsunami victims? Not quite. Many thousands of survivors still live in crude shelters. The challenges are best illustrated in the hardest-hit country, Indonesia, where more than 120,000 perished.

Even today, vast tracts of Banda Aceh look like a nuclear bombsite. Some lands are now covered by water, so roads can suddenly careen off into the ocean. Even more bizarre, large ships are marooned amid shattered urban developments, miles from the sea.

The scale of the problems has taxed the relief response to the limit. Engineer Wangsit Panglipur, supervising construction of temporary shelters at Lumbung, Aceh, laments that work could only recently begin because the area has only just been cleared of debris.

While these problems will be overcome, those involved in the relief effort are acutely aware that meeting physical needs is only part of the story. Tsunami survivors grieve the

loss of those closest to them and often personally witness their horrific deaths.

Grandmother Huriah, 53, is joyful when she talks her scattered community getting back together at Lambung. Once World Vision has completed its shelter program there. Then, unexpectedly, she breaks down. Through her sobs she explains that she lost three daughters and a son. She is proud of their accomplishments. One was a nurse; one was training to be a teacher; another was running her own beauty salon; and her son was working for a cell phone company.

"They were all doing so well," she says. "Then, in an instant, they were all swept away."

Others are beyond tears. At a World Vision temporary shelter in Lhoong, 17-year-old Amriyadi is now the head of his household, taking care of his three younger brothers on his own. They all share a single room.

Amriyadi is still trying to come to terms with the loss of his parents and most of his other relatives, while attempting to cope with new and unexpected responsibilities. He speaks respectfully but so slowly you wonder if he will ever recover. The events surrounding the tsunami are too painful to think about. Right now he is preoccupied with keeping his brothers on track—in particular, making sure they stick at school.

"I have to take care of everything," he says. "I do so for the future. I don't know what will happen to us."

Emotional Rescue

Other problems have tended to dissipate as the tsunami becomes a more distant memory. World Vision Cuddalore psycho-social program supervisor Madalene Gracia says that heavy drinking and gambling were big problems in the early days, especially when survivors received some compensation from the government—money that could be quickly squandered on drink. Back then Madalene's program

CHALLENGES AHEAD: Even today, *vast tracts* of Banda

RIGHT:The scale of the destruction has taxed the relief response to the limit in Aceh. **FACING PAGE:**The rain can't dampen these children's spirits at a World Vision temporary shelter in Lamlhoong, Indonesia.



vily accented on group counseling, a novel concept for macho fishermen she dealt with, but something that did nately gain acceptance.

"I saw men crying because they lost members of their ily, particularly if they lost their wives or their children. as they shared what was bottled up inside them, their tudes improved," she says.

But the most notable examples of emotional healing e occurred among children.

In some ways, re-establishment of routine has done the k. Walk into a World Vision-built elementary school in Besar district of Aceh and it's hard to imagine that each the lively 5- and 6-year-olds will almost certainly have t a close relative.

English teacher Khairah, 26, says even something as sim- as having their own desks and chairs has dramatically proved the children's morale—a nice change from sitting the floor in tents and shelters. At a nearby children's play ater—known as a "Child-Friendly Space"—volunteer trifah Affan, 32, has seen a similar change in mood. She ys that in art classes formerly morose children used to aw tsunami horror scenes—now they paint flowers and ountains and have learned to smile and laugh again. She ys offering a regular program of fun activities has helped unger children overcome their pain.

But for most older children and adults, it's faith that s kept them sane. Eighteen-year-old Sri Lankan Buddhist santhi Nirosha has also found strength in adversity. santhi remembers returning home by train to the south- n town of Hikkaduwa. Her carriage was flicked on its side r the surging waves and filled with water. Lasanthi nearly owned as she fought to reach a window to escape. She as pulled free, but 1,400 were killed, including her closest end, Lakmini. She says that far from demoralizing her, the

like a *nuclear bombsite*.



Higher Calling

Girls find direction through devastation.

Before the tsunami, sisters Briyana, 13, and Sriyana Barthelod, 11, talked about becoming nuns.

Three days before the tsunami struck they both won first prize in their respective catechism classes. Each took home a cup and certificate.

The prizes were washed away in the tsunami but the loss was the least of the girls' worries. The tsunami also claimed the lives of their mother, father, and elder brother.

