

A photograph of two young girls jumping rope in front of a wooden structure. The girl on the left is wearing a white long-sleeved shirt, a white skirt, and a red headscarf. She is holding the rope. The girl on the right is wearing a red t-shirt, a patterned skirt, and a blue headscarf. She is also holding the rope. They are both smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a wooden structure made of logs and branches.

# WorldVision

WINTER 2006

## HIGH Spirits *in* HARD Times

SANCTUARY FOR CHILDREN IN WAR-TORN DARFUR



# Are you leaving your legacy<sup>to</sup> chance?

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Creating or updating your estate plan is one of the most important decisions you can make—because it ensures your loved ones, and the causes dear to your heart, will be provided for as you wish after your lifetime. It's one of the best ways to wisely steward your God-given blessings. And it guarantees you'll leave the legacy you desire.

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World Vision's **Legacy Planner** offers valuable insights for creating or updating your estate plans. To request your **FREE** copy or to learn more about building a meaningful legacy, call us today at **1.888.852.4453**, e-mail [giftplanning@worldvision.org](mailto:giftplanning@worldvision.org), or visit [www.worldvision.org/legacyplanner](http://www.worldvision.org/legacyplanner).



Free resource!



World Vision



## WorldVision

VOLUME 10, NUMBER 2

|                                |                    |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>President</b>               | Richard E. Stearns |
| <b>Editor-in-Chief</b>         | Milana McLead      |
| <b>Managing Editor</b>         | Jane Sutton-Redne  |
| <b>Senior Editor</b>           | James Addis        |
| <b>Assistant Editor</b>        | Ryan Smith         |
| <b>Contributing Editor</b>     | Kari Costanza      |
| <b>Photo Editor</b>            | Jon Warren         |
| <b>Design &amp; Production</b> | Journey Group, Inc |

## » ON THE COVER

**The courageous children of Darfur refuse to allow the brutality of war to crush their spirits. Photograph by Jon Warren**

**World Vision**, a free quarterly publication, affords people responding to God's call to care for the poor by providing information, inspiration, and opportunities for action, linking them with children and families in nearly 100 countries where World Vision ministers. In an effort to be careful stewards of our resources, this publication costs less than 35 cents a copy to print and mail.

We welcome your comments and/or address changes. Send them to: The Editor, World Vision magazine, P.O. Box 9716, Federal Way, WA 98009-9716 or e-mail us: [wvmagazine@worldvision.org](mailto:wvmagazine@worldvision.org)

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**Correction:** Last issue's "From the President" column reported there had been 40 million deaths from AIDS. The correct figure is 25 million. There are 40 million people living with HIV.

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Building a better world for children

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JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

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## Piercing the Darkness >>

**H**ave you noticed that any source of light looks brighter and more powerful at night? The darker the darkness, the more dazzling a light appears. I've found that the same is true of the light of the gospel. It shines most brilliantly when it pierces the world's darkest corners.

I had the chance to witness this phenomenon in March when I met two boys, David and Daniel (names changed to protect identities), in Gulu, northern Uganda. They are about 16 years old and are former child soldiers of a guerilla group known as the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).

Regular readers of this magazine will know something of what this means. To replenish their troops, the LRA abducts children. These "recruits" are taught to kill or be killed. To complete their moral disorientation they are often ordered to return to their own villages and murder their relatives. Sometimes they are forced to beat to death young comrades who try to escape. Northern Uganda is the darkest place I have ever visited.

I met David and Daniel after they had been captured by the Ugandan army and brought to World Vision's Children of War Center. The center has what may seem like an impossible mission—to rehabilitate these children so they can resume a normal life.

*"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined." —Isaiah 9:2 (RSV)*

As the vehicle bringing the boys pulled through the gates of the World Vision compound, singing began. I don't think I have ever heard music so beautiful. It did not come from an immaculately trained choir backed by a magnificent organ; it came from a rag-tag band of about 50 kids using crude, metal drumsticks to sound out rhythms on hollow gourds. Children whose lives had been filled with brutality sang songs of praise and welcome as they encircled the vehicle.

The boys looked wary as they stepped from the vehicle. David's left arm was withered—the result of a gunshot wound sustained in a firefight. But it was the expression on their faces that haunted me. Their eyes reflected the inner torment of those who have seen unspeakable things. There was fear there, too. Many of their former comrades might have reason to want them dead.

For years David and Daniel had experienced terror to a degree



JOHN WARREN/WORLD VISION

### Haunted by the past.

most of us would find difficult to even imagine. But here they found themselves surrounded by a sea of friendly faces; the boys began to smile again. I saw the light return to their eyes.

Two days later, I was asked to preach at a chapel service at the center. I spoke on Jesus' parable of the prodigal son. I talked about how the father celebrated his lost son's return, embracing him and forgiving every transgression unconditionally, slaying the fatted calf—restoring his son and welcoming him home.

David and Daniel smiled as they listened to this parable. Instead of receiving hostility and condemnation, they had found forgiveness, reconciliation, and love—just like the son in the parable. When it was time to sing, their voices reflected newfound joy. I borrowed a phrase from Isaiah, "Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined." And, indeed, on that day surely did shine.

If this story validates one thing, it is the power of the gospel to bring healing and reconciliation is astounding—and the world cannot help but notice when it sees it. Let this thought encourage us as we

work together to shine Christ's light among the poor and disenfranchised in the world's darkest corners. ■



*Rick Warren*



# FRONT LINES

Compiled by James Addis

## You've Got Mail

Imagine the thrill for a sponsored child to be reminded that someone in a far-away part of the world is thinking of them. But how does World Vision get mail to children such as Karia, whose village in Mali has no postal service?

### Like Rebecca Stark

(see story, page 9),

you already may be experiencing

**the joy of sponsoring a child.**

Here is an easy way to **share that**

**joy** with a loved one. Please see the

**reverse side of this card.**

I love being

**a child sponsor**

because you see the **material** benefits,

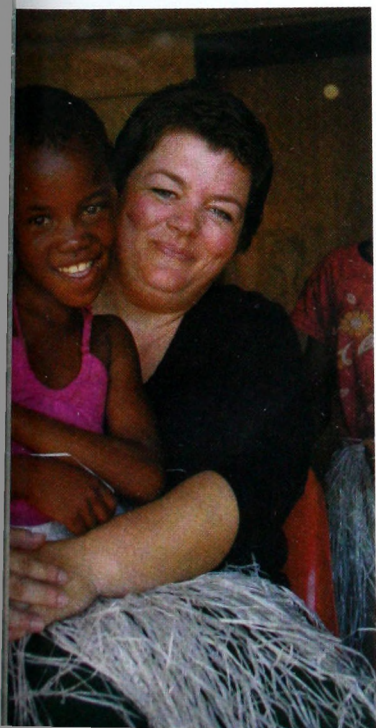
but it also **deepens** your own **faith.**

**It answers** the call **God** gives us

to take care of **one** another."

### « Rebecca Stark

in Lesotho with  
her sponsored  
child, Kutloelo





FROM THE PRESIDENT

## Piercing the Darkness >>

**H**ave you noticed that any source of light looks brighter and more powerful when it pierces the darkness?

It is true of the sun, but it is also true of the light that pierces the darkness of war.

I had the opportunity to meet two boys (and their families), in Gulu, Uganda, who are former child soldiers of the Lord's Resistance Army.

Regular reconciliation means that these "recruits" are now living in their own villages and are no longer being used to beat or to kill. Uganda is the only country in the world where this is the case.

I met David, a Ugandan army soldier, at the Center. The center is dedicated to the rehabilitation of former child soldiers.

*"The people who walk in the light; those who walk in the light, on them has light."*

As the vehicle moved forward, I heard music from a trained choir. A band of about 100 young men, with brutality on their faces, were playing the vehicle.

The boys' left arm was in a fire. I saw it. Their eyes were unspeakable. Their comrades were in the vehicle. For years

## Share Child Sponsorship with Family and Friends!

**DETACH** this card and pass it along to someone you care about. Use it as an easy, no-pressure way to share the joy of providing for a child in need through sponsorship with World Vision.

# Yes,

I want to help  
build better lives  
for children!

Please place this card in an envelope and mail to:  
World Vision, P.O.  
Box 70081, Tacoma,  
WA 98471-0081

Or call:  
(888) 852-4453.

*"I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."*

—Matthew 25:40

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

Gender: ☐ Boy ☐ Girl

Living in: ☐ Africa ☐ Asia ☐ Latin America

☐ Middle East ☐ where most needed

☐ Please send me additional information about child sponsorship.

☐ I'm already a sponsor. Please send me information on ways to share sponsorship with others.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Source: 12

☐ Check payable to World Vision

☐ Credit card payment

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

Card number \_\_\_\_\_

Card expires \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

(To receive periodic updates about the impact of your gift.)