The girls now live with their elder sister, Brasila, in one of the dozens of temporary shelters erected by World Vision in Batticaloa, Sri Lanka.

Surprisingly the girls don't complain much, saying that living with so many other children in dire straits has helped them find true friends. "Before the tsunami, we didn't have so many friends," says Sriyana. "Now we've got more friends and deeper friends."

Nor do they blame God for what has happened, speculating he must have his reasons. One purpose, they say, is that they have both become more certain of their calling to become nuns.

Briyana says being a nun would enable her care for needy children such as orphans.

"After the tsunami I lost my father and mother, so I'm in a good position to help people who are like me," she says.



Strong Arm of the Law

A World Vision lawyer ensures tsunami survivors get a good deal.

Pity the contractor who tries to pull a fast one on Keelyn Friesen.

Before joining World Vision, the former Seattle-based lawyer successfully helped extract restitution from top Swiss banks for swindling Holocaust victims and from German automakers for using slave labor during World War II—notoriously tough cases to win.

Now she draws up contracts for the rebuilding of scores of schools, health clinics, and homes as part of World Vision's tsunami rehabilitation efforts in Sri Lanka.

Keelyn, 36, says she has always had a passion for helping the disadvantaged. Today that means ensuring those battered by the tsunami get a good deal.

She points out there are millions of dollars at stake, so it's essential the legal documentation is up to scratch—ensuring builders are required to do a top quality job.

Keelyn says that while the pay for her current work is peanuts compared to what she could earn with a high-powered law firm, when she got the chance to work for World Vision she jumped at it.

"For me it's not about the money, it's about helping the little guy," she says.

experience changed her for the better.

"I've spent a lot of time reflecting on why I was saved," she says. "I've come closer to my faith and become stronger mentally."

At the Zainol Abidin General Hospital in Banda Aceh, nurse Mawar, 41, says psychiatric problems related to the tsunami are uncommon because of the general population's trust in God. She knows how they feel. In charge of evaluating a pediatric ward as water smashed through the hospital grounds, she says the rush to move children to safety during the encroaching torrent reminded her of scenes from the film "Titanic." As she worked, she was conscious that her own three children were home alone. Mawar could not return to her house for three days. When she did eventually get there she found a pile of rubble, but the bodies of her children—aged 18, 14, and 7—have never been found.

Does she feel guilty about what happened to her children? Mawar is Muslim, but her answer might well be understood by many Christians.

"No. I could not help my own children, but I can help children in the hospital," she says calmly. "One day everybody dies. Nobody knows when that will be, but I do know it is in God's hands." ■

Working Among Different Faiths

A note on World Vision policy.

World Vision is a Christian organization, and our work on behalf of the poor and suffering is inspired by our love for Jesus Christ. Where we are able to openly share our beliefs, we live out our faith in word, sign, and deed. But there are many places around the world where Christians must be sensitive to and respectful of other religious beliefs.

The chief religions among tsunami-devastated communities are Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam. Many of these communities have experienced religious tension, and, at different times, Christian humanitarian organizations have been accused of trying to make converts under the guise of delivering aid.

World Vision never seeks to use humanitarian aid as a means of securing converts. We believe such an approach would be manipulative and unethical. Our motivation to serve those in need arises out of a love for people created by God and a desire to meet their physical and material needs. We aim to serve all of the world's poor, irrespective of gender, race, or religion.



"Rebuilding Lives: Asia Tsunami Response One-Year Report" provides detailed information about how World Vision used donations after the disaster. For a copy, call (866) 332-4453 or download the PDF at www.worldvision.org/tsunamireport.

World Vision

Inside World Vision's Emergency Relief →

Report prepared by
Jane Sutton-Redner
and Steve Matthews

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Where We Work

- Developing-world disasters and slow-simmering crises where World Vision has responded in the past year.

World Vision

South Asia earthquake

October 2005 to present: The 7.6-magnitude earthquake killed as many as 80,000 people in Pakistan and India and affected 4 million. World Vision's initial response: provide water, quilts, and burial cloths.

Central America floods

October 2005: Hurricane Stan's torrential rains caused mudslides and flooding in five countries, killing more than 700 people. World Vision assisted some 30,000 families with immediate needs such as food, shelter, clothing, and medical care.

Asia tsunami

December 2004 to present: The sea surge that left 280,000 people dead or missing in five countries propelled World Vision to launch the largest relief response in its 55-year history. See pages 12-22 for details about World Vision's response.

Southern Africa food crisis

2002 to present: Years of drought compounded by HIV/AIDS imperil more than 10 million people who face severe food shortages. World Vision has already assisted more than 8.3 million people with food and other support.

Sudan/Darfur conflict

2003 to present: An estimated 180,000 people have been

killed and more than 2.4 million displaced since *janjaweed* rebels took up arms in February 2003. World Vision is helping 300,000 people in 22 camps, including providing food and health care.

Kenya food crisis

2004 to 2005: Persistent drought caused food shortages and desperate hunger. World Vision distributed food aid to more than 325,000 people.

Northern Uganda conflict

1986 to present: In a protracted campaign to overthrow government, rebels from the Lord's Resistance Army spread terror and kidnap children into servitude. World Vision helps rehabilitate children who escape from combat and provide food, water, sanitation, and other support for thousands of displaced families.

Niger food shortage

2004 to present: First there was drought, then locust infestations, all exacerbated by chronic poverty. More than 3 million people are in critical need of food aid. World Vision provides therapeutic feeding for children and operates food-for-work programs.

How It Works

- Timeline of a typical disaster response. World Vision's interventions begin before the crisis and aim for the long

Crisis

→ Before the Crisis: Preparedness

- Monitoring early-warning systems in vulnerable places
- Training staff through disaster simulations
- Prepositioning emergency supplies in warehouses in Pittsburgh and Denver in the United States; Brindisi, Italy; Bangkok, Thailand; and Nairobi, Kenya; and other locations

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World Vision

Where we've been working

Within 72 hours: Quick action

- World Vision staff closest to event communicate severity and need
- Global Rapid Response Team deployed
- First emergency supplies arrive and distributions begin
- Communications (reports, photos, video) and media coordination begin
- World Vision supporters contacted through email, web and emergency mail

One week to six weeks: Emergency Response



- Food and other goods distributed to families in need
- Water and basic sanitation provided
- Emergency health teams treat victims
- Temporary shelters set up
- Programs target emotional healing
- World Vision offices (including U.S.) raise funds



Who's on Point

A diverse group of experts ready to be deployed to a crisis at a moment's notice.



FRONT ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: Pauline Awitty, Judy Moore, Debs Harris, Isabel Gomes; middle row: Lulseged Wube, Killen Otieno, Doris Knoechel, Eric Kiruhura, Patrick Ngenga, Ian Ridley, Gisla Dewey, Tanya Mewburn, Johara Boukaa; back row: Mike Pattison, Mark Neeson, Jean-Claude Mukadi, Mesfin Teklu, Steve Goudswaard, Ray Bonniwell, Ashraf Yacoub, Greg Campbell, Dan Kelly. (Below: Steve Matthews)



World

They are from 12 countries across the globe. They hold degrees ranging from theology and many languages to applied economics and marine chemistry. Between them, they speak more than a dozen languages.

And when a crisis hits, their phones ring—Johannesburg, Nairobi, Cyprus, or wherever they are based—and they're off to the scene, for three to six months' deployment.

They are World Vision's Global Rapid Response Team, 23 relief specialists who willingly fly into the heart of crisis to jump-start the organization's relief program. It sounds glamorous—but the reality is often round-the-clock work, rough living conditions, and increasing security concerns.

Team members—Christians who feel called to do this work—reconcile the highs and lows. As British member Ian Ridley puts it: "Always interesting, always different, always challenging ... never predictable, never boring, never easy."