# R O N T L I N E S

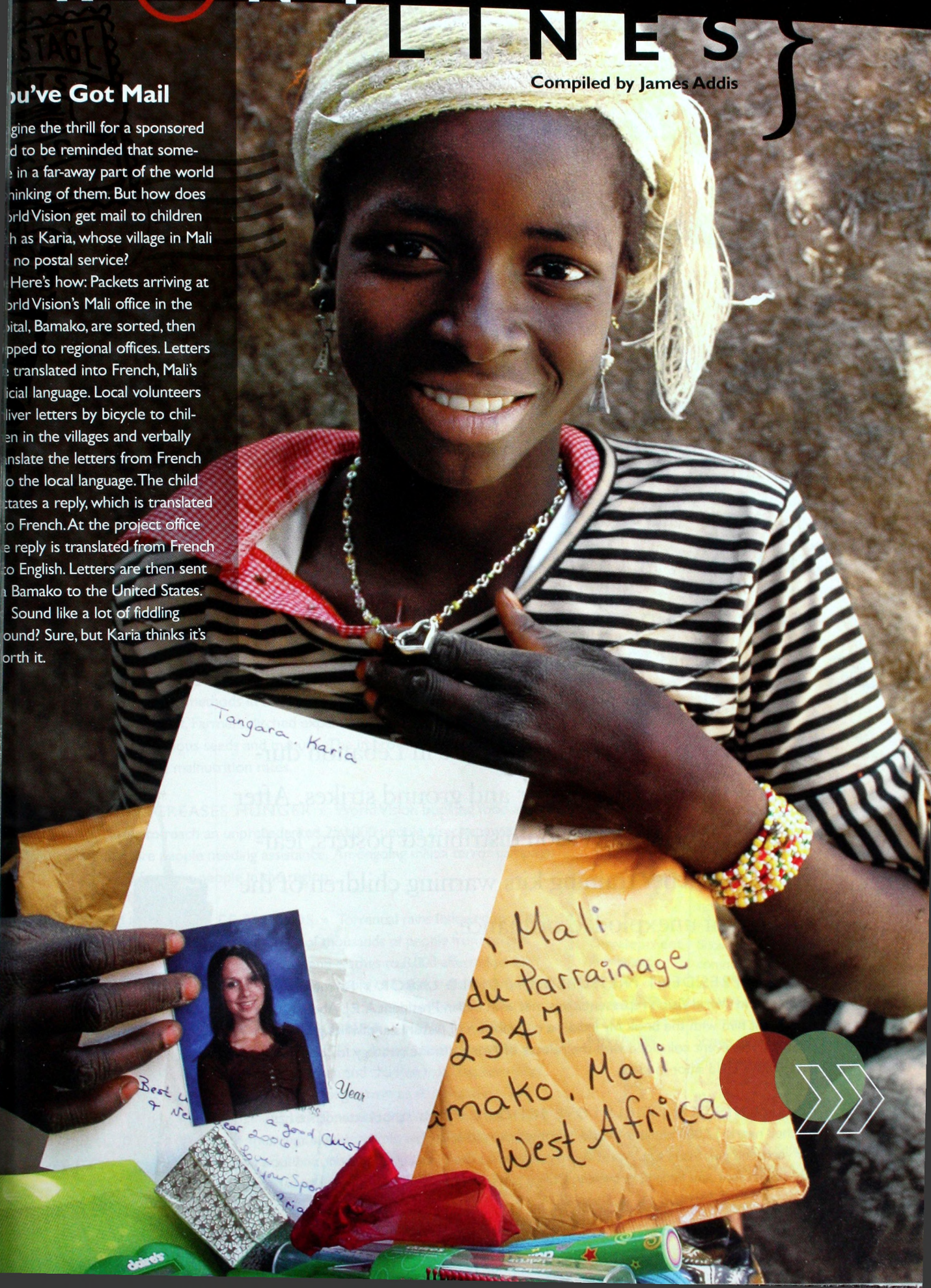
Compiled by James Addis

## You've Got Mail

Imagine the thrill for a sponsored child to be reminded that someone in a far-away part of the world is thinking of them. But how does World Vision get mail to children such as Karia, whose village in Mali has no postal service?

Here's how: Packets arriving at World Vision's Mali office in the capital, Bamako, are sorted, then shipped to regional offices. Letters are translated into French, Mali's official language. Local volunteers deliver letters by bicycle to children in the villages and verbally translate the letters from French to the local language. The child states a reply, which is translated to French. At the project office the reply is translated from French to English. Letters are then sent from Bamako to the United States.

Sound like a lot of fiddling around? Sure, but Karia thinks it's worth it.







LEBANON

KEVIN COOK/WORLD VISION

## WORLD WATCH

### LEBANON | AID REACHES WAR

ZONE » World Vision delivered

aid, including food, blankets, and medicines, to about 40,000 people in Lebanon during and following Israeli air and ground strikes. After the ceasefire, World Vision distributed posters, leaflets, and teacher training kits warning children of the dangers of unexploded ordnance.

**INDIA | PRESIDENT PRESSURED ON CHILD LABOR** » Former child laborers and World Vision representatives met with Indian President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam to present him with the book *My India*—a compilation of pictures and writing by Indian children. The event coincided with the release of World Vision's strategy for countering exploitative child labor in India.

**AFGHANISTAN | GIRLS LOVE SCHOOL** » Girls' school attendance has reached nearly 17,000 pupils in World Vision-supported schools—almost double the number recorded two years ago. World Vision provides teacher training, equipment, and food to schools in Ghor and Badghis provinces. During the Taliban era, girls' education was banned.



INDIA

REENA SAMUEL/WORLD VISION



AFGHANISTAN

**TOP LEFT:** Aid arrives.  
**ABOVE:** Girls love school.  
**LEFT:** Child labor woes.  
**BELOW:** Organic is best.



LESOTHO





**FAST FACT** » Americans gave \$260 billion to charitable organizations in 2005, a \$15 billion increase from the previous year.

Source: Giving USA Foundation

**ANGOLA** | CHOLERA KILLS DOZENS EVERY DAY » WorldVision provided medical supplies and engaged in public education campaigns to counter a cholera epidemic killing dozens every day. Overcrowding and poor sanitation in the country's slums are blamed for the rapid spread of the disease.

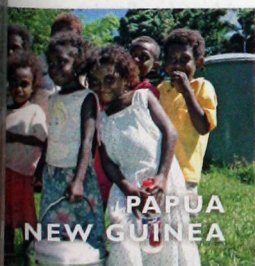
**UNITED STATES** | NEW WHEELS FOR DISABLED » Free Wheelchair Mission has partnered with WorldVision to provide more than 16,000 wheelchairs to disabled recipients around the world. Wheelchairs are shipped from Shanghai, China, directly to WorldVision development programs. Donors can support the venture by purchasing a wheelchair from the gift catalog found between pages 16 and 17.

**CHILE** | FLOODS CAUSE HAVOC » Following heavy rains, devastating flooding in central and southern Chile left thousands isolated. WorldVision trucks battled waterlogged roads to bring food, mattresses, and clothing to those affected. The organization plans to work with other organizations to repair thousands of houses.

**LESOTHO** | ORGANIC PROVES BETTER » World Vision programs to promote organic agricultural methods in Nthabiseng helped farmers achieve their best yields ever at the lowest cost. Farmers ditched expensive imported seeds and chemical fertilizers in favor of indigenous seeds and manure. The improvements in production are expected to slash child malnutrition rates.

**SUDAN** | WAR INCREASES HUNGER » WorldVision boosted food aid distributions in Darfur to reach an unprecedented 250,000 people after renewed fighting resulted in more people needing assistance. An ongoing militia terror campaign has displaced about 2.5 million people in the region.

**CHINA** | THOUSANDS FLEE FLOODS » Torrential rains followed by floods and landslides led to the evacuation of hundreds of thousands of people from several southern provinces. WorldVision distributed rice and clothes to 8,000 affected people. Many villagers lost their entire rice crop, leaving them short of food for six months.



PAPUA NEW GUINEA  
PAPUELA SITOKO WORLD VISION

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA** | NEW SYSTEM ENDS WATER SLIDE » A new water catchment system will mean women and children from Eltupan village on Buka Island will no longer have to slither down a 300-foot cliff, hanging onto vines and tree roots, to access water. Currently the village's only fresh water source comes from a spring at the bottom of the cliff. WorldVision will install a system that uses tanks to catch rainfall. ■

## CAN THE G8 DELIVER?

Millions have joined movements such as the ONE Campaign dedicated to making poverty history. Last year, their efforts bore fruit when leaders of the world's most powerful nations—known as the G8—made a series of historic promises to end extreme poverty in Africa by 2010. The commitments included canceling debt for the world's poorest countries, allocating billions of dollars for development assistance, implementing fair trade policies, and making AIDS drugs widely accessible.

But can the G8 walk the talk? Here's how they are doing after one year. ✓

## G8 Report Card

Debt Relief

A-

Shows remarkable improvement. Debt relief is underway for 19 of 44 eligible countries. On target for the 2010 goal of relieving debt for the world's poorest countries.

Trade

F

Must try harder. Commitments to developing fair trade are vague and unclear. There is no clear indication how fair trade will be achieved.

Development Assistance

C-

Shows some potential, but lacks commitment. The target for this year was a \$3.5 billion increase in aid but only \$1.6 billion was achieved.

HIV/AIDS

B

Shows improvement, but more effort needed. Access to treatment is up from 100,000 in 2003 to 810,000 in 2005. But to meet targets, the rate of increase must double.

\*Analysis derived from The DATA Report 2006. "Grades" assigned by World Vision magazine editors. ■





**FASTFACT** » Every two minutes, an illegally traded gun kills someone. Source: United Nations

## Battle-scarred Student Interns at World Vision

*A former child soldier brings frontline experiences to advocacy role.*

Students serving internships can bring lots of enthusiasm to the job, but are often handicapped by a lack of experience.

But when Grace Akallo, 26, took a break from college to take on an advocacy role in World Vision's Washington, D.C., office, she brought

a level of understanding that decades of work experience would find impossible to match.

When she was 15, Grace was abducted by rebels of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and forced to fight against the Ugandan government. Grace learned how to clean and use a gun, suffered abuse from rebel commanders and witnessed the killing of children who tried to escape.

Grace made a successful bid for freedom following a Ugandan army attack on a rebel outpost. She returned to school, and eventually secured a scholarship to Gordon College, near Boston, where she is studying communications.

She has testified before Congress on the anguish of children threatened by the LRA and given numerous media interviews on the issue. "They were painful experiences, but I don't get tired talking about it because children are still suffering and they need help," she says.

She adds that devastating experiences should never be considered a disadvantage in life. "We go through those experiences so we can see in a new way how to help other people. If we just live in peace, we forget other people are suffering." ■

» Sign World Vision's "Children Should Never Be Soldiers" declaration: [www.worldvision.org/nochildsoldiers](http://www.worldvision.org/nochildsoldiers).





NO POSTAGE  
NECESSARY  
IF MAILED  
IN THE  
UNITED STATES



## BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO 568 TACOMA WA

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1225211

**Your gift in this envelope can help a child in crisis.** See details on the insert between pages 24 and 25.

WORLD VISION

PO BOX 70081

TACOMA WA 98471-0081



**Name:** Scott Souders, 18.

**Home:** Warrenville, Ill.

**Occupation:** Student

**Program:** Team World Vision

**Buzz:** Scott triumphantly unfurled the Zambian flag when he reached the summit of Mt. Rainier, Wash., marking the successful completion of a fundraising effort to help drill wells in a water-starved area of Zambia. He was among a team of eight from Wheaton Academy who vowed to raise one dollar for each of the mountains 14,410 feet. The team beat their goal, raising nearly \$20,000.

## INSPIRING Christmas Gifts

OR

at her sponsored village women

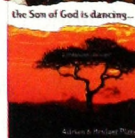
onal songs and activities, Kutloelo ther asked Rebecca

**REBECCA STARK,**  
ETON, CALIF.

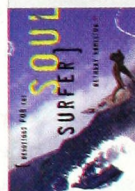
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MAKOPAULO LETSATSU/WORLD VISION



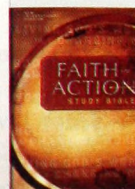
**The Son of God is Dancing:** Thoughtful funny man Adrian Plass and his wife, Bridget, take a look at a serious subject—AIDS in Zambia.



**Devotions for the Soul Surfer:** Reflections from champion surfer and shark attack victim Bethany Hamilton.



**A Guide to Acting on AIDS:** How young people can address the great humanitarian challenge of our time.



**Faith in Action Study Bible:** Translates the ancient truths of God's Word into practical action for today

» To order, visit [www.worldvisionresources.com](http://www.worldvisionresources.com) or call (888) 852-4453 ■





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World Vision



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

**Every child**  
is precious to God.  
**Help World Vision**  
bring healing and hope  
to children in crisis.

See the insert between  
pages 24 and 25 for details.