Six weeks to six months: Social and community recovery

- Child protection measures established, including finding community support for orphans
- Health and nutrition improved
- Education restarted
- Environmental recovery begun
- Social issues such as resettlement and land tenure addressed
- Psycho-social care continued through safe zones and play areas for children



Three months to 12 months: Economic recovery

- Small businesses restarted through small loans and training
- Agricultural activities recovered
- Alternatives for livelihoods explored for those who lost jobs

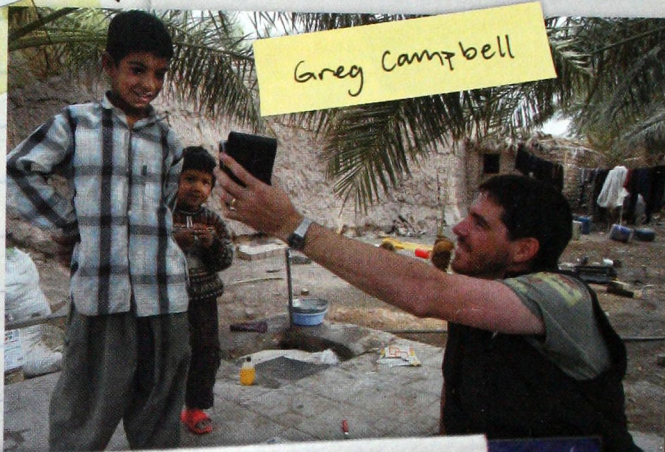
How It Works (continued)

Debs Harris



"DO YOU HAVE A LIFE?" one of my church leaders once asked me. Creating balance in our lives is a challenge for many of us—we typically spend 50 percent of our time away from home, sometimes more," says British water specialist Debs Harris (pictured in Bam, Iran, in 2004). "Team life is important to us. We spend time together in extreme environments and get to know each other extremely well. Yet each of us is very different—together we represent the whole range in term of Christian belief, personality, and professional skills."

EARLY 2004, Australian technology specialist Greg Campbell struck a rapport with Fareed, 10, earthquake survivor in Bam, Iran, by showing him family photos on his palm pilot. He pestered Fareed with questions, and suddenly he went from somewhat awestruck and pensive to laughing at everything. He thought somehow I'd managed to become ridiculous in his eyes, just a very odd stranger from the other side of the planet. Then Fareed's mother said [to her son]: 'You haven't laughed in 15 days.' I counted backward, and it was exactly 15 days since the earthquake."



Greg Campbell

Six months to two years: Infrastructure rehabilitation

- Permanent shelter constructed
- Health systems improved
- Community centers built
- Roads, bridges, and other transportation channels rebuilt
- Child protection activities continued

Two years and on:

Long-term community development

- Community stabilized
- Children assisted through sponsorship
- Sustainable jobs and businesses created
- Local church equipped to support spiritual needs