# FRONT LINES



## changeAGENT

*"The idea was to combine two passions—the passion for climbing mountains and the passion for building wells and saving lives." —Scott Souders*

For more ways to change your world, visit [www.worldvision.org/change](http://www.worldvision.org/change)

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**Home:** Warrenville, Ill.

**Occupation:** Student

**Program:** Team World Vision

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## why I love BEING A CHILD SPONSOR

**R**ebecca Stark struggled to climb up a long, steep goat track to meet her sponsored child, Kutloelo, in Mapoteng, Lesotho. But the delighted warbling of village women purred her on.

On arrival, she was treated to lots of hugs, kisses, and a show of traditional songs and dances enthusiastically performed by Kutloelo and her sisters. During the festivities, Kutloelo shyly accepted gifts of dolls, clothes and coloring books while her grandmother asked Rebecca to pray with them.

"I feel Kutloelo and her family are part of me and I will never forget her," said Rebecca after the visit.

Rebecca says although AIDS created havoc in the impoverished community and turned hundreds of children into orphans, she was struck by the people's optimism. Community members spoke enthusiastically about the creation of schools, vegetable gardens, and even pit latrines—projects made possible by funds provided by child sponsors.

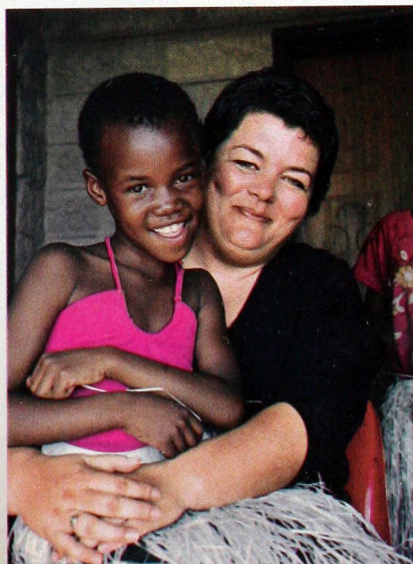
One project that especially impressed Rebecca was a women's tailoring class that makes uniforms for AIDS orphans, so they can go to school.

"I love being a child sponsor because you see the material benefits, but it also deepens your own faith. It answers the call God gives us to take care of one another." ■

### » Tell us your story

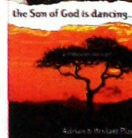
Why do you love being a child sponsor? Write the editors at [wvmagazine@worldvision.org](mailto:wvmagazine@worldvision.org).

**Rebecca and her sponsored child, Kutloelo.**



**REBECCA STARK,**  
ISLETON, CALIF.

## INSPIRING Christmas Gifts



**The Son of God is Dancing:** Thoughtful funny man Adrian Plass and his wife, Bridget, take a look at a serious subject—AIDS in Zambia.

**Devotions for the Soul Surfer:** Reflections from champion surfer and shark attack victim Bethany Hamilton.

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MARY KATE MACISAAC/WORLD VISION



## Assignment Afghanistan »

Recently, a remnant of Taliban militants in Afghanistan beheaded a school principal for teaching girls. But Texan Tim Pylate, who leads World Vision's education program in Afghanistan, remains resolute and optimistic. He discusses the personal trials and triumphs of working in one of the world's hottest hotspots.

### How did you end up in Afghanistan?

I was interviewed for the job and tried to convince World Vision I was in no way qualified. But they felt that I was right for the position. It was like God saying, "Go to Nineveh." So off to "Nineveh" I went. I did not want to get swallowed up by a whale [laughs].

### How tough has it been?

You have an explosion here or a car bomb there, but we have faith that God is blessing our work, and he has put us where he wants us to be.

### What are the rewards?

When you see how God has helped us to double girls' attendance in schools; when you see kids who are going to school who have never gone to school before; when you watch teachers' sense of pride as they receive a certificate of completion for their teacher training; when you see a young woman who's never been able to read in her life pick up a textbook and read—her chin is held high, and she smiles. That's what makes it all worthwhile.

### Sounds like a revolution is taking place. Does everybody appreciate it?

In some areas, people have posted letters on walls and lampposts. They say, "Don't send your girls to school" and things like that. We have had incidents where girls were kidnapped from schools and incidents where schools were

burned. But this comes from a small minority. One of the reasons we've been successful is that before we introduce our programs, we go to the *Shura*—the village elders. In most cases, if you show respect to the elders, they are encouraging.

### What keeps you going?

We have a great group here in Afghanistan—a very eclectic group of Christians. We do a lot of praying for each other.

### What do you miss from home?

Oysters on the half-shell with lots of Tabasco and horseradish. ■

» **FYI:** World Vision builds 10 new schools and trains about 1,000 teachers every year in western Afghanistan. The organization also conducts adult literacy classes and provides food for students and teachers.

» **Prayer Point:** Pray that extremists will be prevented from burning down schools and persecuting teachers who support girls' education in Afghanistan.

» **Editor's Note:** At press time, Tim was completing his tenure in Afghanistan. But World Vision's education programs will continue.



**FASTFACT** » There are 21 million refugees and internally displaced

persons in the world. Source: United Nations Millennium Development Goals Report, 2005

## fashioned FOR SUCCESS

*Homeless women take to the catwalk.*

**A**n excited audience roared its approval when single mom Lonette Robinson stepped out on the catwalk for World Vision's "Where Success Begins" fashion Show, held in Los Angeles.

The annual show is part of World Vision's "Second Start" program that helps women living in transitional shelters move on to better things after struggling with drugs, alcohol, or domestic violence.

Women who graduate from the program can select new outfits from World Vision's Storehouse to build a wardrobe suitable for job interviews, church, or evenings out. The fashion show allows women to show off their new clothes, which are supplied to the Storehouse by Dress Barn.

Graduates started rehearsing for the event three weeks in advance, learning the correct way to walk, maintain good posture, and achieve quick changes of outfits.

Lonette, 28, said the energy generated by the audience, which included more than 150 women from various shelters and rehab centers, was overwhelming. She said the previous year and a half had seen her life turned upside down following the unhappy breakdown of her marriage. She and her four children became homeless and were forced to take refuge in a transitional shelter.

"Participating in the show was like finding a piece of paradise in the middle of a storm. It was very uplifting," she said.

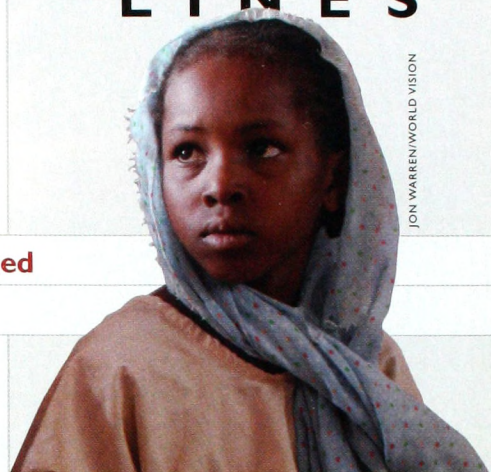
Lonette modeled five of her new outfits, including a two-piece business suit, evening gown, and a pink summer dress.

The theme of the event was "I am royalty because my father is king." Former graduate and featured speaker Robbie Thomas explained how she had learned this lesson through taking part in a previous show. "The people involved in this event taught me how to stand tall and walk proud, putting me in the royal position that we belong to in Christ," she said. ■



GREG SCHNEIDER/GENESIS PHOTOS

**Lonette steps out on the catwalk.**



JON WARREN/World Vision

## what's on

### WORLD AIDS DAY

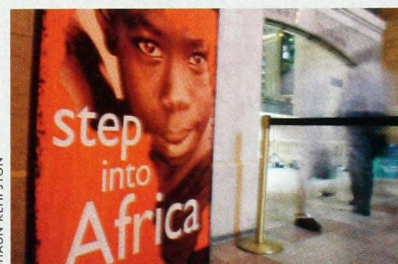
Take action against AIDS, Dec. 1, [www.worldvision.org/hope](http://www.worldvision.org/hope).

### 30 HOUR FAMINE

Youth fight hunger, Feb. 23-24, [www.30hourfamine.org](http://www.30hourfamine.org).

### PASTORS VISION TRIP

Join other pastors to see the impact of AIDS in southern Africa, Feb. 20-March 1, [www.worldvision.org/c2c](http://www.worldvision.org/c2c).

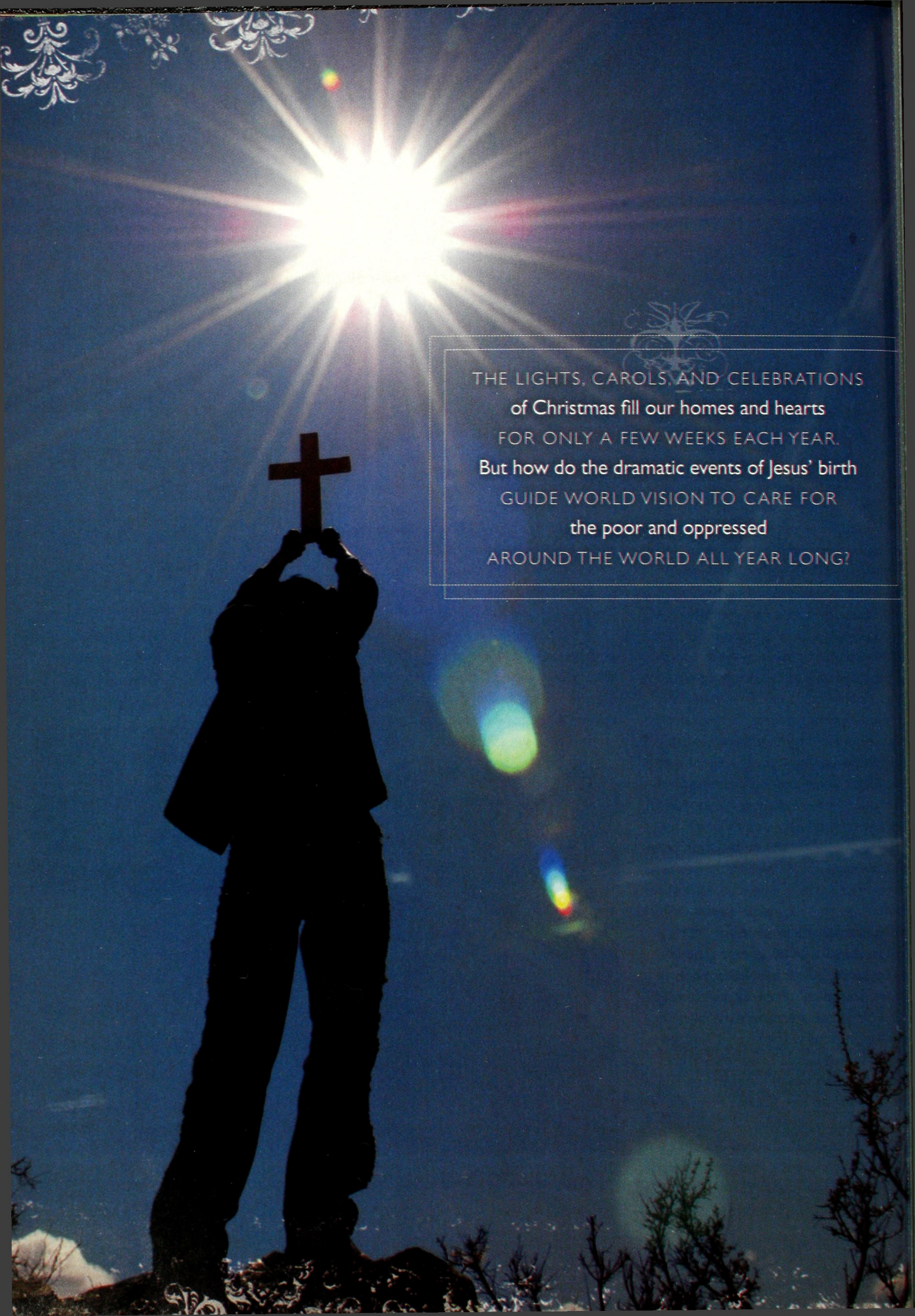


SHAUN KEMPSTON

**FASTFACT** » Uganda is a rare example of success in the fight against AIDS. HIV prevalence has been cut to 6.7 percent in 2005—down from 14 percent in 1991.

Source: UNAIDS



A full-page photograph featuring a silhouette of a person standing on a rocky outcrop, holding a large wooden cross high above their head with both hands. The person is positioned on the left side of the frame. In the upper center, a bright sun or starburst creates a powerful lens flare, with rays of light radiating across the dark blue sky. Several colorful, circular lens flare artifacts are visible in the lower right quadrant. The top left corner of the image is decorated with a white, ornate, floral-like pattern. The overall mood is contemplative and spiritual.

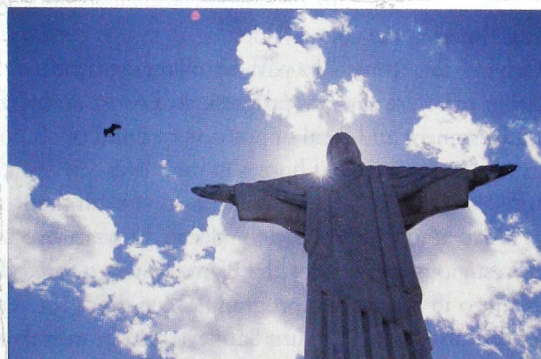
THE LIGHTS, CAROLS, AND CELEBRATIONS  
of Christmas fill our homes and hearts  
FOR ONLY A FEW WEEKS EACH YEAR.  
But how do the dramatic events of Jesus' birth  
GUIDE WORLD VISION TO CARE FOR  
the poor and oppressed  
AROUND THE WORLD ALL YEAR LONG?





WORKING IN THE WORLD

# JESUS CAME TO SAVE



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

From the time the Son of God took upon himself our flesh, he began the work of our salvation. The foot of the cross isn't merely set in the stones of Golgotha; the cross rests deep in the straw of Bethlehem's manger. God so loved the world that he gave his only Son—to suffer the worst dimensions of human life from the moment of his birth.

This news is so good and so true that it penetrates humanity's deepest needs, then and now. Through the Christmas story, we see the glory of God pressing down into all the hard places of life. We realize that today's world—its suffering, poverty, and injustice—is still the world “God so loves”—the world Jesus came to save.

This truth has propelled World Vision into places of suffering throughout its 56-year history. We follow Christ into the pain of this world. Our calling is clear: to walk with Jesus as he carries and redeems people from the ravages of poverty, violence, and neglect.

BY TIM A. DEARBORN





## NO ROOM AT THE INN

Not only did God submit to the fragility of infant flesh, utterly dependent on the care of Mary and Joseph, but there was no room in the world to welcome his birth. Instead of castle walls protecting this prince, Jesus' bed was straw, and his birth attendants were barn animals. He entered into the depth of human vulnerability by being born homeless.

Millions of today's homeless—those not only affected by the storms of nature but also by human exploitation—can find in Jesus a Lord who fully understands and shares their plight. As followers of Christ, we heed his call to care for these who are “left out.”

Throughout Europe, the Roma people (also known as Gypsies) have been marginalized and treated with disdain and persecution. They are chronically homeless and shunned as little better than human

garbage littering the countryside.

Helping the Roma—in part by changing attitudes toward them—is an enormous task. But there are signs of progress. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, World Vision pushed past government and local opposition to build brick houses for 55 Roma families—for many, the first permanent homes in their lives. To overcome societal disdain toward the group, World Vision also set up a business with the Roma to clean trash from government offices and from the riverbanks at the heart of Sarajevo. Removing trash may not be a prestigious job, but for the Roma it has restored their dignity as they lead the city of Sarajevo in a recycling program. Once those for whom societies had no room, the Roma are now helping return Sarajevo to a beautiful city for all to call home.

## A SCANDALOUS BIRTH

Scripture is restrained on the scandal surrounding Jesus' birth. Learning of Mary's pregnancy, Joseph was tempted to quietly end their engagement. However, an angel warned him in a dream that this pregnancy was from God and he should bear the public scandal with Mary. Imagine the gossip-filled whispers and judgmental glances that followed them. To the modern Christian, the message is clear—we are called to respond to unwed mothers and their children with tenderness and respect.

In Gulu, northern Uganda, 16-year-old Rose would have every reason to resent her first child, as he was conceived from sexual abuse by rebels of the Lord's Resistance Army. At age 5, Rose was abducted into their ranks, and as a young teen she gave birth to a boy. To express her grief, she named him Okwera Kilama, which means “rejected and cursed.”

But Rose loved her child, and when she was separated from him during a skirmish



JON WARREN/WORD VISION

*Millions of today's homeless—those not only affected by the storms of nature but also by human exploitation—can find in Jesus a Lord who fully understands and shares their plight. As followers of Christ, we heed his call to care for these who are “left out.”*



But Rose loved her child, *and when she was separated from him during a skirmish between the rebels and Ugandan government troops, she was devastated. "That was one of the worst moments in my life," said Rose. "I was sure the soldiers killed my innocent baby."*

between the rebels and Ugandan government troops, she was devastated. "That was one of the worst moments in my life," Rose said. "I was sure the soldiers killed my innocent baby."

Rose had two more children by the rebels, to whom she also gave names expressing her despair. Later, she managed to escape to World Vision's Children of War Rehabilitation Center, where staff have created a welcoming community for former child soldiers. In the crowd, Rose glimpsed a little boy who disinterestedly looked on as she greeted the others. It was Okwera.

"I thank God every day for leading him to World Vision," Rose said. Now she is choosing new names for her children—for God has turned her despair to joy.

#### THE OUTCAST WORSHIPERS

Among the first to give "glory to the newborn King" were, interestingly, night-shift shepherds. They lived on the bottom rung of society, paupers unwelcome in the company of kings. But they were drawn to the infant Jesus because he, too, was born a pauper, somewhat of an outcast.

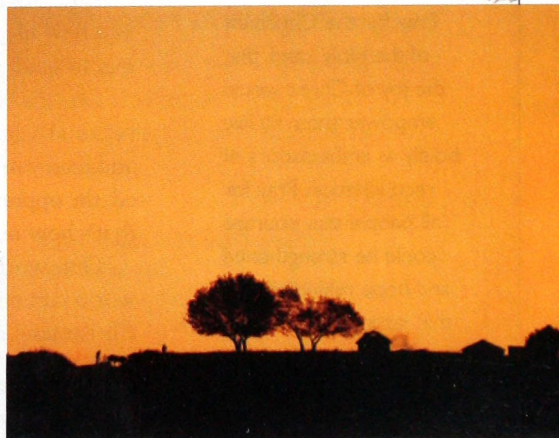
On a recent trip to India, I met a group of outcasts who were thriving in the knowledge of Jesus' special love. The residents of a poverty-shrouded village in the Gingee district were born of a low caste, and they barely subsisted as field laborers. But God had given their children a dream.

These poor families began to imagine a different future. For more than a year, they met weekly to pray for the transformation of their village. They dreamed of water wells, irrigated vegetable gardens, a playground, a library, and wheelchairs for the physically disabled. Rather than submitting to their caste-nurtured destitution, they had come to believe that God wanted more for them. And already, it was becoming real, with World Vision's help.

Crammed into a dusty, one-room school, I celebrated with all 120 village children as their parents smiled with joy from the doorways and windows. These children sang praises to Jesus to dedicate their new garden and well, their 50-book library, and the gift of a dozen wheelchairs. In Jesus they found the God who understands their life of poverty and leads them to a better future.

#### THE GENOCIDAL TYRANT

The holy night wasn't all that "silent" shortly after Jesus' birth. Hearing rumors of a rival king, the tyrant Herod ordered the murder of all male babies in Bethlehem about Jesus' age. The streets of Bethlehem were filled with screams as children were massacred. It was a small-scale genocide.



JON WARREN/World Vision (2)





JOHN KISHIRI/WORLD VISION

The “little Lord Jesus” couldn’t remain asleep in the manger. Already homeless, he soon lost even the shelter of a stable when an angel warned Joseph to flee with Mary and the baby for their lives. They became refugees in Egypt.

The Christmas story reads like a spell-binding thriller—a strange birth, even stranger night-time visitors, a child-murdering tyrant, a tiny family fleeing as refugees. What an unlikely birth story for the Lord of the Universe. Yet this story offers hope to those who live under tyranny and violence. God himself has walked their way. God suffers with those who suffer today.

Certainly that includes the hundreds of thousands of people uprooted in war-torn Darfur, Sudan—too many of them innocent children. Brothers Musa and Ali, aged 13 and 9, were found atop their donkey outside World Vision’s food distribution center at Kalma. Their village had been attacked, looted, and set ablaze by armed militia while they were working in the fields. They rode to a camp for displaced people, hoping to find their mother. “We want to know if she is alive. We are her only children,” Musa said.

Darfur is a difficult place for humanitarian workers to serve—kidnappings and robberies are common, and some workers have been killed. But World Vision is there for children like Musa and Ali, to provide temporary shelter, food, safety, and healing. Along with these tangible acts of compassion, World Vision prays that families in Darfur can know the Prince of Peace—who, like Musa and Ali, rode a donkey as a refugee. We are reminded of another time Jesus rode a donkey, entering in triumph into Jerusalem, to carry our sin and suffering so that we might have life.

#### “...SO SEND I YOU”

The complex truths of Jesus’ arrival into our world deepen our joy and hope at Christmas. God so identifies with unwed mothers that he was born of one. God understands the desperation of homeless refugees because he was one. God isn’t surprised by the arrogance of political tyrants or the terror of oppressive governments—Jesus was born under one. In these unexpected aspects of the Christmas story, we see the depth of God’s love and the wonder of his sovereign power.