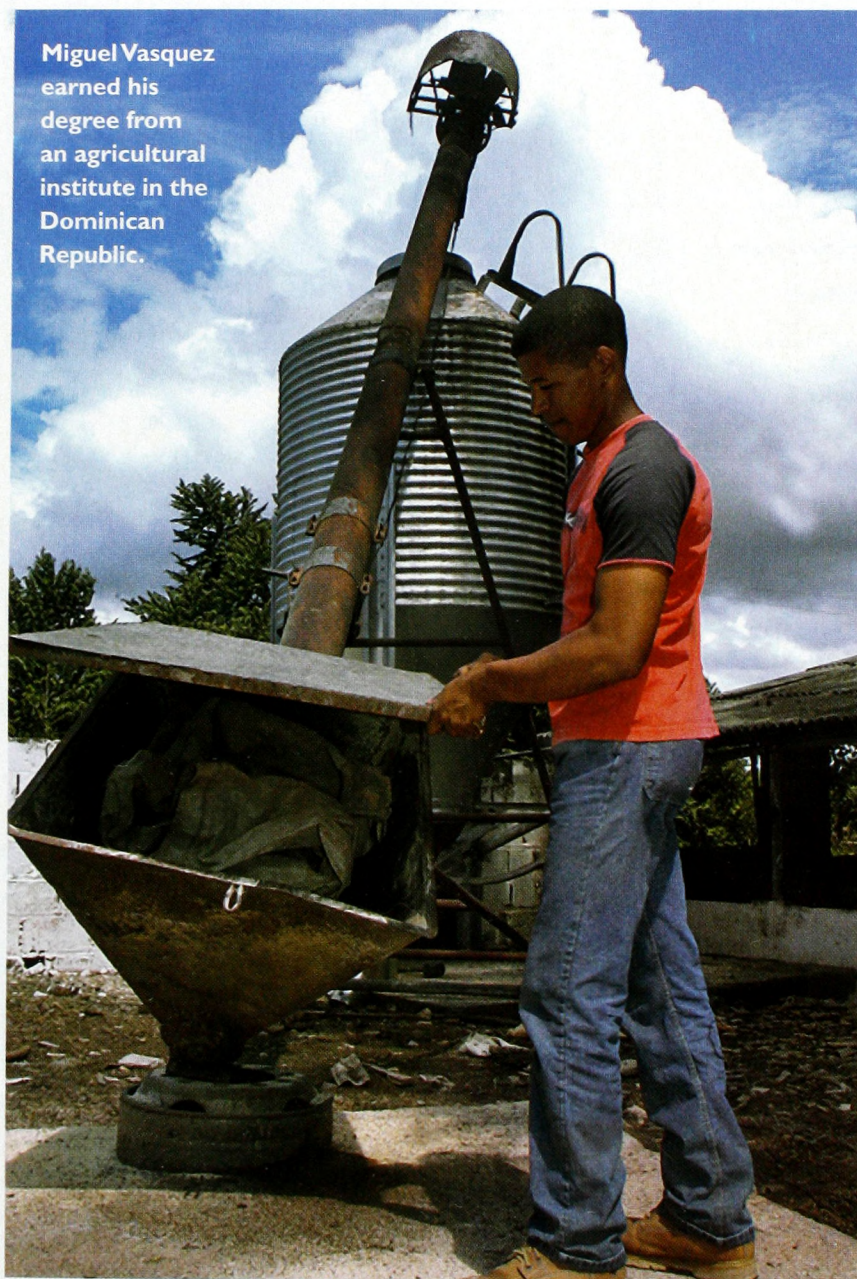


Fulfillment on the Farm

Sponsorship paved the way for a livestock engineer.

by Nilba Pérez

Miguel Vasquez earned his degree from an agricultural institute in the Dominican Republic.



NOT MANY PEOPLE would enjoy spending their days around snorting pigs and pungent smells of the farmyard. But Miguel Vasquez, 23, smiles with satisfaction as he takes in his surroundings in rural Moca, Dominican Republic. As a livestock production engineer, this is where he wants to be. And as a former sponsored child, he knows how he got here.

"I always felt privileged to be a sponsored child," he says. "I was aware that the things World Vision did in our community directly influenced my life, allowing me to obtain a profession and making me proud of my accomplishments."

Today, Miguel is a college graduate who manages a team caring for pigs in their early growth stage. Since his arrival on the farm, pig mortality has been reduced from 23 percent to 21 percent.

Rafael Abreu, general administrator of the farm, says of Miguel, "We hired him because of his skills and because we saw in him a desire for working and learning. I think that he has a bright future ahead of him."

Miguel is focused on that future. "I would like to have my own farm," he says while giving his visitors a tour of the premises. "My life dream has always been to have a ranch in Texas, because it seemed like a place where the work I do is valued." Eyes sparkling, he adds that he'd like to obtain a master's degree in farm engineering and "marry a beautiful woman and have three children."

These dreams took root in Miguel's childhood in La Colonia, an impoverished community about 150 miles southwest of

NILBA PEREZ/WORLD VISION (2)



of emphasis on my education.”

World Vision assisted La Colonia through the Apolinar Perdomo project. Miguel smiles as he recalls how World Vision’s intervention improved his family’s life: “My father learned about organic farming, and my mother was taught to sew. My father’s crops improved, and my mother started to contribute to the family’s income making clothes. In addition, our nutrition improved significantly.”

Miguel remembers a staff member

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Building a better world for children

WHO WE ARE

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

WHO WE SERVE

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

WHY WE SERVE

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

HOW WE SERVE

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

YOU CAN HELP

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

World Vision



Where Are They Now?



Fulfillment on the Farm

Sponsorship pay

by Nilba Pérez

Miguel Vasquez earned his degree from an agricultural institute in the Dominican Republic.



*But the man of honor
makes good plans, and he
stands for what is good.*

ISAIAH 32:8 (NLV)

Dear Friend,
My wife, Renée, and I—like you—care deeply about both our own family's future and the futures of children living in poverty. So we were thrilled to learn how gift planning can help us make a significant difference for many others beyond our lifetime. Please send in the card below today to request your copy of World Vision's *Legacy Planner*—and make an exciting discovery for yourself!