After Jesus’ resurrection, after he had borne all our sin and sorrow through death into new life, he said to his followers, “Receive the Holy Spirit. As the Father has sent me, so send I you” (John 20:21).

Christians are sent into the world by the same Spirit that sent Jesus. Because of what began at Christmas, we are called to live every day as tangible expressions of the love and mercy of God in the midst of the world’s suffering. World Vision serves the unwanted, the oppressed, those caught up in conflict, and those living in utter poverty—because that’s how our Lord chose to live and serve.

Our work together as followers of Christ bears fruit, so that one day, all the world can enjoy the blessings of the Prince of Peace. This is the hope we celebrate at Christmas—and all year long. ■

—Tim A. Dearborn is associate director of Christian Commitments for World Vision International.

#### PRAYER POINT »

Pray for the Christians of the Holy Land, that the joy of Christ would empower them to live boldly as ambassadors of reconciliation. Pray for all people that courage could be strengthened and hope rekindled, and that lasting peace would come to that land.





World Vision

Christmas 2006

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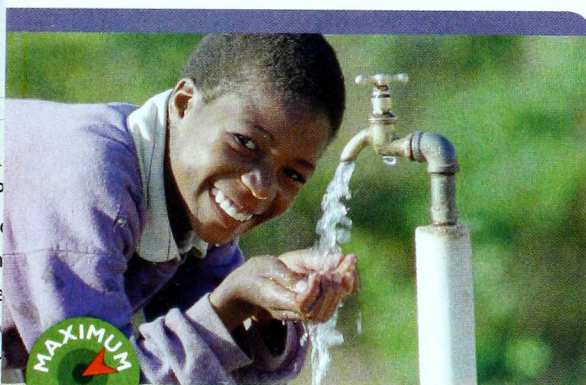
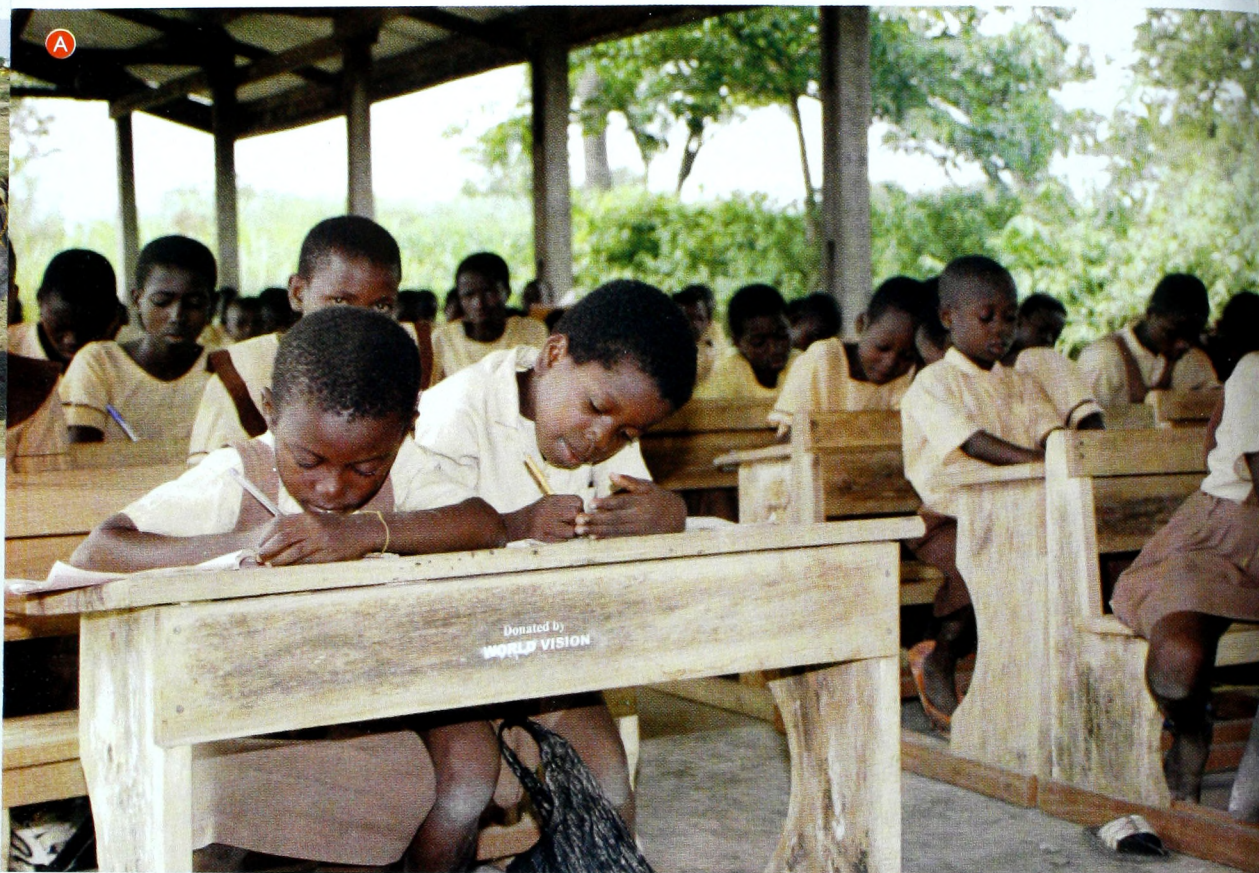
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# gifts of hope

"Therefore, as we have the opportunity, let us do good to all people . . ." Galatians 6:10



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Give to the Clean Water Fund to provide clean, life-giving water to families in greatest need. Your gift will help experts dig wells, provide pumps, construct latrines, irrigate crops—whatever communities need most. Make a one-time special gift or provide clean water all year long with a monthly pledge.

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**\$32** D404 0505



## Give 10 fruit trees to boost health and income

**B** Mangoes, oranges, and other fruits are packed with vitamins and nutrients that growing kids need. In just three years, such trees can produce enough fruit for much-needed income, offer shade from the sun's heat, and provide seedlings for other families their own small-scale farming. Bless a family in a developing country, such as El Salvador, Myanmar, or Ethiopia, with a grove of fruit trees.

**\$60** D404 0837





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**A** An earthen fish pond stocked with fish can be start of better health for a malnourished community in East Timor or Zambia. Tilapia, a firm white fish, grows rapidly and can be easily cared for by youth or other trained community members. Since surplus fish can be sold to help pay for children's school fees or needed health care, your gift can boost nutrition and improve overall quality of life for up to 50 people.

**\$200** D404 0705

**\$25** D404 0707 *Share of a fish pond*



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DAVID WARD/WORLD VISION

## WALKING WITH THE PRINCE OF PEACE IN PRESENT-DAY BETHLEHEM

**F**ollowing Jesus means living as peacemakers—intentionally working in the center of the world’s most difficult places. To that end, World Vision works in many such places around the globe, including present-day Bethlehem—a place surrounded by conflict, just as it was following Jesus’ birth. Today, in fact, a 26-foot-high wall borders the city and there are Israeli military checkpoints at its entrances.

Christians, once representing 18 percent of the population of the Holy Land, are now less than 2 percent. The tiny remnant in Bethlehem—who considers their city to be the capital of the Christian world—pray constantly for peace. Caught in the midst of conflict, many feel ignored by the world community. “Christmas carols will soon be sung around the world about Bethlehem, but it seems that no one cares about the people here,” says Dr. Musa Manuel Abu Ali, chairman of the Evangelical Council of Churches in the Holy Land.

Christians remain in Bethlehem at great cost. The incentive to flee is strong. George Saadeh, the Christian deputy mayor of Bethlehem, was driving with his family on a shopping excursion in 2003 when the Israeli Defense Force riddled his car with bullets—his family had been mistaken for wanted militants. His daughter Christine was killed, and he, his wife, and daughter Marianne were injured.

In deep grief and after much soul-searching, George and his wife refused to allow anger to rule their lives.

Instead, they joined the “Parents Circle”—a World Vision-supported group of bereaved Israeli and Palestinian parents. The group’s shared grief is used to build a bridge for healing and understanding. Together they call for peaceful and lasting ways to resolve conflict so that other parents will not suffer the grief they know too well. They see that as the best way to honor their lost children. “If we, as bereaved parents, can sit together in love and peace, why can’t our nations?” George asks.

George could choose to leave Bethlehem, but in faith, he remains, as does World Vision. The organization works to provide hope through schools, medical clinics, small business loans, water projects, and agricultural assistance—and by establishing initiatives that further the cause of peace and protect both Israeli and Palestinian children. Every Christmas, World Vision helps host a children’s party in Bethlehem—complete with carols and presents—to encourage the children of Bethlehem in the faith of the Prince of Peace who brings joy to the world.

“Regardless of how hard life is here, we will still celebrate Christmas,” says Dr. Alex Awad, Dean of Students at Bethlehem Bible College. “We will sing carols in the midst of our suffering. We are called to feed people with the good news of our ultimate hope. One day, we will gather around the feast of the kingdom rather than be left out in the cold.” ■

—Tim Dearborn

### A WORD ABOUT WORLD VISION’S WORK IN THE MIDDLE EAST

World Vision has worked in the Middle East for 30 years, including turbulent areas such as the West Bank, Gaza, and Lebanon. The organization has long provided, and continues to provide, humanitarian and development assistance to children and families on the basis of their need, irrespective of their political or religious affiliations. Programs include medical services, education, job training, agricultural production and improvements, psycho-social counseling, and advocating for peace.

As in all conflicts, it is children who experience the

greatest suffering. World Vision is gravely concerned about the well-being of all children in the area, and as a non-political humanitarian organization, its first priority is for the care of children, no matter their religion, race, ethnicity, or gender. In a region filled with political and social tension, World Vision’s goal is to create an environment where children can thrive, reach their full potential, and a “generation transformed” can build lasting peace.

For more information on World Vision’s work in the region, visit [www.worldvision.org](http://www.worldvision.org).





PHOTOGRAPHY BY JON WARREN  
TEXT BY DAN TENG'O

# DISPOSSESSED IN DARFUR

A MILITIA TERROR CAMPAIGN featuring shootings, rape, and burning of villages has forced 2 million people from their homes in **DARFUR, SUDAN**. Meanwhile, another struggle goes on—to bring comfort to battle-scarred children who have fled the violence and now live in scores of makeshift camps that sprawl across a desolate landscape.

**RIGHT:** Haja Osman watches a gathering storm outside the entrance to her shelter at Dereig camp.







"When the **ATTACKERS** came, the men sent us [women and children] away to **SAFETY** and they remained in the village to **FIGHT OFF** the militias. My **FATHER** was **KILLED** in the fighting."—*Fatima Osman, 8*



**ABOVE:** Hands up if members of your family have been killed. New arrivals at Otash camp indicate their personal heartache. **LEFT:** Sisters Hawa and Fatima. The girls' father was killed during a militia raid on their village.

## ONE FAMILY'S NIGHTMARE

**a** dark cloud descended on Umdereisaya village in south Darfur last year. Fear-stricken children let out shrill, desperate wails and ran helter-skelter in all directions. It was the second attack by camel-riding armed militia within five months. During the raids, more than a dozen villagers were killed and dozens more injured. Among the dead was Osman Adam, father of six children—Isam, 19; Abdullah, 11; Hawa, 9; Fatima, 8; Huweida, 5; and Asha, 2. Following the second attack, the children fled with their mother, Haja Osman—abandoning their home, livestock, and all their possessions. They now live under a plastic sheet in a camp with thousands of others.





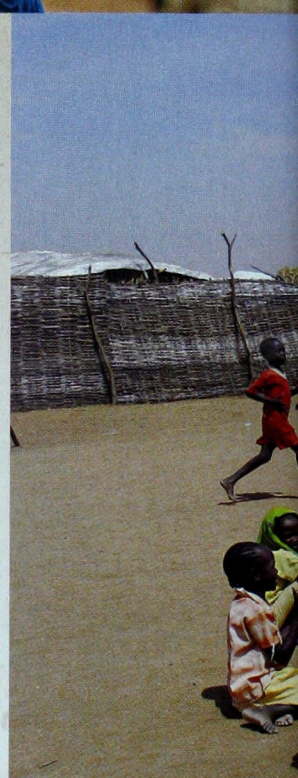
**ABOVE:** Huweida Osman takes time out with friends.



**RIGHT:** Seeking sanctuary: Children at the entrance of Dereig camp's Child-Friendly Space.



**LEFT:** Abdullah Osman is the star soccer player at Dereig camp's Child-Friendly Space.





**RIGHT:** Newly displaced families shelter under a Baobab tree.



## CHILD-FRIENDLY SPACES

**C**hildren scarred by war suffer stress, grief, depression, and bewilderment. To help them recover, World Vision organizes Child-Friendly Spaces—safe, stable areas for children where healing can take place. Volunteers and World Vision staff help children talk through their problems and face their fears. Activities include art, music, games, and school lessons. Regular routines reassure children so they are not overwhelmed by the horrors of the past.

**LEFT:** A Child-Friendly Space at Otash camp where children escape the horrors of war.







**LEFT:** Fatima helps her mother weave a mat to sell at the market. Earning money is a big problem for the displaced.

"In our village, we had the **FREEDOM** to move about. We could **GO** to our farms freely and even **TRAVEL** for long distances to **VISIT OUR RELATIVES**. Here our movement is **CONFINED** within the camp." —*Fatima Osman, 8*

**RIGHT:** Fatima has two sisters who are deaf. Here she carries the youngest one, Asha.



**ABOVE:** Hawa Osman (right) is deaf and mute but follows lessons intently and produces beautiful handwriting.





**ABOVE:** Abdullah Osman is a stellar student during classes at the Child-Friendly Space but he has little time to relax after lessons. He boosts his family's meager income by working as a porter in the local market.

## LEARNING TO LIVE AGAIN

**H**awa Osman may never be able to vocalize the pain of losing her father because she is deaf and mute. Her mother, Haja, feared her handicaps would prevent her from participating in the activities at the Child-Friendly Space and at first did not send her along. But after seeing the impact of the center on her other children, Haja changed her mind. Now Hawa loves to jump rope and concentrates intently during lessons in Arabic, English, and math. She takes the time to double-check her work, and her handwriting is the neatest in her class. A few months ago Hawa was frozen with fear; now she is learning to live again.



**RIGHT:** Hawa seldom smiles but jump rope seems to do the trick.

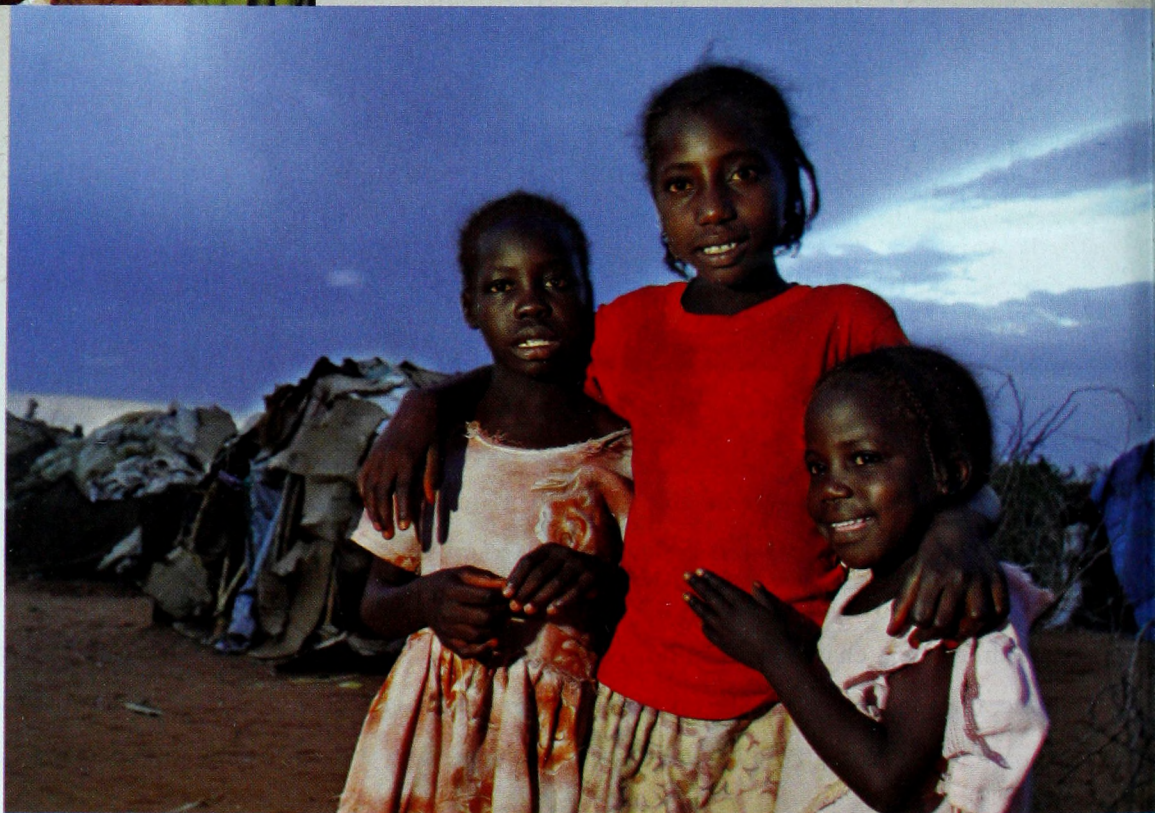


"I thought she would **NEVER BENEFIT** from the center [Child-Friendly Space] because she cannot **TALK** nor **HEAR** anything. Then I **CHANGED MY MIND**."

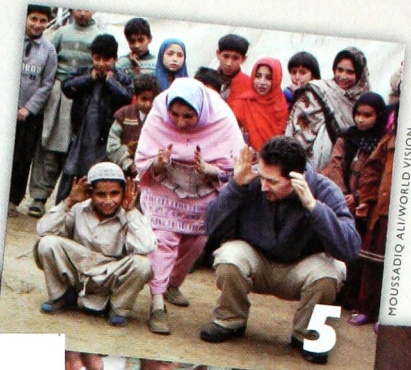
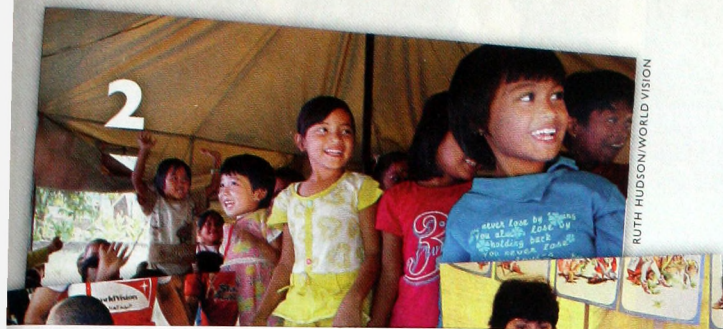
—Haja Osman, talking about her daughter Hawa

**ABOVE:** Despite her handicaps, Hawa keeps up with the actions during the singing of patriotic songs.

**RIGHT:** Courageous children: Fatima embraces her sisters Hawa and Huweida.







World Vision

**The weight of the world  
falls on those  
least able to bear it.**



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ough," facilitator Safriati said of the children.

**Millions of children around the globe suffer**  
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**World Vision offers tangible support to these**  
**children living on the edge of survival.**

**You can help!**

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RIGHT: I  
seldom smile  
jump rope s  
to do the



ABOVE: Despite  
her handicaps,  
Hawa keeps up  
with the actions  
during the singing  
of patriotic songs.

RIGHT:  
Courageous  
children: Fatima  
embraces her  
sisters Hawa and  
Huweida.



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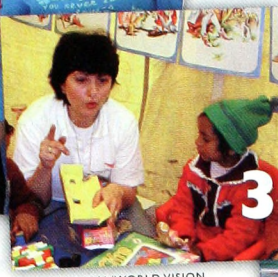
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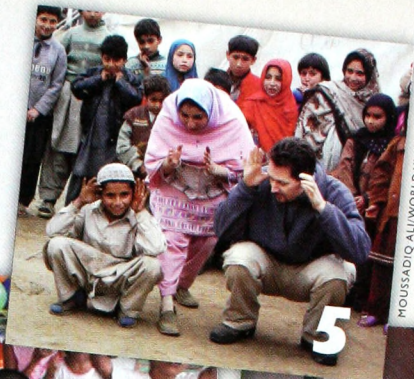
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MOUSSADIQ ALI/WORLD VISION



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

# LEARNING TO SMILE AGAIN

**1 » Lebanon War—July 2006 » Fighting between Israel and Hezbollah displaces more than 1 million.** Children eagerly volunteer to participate in the next activity at a Child-Friendly

Space established in Beirut for children who fled fighting in the south. "I have never seen my children so happy since the war broke out. I can barely recognize them with their smiling faces," said Fatima, a displaced mother.

Wherever there is a crisis, World Vision's Child-Friendly Spaces are quickly implemented to bring comfort and joy.

**2 » Indonesia Quake—May 2006 » A 6.3 magnitude quake in central Java renders 650,000 homeless.** Children in Kebom village dance and sing to celebrate the opening of the first World Vision Child-Friendly Space opened in response to the disaster. "I like the singing best," said Pungki Retno, 8, shouting above the joyful cacophony.

**4 » Philippines Mudslides—February 2006 » A landslide buries hundreds alive in St. Bernard municipality.** Children temporarily forget their troubles at a Child-Friendly Space established at an evacuation center for survivors. Vice Mayor Felix Lim told children to remain hopeful despite their experiences. "This place can help us forget—not our loved ones who died—but the pain and the sufferings the experience has caused us," he said.