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President

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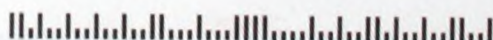
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MICHAEL MILLER

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Miguel remembers a staff member named Geraldino visiting his home to help him write letters to his sponsor from the United States. “My sponsor was an important role model in my life [because] although he lived so far, he still thought of me,” Miguel says. “It was great when he wrote me a letter with pictures and I could see the house he lived in.”

World Vision’s spiritual support was also important. “From the time I was a small child, I went to church with my mother,” he says. “All I do, I put in the hands of God. He has made of me an obedient and good person with good principles. God is my guide, and I know that if I continue to follow him, my path will always be straight, and no matter how many problems come my way, I will be fine.”

Miguel waits for the sun to lower before continuing work. He bids his visitors goodbye, his words becoming more emotional and potent. “If anyone wants to do something good with their life—something they might feel proud of—they should sponsor a poor child, giving him or her the opportunity to overcome poverty and build a better future.” ■

Nilba Pérez is communications manager for World Vision in the Dominican Republic.



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World Vision





Simple Gestures of Jesus' Love

by Cassandra Wyssbrod



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

Cassie Wyssbrod makes friends in Banda Aceh, Indonesia.

I WAS WORKING for World Vision in Dallas when tragedy unfolded all too close to home—Hurricane Katrina shattered the Gulf Coast.

This was my second disaster. In January 2005, a week or so after the Asia tsunami struck, I arrived in Banda Aceh, Indonesia, to assist with World Vision's relief efforts. The families there had suffered. Children lost parents. Husbands had lost wives. I heard stories of mothers who had to let go of one child to hold onto another as the water swept them away.

"Share with God's people who are in need."

—Romans 12:21

I was struck by the similarities between the two tragedies. Initially, the survivors thought that nobody in the world knew what had happened to them—and nobody cared. In Banda Aceh, which before the tsunami had been somewhat cut off from the West, people felt isolated until volunteers and plane loads of supplies arrived. In Dallas, a man who survived the Superdome ordeal told me, "We felt forsaken. We had no idea if anyone knew what was happening [to us]."

In both disasters, it was the simple things that mattered. Indonesian children had a place to play at World Vision's Child-Friendly Spaces. One little girl would come and rest her head on

my shoulder. In those moments, I knew the warmth of a stranger comforted her.