**5 » South Asia Quake—October 2005 » A 7.6 magnitude quake renders more than 3 million homeless in Pakistan and India.** Children and World Vision staff lighten the mood by participating in a "hare race" at a Child-Friendly Space at Bissian relief camp in Pakistan. "I have been regularly taking part in the activities and I really enjoy it all," said Tahir, a fifth-grade student. Tahir's mother and sister were killed when the family home collapsed.

**6 » Asian Tsunami—December 2004 » One of the deadliest natural disasters of modern history kills more than 200,000, chiefly in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, and Thailand.** Idawati, 5, is comforted at the World Vision Child-Friendly Space in Banda Aceh, Indonesia. When she first arrived at the Child-Friendly Space, Idawati, who was orphaned by the tsunami, was withdrawn, confused, and aggressive. But over time, she began to participate. "We almost cannot see the tragedy they've lived through," facilitator Safriati said of the children.



# SEVEN

## WAYS TO PRAY IN 2007

*Everyday actions can be reminders to pray for the needs of children around the world.*

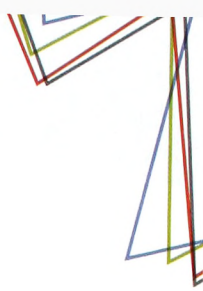
—by Ryan Smith

Daily routines can become just that—routine. *It can be difficult to find purpose in tasks such as showering and driving to work, but prayer can transform mundane tasks into something memorable. Looking ahead to 2007, World Vision—and the children it serves—covet your prayers. Here is a handy way to use your daily activities as reminders to pray for children living in poverty.*



*“And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. ... The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.” — James 5:15-16*





## ATH TIME :: Think Clean Water

1

Nearly 1.1 billion people are without access to clean water—that's more than the combined populations of North America and the European Union. Without access to clean drinking water, children are at a much higher risk for life-threatening diseases like diarrhea, intestinal worms, and cholera.

## LUNCH TIME :: Think Hungry Kids

3

McDonald's serves nearly 50 million people worldwide each day. Three times that number of children go hungry everyday, leaving them undernourished, vulnerable to disease, and prone to stunted growth.

## HEADING HOME :: Think Displaced Children

5

The number of displaced people in the world has steadily decreased over the last five years, but there are still an estimated 9.25 million children who have been forced by violence or disaster to leave their homes—that's 2.5 times more children than there are homeless people in the United States.

## BED TIME :: Think Orphans

7

There is more than twice the number of orphans in the world than children under age 15 in America. Africa is the only area of the world where the orphan prevalence rate is increasing, largely due to the AIDS pandemic.

## OFF TO WORK :: Think Child Labor

2

The U.S. national minimum wage is \$5.15 per hour. Many children worldwide earn less than \$1 a day, if they are even paid at all. Around 176 million children work in ways that are likely to harm their health, safety, or moral development—such as bonded labor, slavery, or sexual exploitation.

## NEWS BREAK :: Think Education

4

There are twice as many children worldwide—117 million—who do not receive a primary level education as Americans who receive a newspaper each day. Without education, these children are condemned to carry out menial jobs and will struggle to provide for themselves and their families.

## TAKE A VITAMIN :: Think Medical Access

6

Every year, 15 times more children die of readily preventable diseases than Americans who are killed by heart disease, the leading cause of death in the United States. Many children lack access to health care for diarrhea, malaria, and measles simply because they are poor.





# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Johnson chats with fellow students at Makerere University.

I met Bell, and he helped me to be sponsored, arranged for school fees for my siblings and me, and helped us build a sturdy house. He was a good friend and would come to our house almost every day to encourage us.

Sponsorship funds gave us a water tank to collect clean water from the roof, constructed a pit latrine, and gave us agricultural inputs such as maize, bean seeds, coffee, and potato seedlings.

Sponsorship changed my way of looking at things. I learned that even though my father died and all the world denied us, God sent people purposely to bring hope to us. It brought God closer to us for protection and provision. I started gaining a lot of hope and this was the driving force behind my success.

In April 2006, I graduated from Makerere University in Uganda with a bachelor's degree in organizational studies. In my family lineage, education was not taken seriously. I am the first person to get a degree.

My village threw a party for me and other graduates. The villagers contributed \$350 to buy two cows and a generator. Around 300 people came to the celebration, including World Vision senior staff, legislators, and news reporters.

I'm pursuing a master's degree in public administration and management. I have a dream to become a public speaker and raise money for orphans and vulnerable children and those infected by AIDS. I really have to use all my experience, knowledge, and skills for change in the lives of these innocent children.

My sponsors have been a blessing to me and whatever they have done has made my family what we are now. May the good Lord reward them richly.

## From Dropout to Grad Student »

*Sponsorship enables an orphan to go back to school and still provide for his siblings.*

*Interviews by Ryan Smith*

JOHNSON LWONDO LUBEGA

Kampala, Uganda

Only 14 years ago, I had no hope of ever stepping in a classroom again after AIDS killed my father. My father told me, "I have left you the responsibility to look after your brothers and sisters." With these words, he died in my arms.

At age 10, I couldn't provide food for my four brothers and sisters every day. My mother had already died, and my father's relatives sold his property and left us with just a half-acre. We didn't have enough food because we could only dig on Saturdays. So I dropped out of school to dig in other people's gardens to get cassava.

Once, when I went to a nearby town to collect some home [supplies], an old man saw me and took me to World Vision after I told him about the struggles we were going through. At the World Vision office,



*sponsorship has really changed the family focus."*

—Rick and Kathi Palmer

RICK AND KATHI PALMER

Lakeland, Florida

40 ducks and a goat through World Vision, in addition to their sponsorship.

Sponsorship has really changed the family focus, and that's been really neat to

# EVEN

## WAYS TO PRAY IN 2007

Your prayers **can** make a difference in the lives of children across the globe. As World Vision works with poor and destitute children, we covet your prayers for them. Pray for those that we have not yet been able to reach, and pray for the children we are working with, that the programs would be effective and the children would thrive. **Use these reminders throughout your day to trigger thoughts of children in need. Pull this card out and post it somewhere you will see it every day.**

ENYOU»

1 TAKE A SHOWER » Pray for clean water

2 GO TO WORK » Pray for child laborers

EAT LUNCH » Pray for hungry and malnourished children

4 WATCH THE NEWS » Pray for education

ARRIVE HOME » Pray for displaced children

6 TAKE A VITAMIN » Pray for medical access

GO TO BED » Pray for orphans

*"And prayer offered in faith  
will make the sick person well;  
the Lord will raise him up. ...  
The prayer of a righteous man is  
powerful and effective."*

—James 5:15-16

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

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

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

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

**YOU CAN HELP** | Partnering with World Vision provides tangible ways to honor God and put faith into action. By working together, we can make a lasting difference in the lives of children and families who are struggling to overcome poverty. To find out how you can help return the envelope found between pages 8 and 9, or visit [www.worldvision.org](http://www.worldvision.org).





# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Johnson chats with fellow students at Makerere University.

## From Dropout

*Sponsorship enables a dropout to return to school and still provide for his family.*  
Interviews by Ryan Smith

JOHNSON

Only 14 years ago, I had a father who died again after AIDS killed him. He left you the responsibility of taking care of the family. With these words, he died in 1990.

At age 10, I couldn't provide for my family every day. My mother had already lost her property and left us with just a small plot of land because we could only dig on our own. We had to dig in other people's gardens to grow food.

Once, when I went to a neighbor's [the neighbors], an old man saw me and asked me about the struggles we were facing.

## FIVE WAYS YOU CAN BE AN ADVOCATE FOR CHILDREN

### 1 SIGN the "Children Should Never be Soldiers" declaration.

» In northern Uganda, more than 30,000 children have been kidnapped and forced to serve as soldiers in a nightmarish civil war that the world has largely ignored. These innocent children are brutalized and mutilated, forced to commit atrocities, and given as sex slaves to military commanders. This targeted abuse of children is unacceptable. Sign the declaration at [www.worldvision.org/nochildsoldiers](http://www.worldvision.org/nochildsoldiers).

### 2 SIGN the "One Declaration."

» The One Campaign lobbies governments to address issues caused by AIDS and global poverty, rallying Americans "from Hollywood to the heartland" to join the cause of speaking up for the poor and oppressed. To learn more and sign the declaration, go to [www.worldvision.org/one](http://www.worldvision.org/one).

### 3 SEND an e-mail to your senator or representative, encouraging them to support legislation and funding for global aid.

» Visit [www.worldvision.org/seekjustice](http://www.worldvision.org/seekjustice) to get more information about fighting extreme poverty, the global AIDS crisis, child sex tourism, the use of landmines and providing food support. Use the information provided there to write an informed and effective e-mail.

### 4 STAY informed on global issues

» Read the United Nations' "10 Stories the World Should Hear More About" at [www.un.org/events/tenstories](http://www.un.org/events/tenstories). See what is being done to combat injustice across the globe at [www.ijm.org](http://www.ijm.org).

### 5 KEEP your friends informed.

» Don't let global crises go unnoticed. Encourage your friends to become aware and engaged in issues of injustice.



*Sponsorship has really changed the family focus."*

—Rick and Kathi Palmer

## RICK AND KATHI PALMER

### Lakeland, Florida

Johnson is always thinking of somebody else. His focus was always on taking care of his brothers and sisters, especially his brother John, who has cerebral palsy and cannot walk. He's always praising God and praising us for being there and supporting him.

We started sponsoring Johnson in 1992. We would always look forward to mail from him, and we would type up all his letters and send them to the rest of our family. In the letter, Johnson had said that his plans for the summer were to work so that he could hopefully earn enough to buy a cow, but he wasn't sure if he was going to make that much money as he needed.

When our grandsons read that letter, they decided to use their allowance to donate it for a cow instead of buying the toy that they were saving for. Johnson named the cow Hope. That experience changed the boys' lives. They decided that they wanted to sponsor a child on their own with their allowance money. Now Elliott, 12, and Nicholas, 10, have purchased

40 ducks and a goat through World Vision, in addition to their sponsorship.

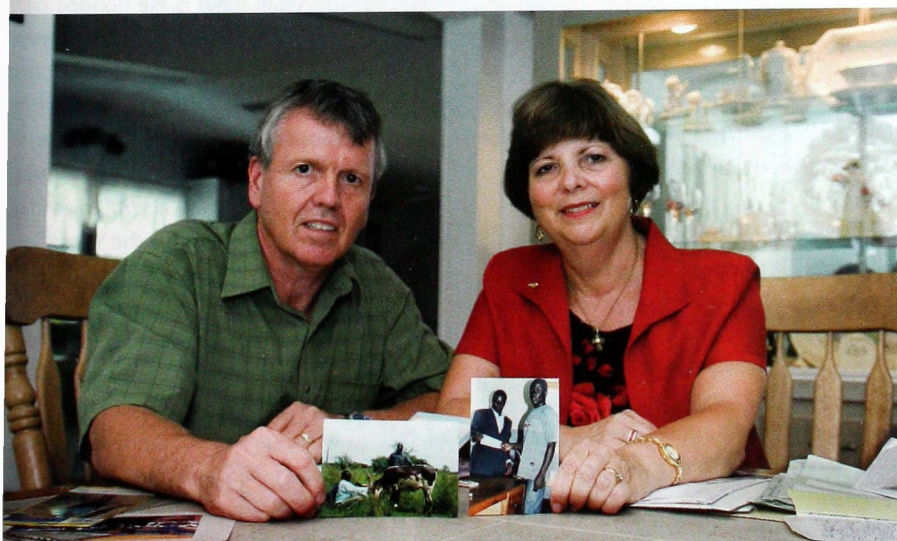
Sponsorship has really changed the family focus, and that's been really neat to watch. It opened our eyes to the needs of others. Knowing how much each prayer is needed and hearing about updates on those needs is so exciting.

Sponsorship wasn't always easy, but God always saw us through. Rick was downsized from IBM and it was a struggle to find work for a while, and we almost had to stop our sponsorship.

At that time Johnson was starting college and needed \$2,500 for tuition, and we couldn't afford that. But God raised up a group from Christ Presbyterian Church in Edina, Minn., which had a connection with Johnson's village. They helped to pay his tuition, and the timing was just perfect. During his visit to Minnesota in 2002, he was also given a wheelchair for John.

He invited us to his graduation, but we couldn't make it. But we were there in spirit, and we prayed for him. ■

» Share your story of how sponsoring a child has affected your life by e-mailing [wvmagazine@worldvision.org](mailto:wvmagazine@worldvision.org).



MICHAEL CRAPPS/GENESIS PHOTOS

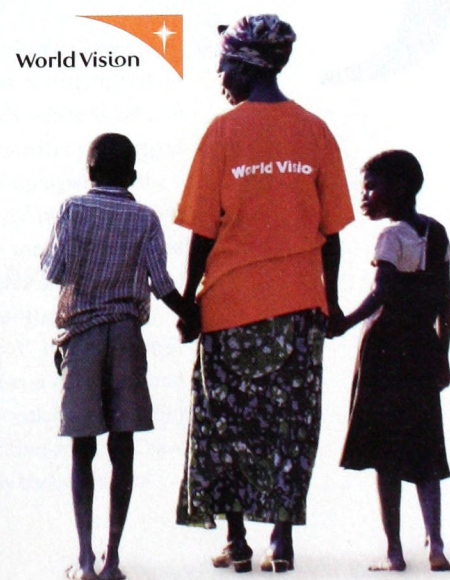
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## Remembering Ted Engstrom »

**T**ed Engstrom was a prolific writer, businessman, preacher, and mentor. At various times he was editorial director of Zondervan Publishing, president of Youth for Christ, and president of World Vision. His death at 90, in July, marked the passing of one of the most influential Christian leaders of recent times.

At World Vision, "Dr. Ted" is credited with helping World Vision grow into one of the world's largest Christian relief and development organizations.

His early life gave few clues to the man he would become. He had a wild reputation at Taylor University, where he would skip college responsibilities to play trumpet in dance bands. But one chapel service at Taylor, Engstrom gave his life to Christ. "I walked out and the sky was never bluer and the birds never sang better," he later said.

After Taylor, Engstrom found a job with the fledgling Zondervan company and began writing. During the course of his life he averaged a book a year for 50 years. At the same time he established a reputation for efficiency and business acumen, principles he distilled into his best-seller, "Managing Your Time."

In 1957 he became executive director of Youth for Christ and launched into a hectic schedule of speaking and traveling. Engstrom felt his early life was wasted and unhappy, and he wanted other young people to escape such torment by leading them to Christ.

TED ENGSTROM'S FAVORITE SCRIPTURE:

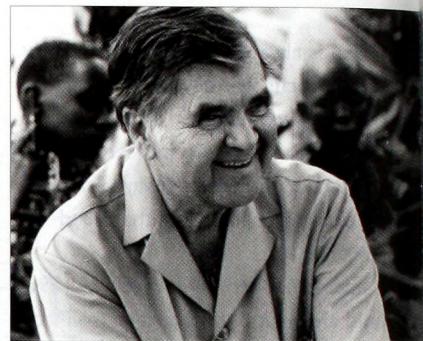
*"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;  
I will counsel you and watch over you." —Psalm 32:8*

By 1963, his punishing schedule left him exhausted, but then he had a chance encounter with World Vision founder Bob Pierce in a hotel lobby. Pierce said he needed help at World Vision. Engstrom joined as vice president.

If he imagined life was to get more relaxed, he was in for a shock—World Vision was struggling to cover its ever-increasing budget. Engstrom responded by organizing all-night prayer meetings and embarking on a cost-cutting drive.

Pierce's daughter Marilee Pierce Dunker saw God's hand in Dr. Ted's direction. "Nothing would have been accomplished if my dad had not been a rule breaker. But when World Vision was ready to move into adulthood, it needed greater financial stability. Dr. Ted was the right person to do that."

In 1980 *World Vision* magazine described Engstrom as "opinionated,



**Ted Engstrom**

tough-minded, and always with a purpose in view." Meanwhile he never wavered in his conviction that World Vision's work was essentially a spiritual calling. He was offered the position of president in 1982, and he accepted. "We must never lose the sense of being called by God to a special task," he said at his commissioning service.

Fulfilling that task meant exposure to a hurting world. Bob Pierce's widow, Lorraine, recalls seeing him regularly following the death of her husband. "He always warmed my heart. I think Ted developed into a truly caring person through the heartache of seeing the world as it really is. He decided he had to give a lot in tenderness and kindness.

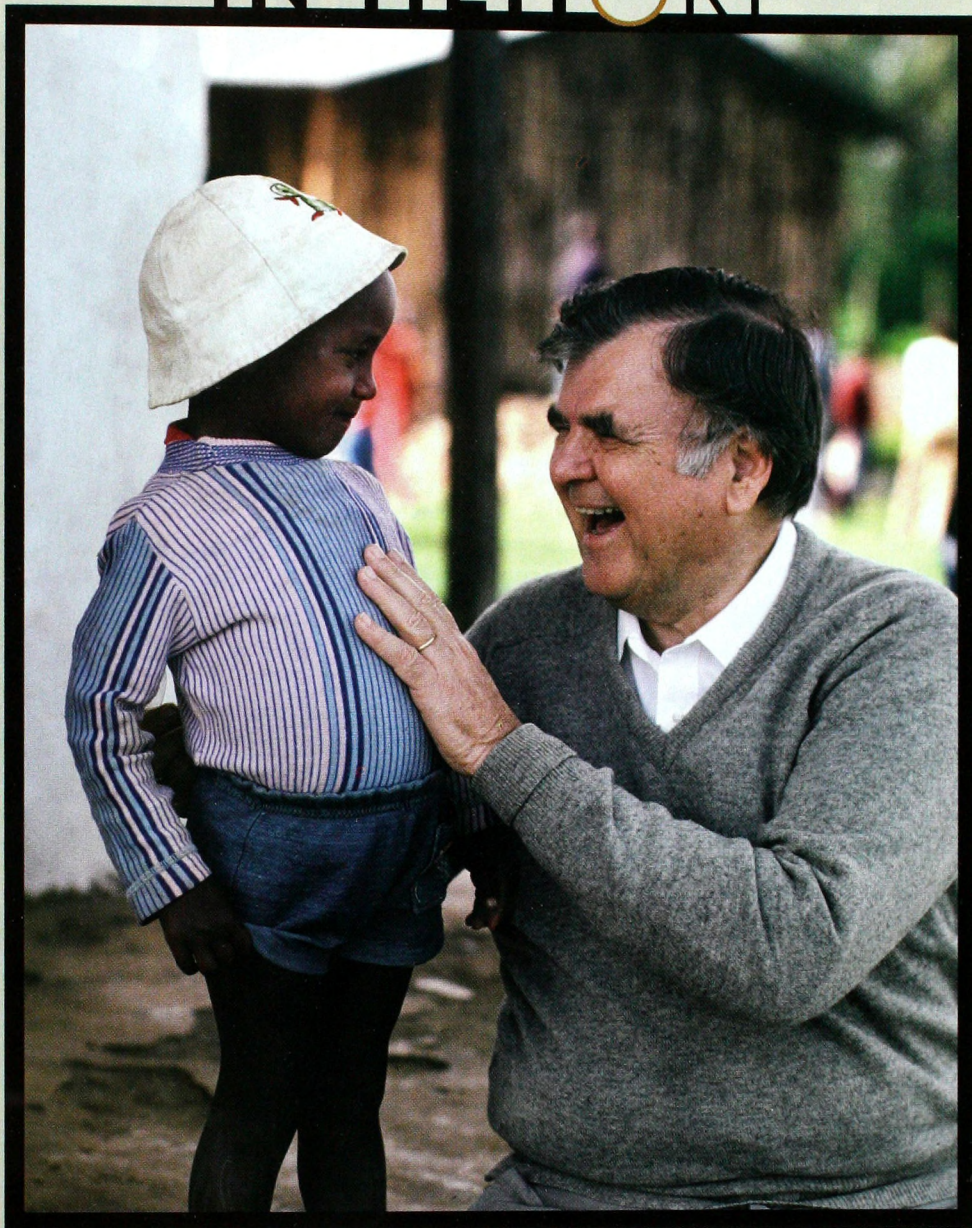
Many echo the sentiment. James Dobson of Focus on the Family said, "He was more than a personal friend and confidant. He became a mentor and father figure to me."

Even as he celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, Ted continued to come into the World Vision office in his capacity as president emeritus, giving insight and encouragement through his correspondence. But on July 7 at a family gathering he announced, "After 70 years my calendar is clear, I don't have a letter to write or an appointment to keep. Now God can take me home." One week later he died. ■

—James Addis



# IN MEMORY



DAVID WARD/WORLD VISION

- T E D E N G S T R O M -

1916-2006

“We must never **lose** the sense  
of being **called by God**  
to a special **task.**”



# open your heart to another child

Help children in India reach  
their God-given potential.

One in three of the world's malnourished children lives in India, and more than 2 million of them die each year from hunger and preventable diseases.

Children like Kalaivani (right) are the most vulnerable of India's poor. They desperately need clean water, better nutrition, health care, education, and the chance to experience God's love in action.

You can make a difference in the life of one of these hurting children by sponsoring a boy or girl today!

**Sponsor one more child,  
save one more life.  
Each is precious.**



## Yes! I want to sponsor a child in India!

Please send me information and the photo of a child in India who needs my help.

I want to sponsor a ☐ boy ☐ girl ☐ either

☐ I authorize World Vision to charge my \$30 monthly sponsorship gift to my credit/debit card\*:

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Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Signature (required)

Date

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