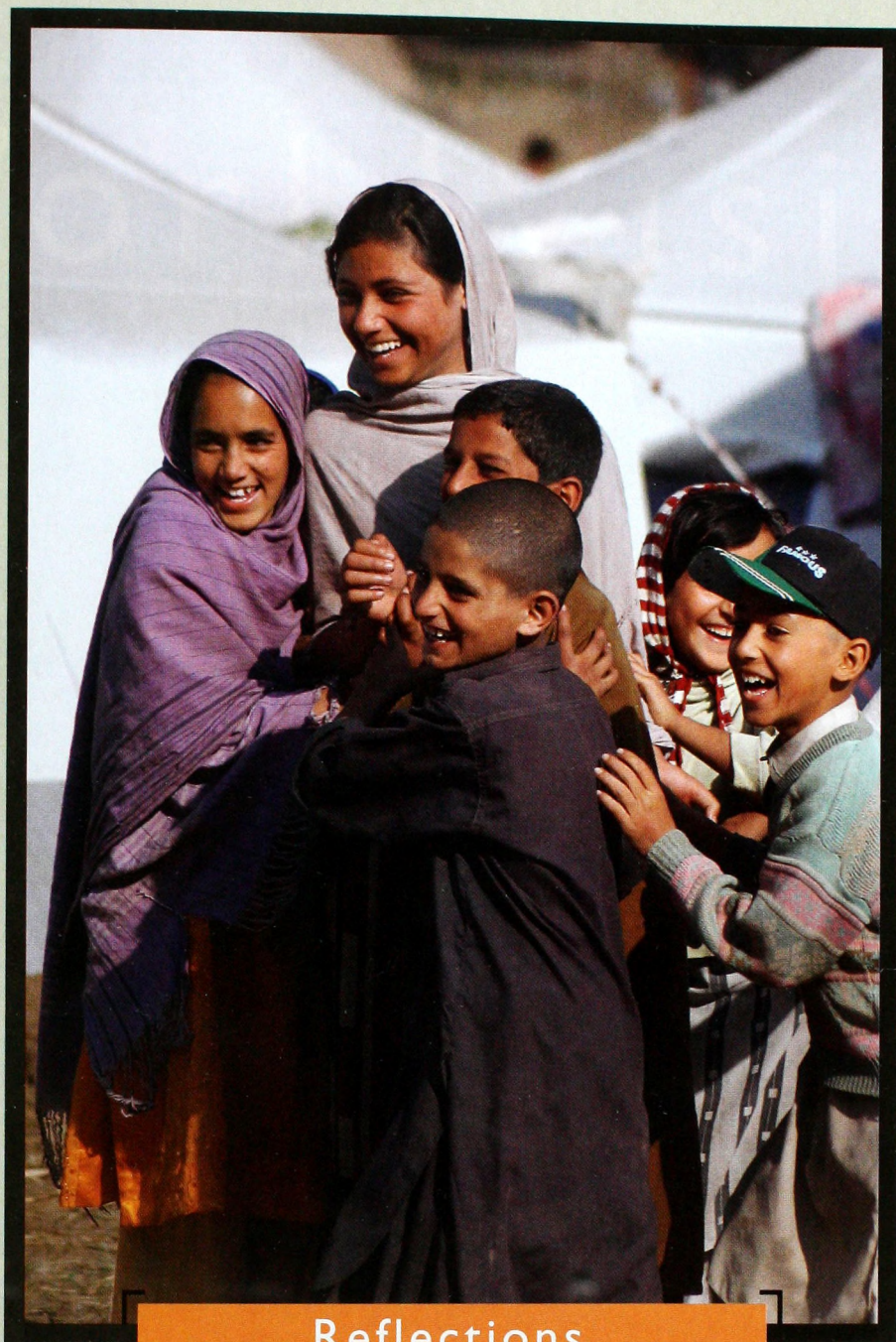
About a week after Hurricane Katrina evacuees arrived in buses near Dallas, exhausted and traumatized from their ordeal in the Superdome. I joined local volunteers to greet them and wash their hands with sanitizer. When we touched their hands, many were overcome with emotion. Later, a woman told me that a simple act of kindness "means everything when you have nothing."

At World Vision, we say that our actions are an expression of our faith. This has come to mean so much to me. I can't change the world by myself. However, by the very act of washing somebody's hands or playing with children, God can use me as a vessel for healing. My gesture is like a whisper from Jesus: "You are loved, you are going to be OK."

Jesus was so good at having just the right word or touch for people. Today, he still does—through us. I believe that if Jesus were here today, he would have been in the Superdome; he would have been on the Mississippi coast walking with a pastor whose church was destroyed. He would have held the children who saw family members swept away in a giant wave.

Of course, not everyone can serve at the scenes of tragedy. But anyone who gives support to World Vision plays a part in these acts of healing. When I feel a rush of compassion while helping someone, I also feel it for the donors who are making the relief possible. By working together as Christ's followers, the power of our love for Christ and his for us allows sacred and transformational moments to happen. ■

Cassandra Wyssbrod is church relations director for World Vision in Dallas.



JOHN SCHENK/WORLD VISION

Reflections

P A K I S T A N

It is said that a crisis unmask everyone, revealing true character. So it was with Farina, 13 (tallest girl, center), who survived South Asia's dreadful 7.6 magnitude earthquake last October. As classroom walls started crumbling at her school in Balakot, Farina's only concerns were for her three sisters. She found two alive in the rubble—but it was too late for the third. Afterward, Farina rose above her own tragedy to cheer up other young survivors at World Vision's specially designed play area called a Child-Friendly Space. "She's an activist from the heart who is just naturally organizing the children, joining in, helping the younger ones," says Siân Platt, World Vision child protection officer. ■

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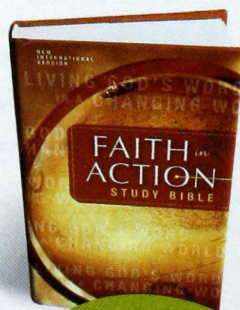
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