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AUTUMN 2010



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World Vision®

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World Vision

Building a better world for children

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**ON THE COVER** This image, by Sopheak Kong in Cambodia, symbolizes World Vision's 60-year tradition of connecting people around the world with children in need.



ABBY HETTY/WORLD VISION

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JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

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# Risky, Costly, Reckless

BY RICH STEARNS

**I** sometimes wish that Bob Pierce had chosen a name other than **World Vision** when he founded our organization 60 years ago, in September 1950. If he had chosen a name beginning with an A, we would always be the first charity listed by the media after a natural disaster instead of the last.

But what a name—WORLD VISION. Ironically, Bob Pierce was denied his dream to be an Army chaplain in the 1940s because he had poor vision.

I have often mused over Bob Pierce's sheer audacity. When he made his first trip to Asia in 1947, he barely had enough money to get to Hawaii, much less all the way to China. And he had to borrow an office from Youth for Christ in Portland, Ore., just to get the ministry started. So you have to love the recklessness of a guy who names his little charity "World Vision." I think it made God smile.

There were others who made God smile with their audacity. When Goliath taunted the armies of King Saul, demanding they send a champion to face him, Saul's seasoned warriors trembled in fear—but David, a young shepherd boy, challenged Goliath for mocking the God of Israel and predicted that God would give him the victory. He then picked up a stone, put it in his sling, and slew the giant. David's faith was risky and reckless.

Caleb and Joshua believed God's promise that against all odds, Israel could conquer the Promised Land. Elijah boldly challenged the 400 prophets of Baal to a public duel, believing God would deliver him. Esther intervened with the king to save her people, despite the risk, declaring, "If I perish, I perish." Christ's disciples would later challenge the entire Roman Empire rather than deny Christ. All but one of them died as martyrs, but the church grew and spread.

For 60 years, World Vision has lived by this risky, costly, and even reckless faith, believing that if we dared to follow



World Vision's office in Portland, Ore., in 1955.

Christ by going to the darkest and most dangerous places on earth, God would go before us and "be a lamp unto our feet" as we served the poorest of the poor in his name.

That unwavering conviction has led successive generations at World Vision into the pain of the world. Our courageous staff has faced earthquakes, famines, riots, cyclones, military coups, floods, pandemic diseases, and wars. They have lived among the broken, walked among the homeless, and given comfort to the widow, the orphan, the least, and the lost. And they have done these things knowing the risk and paying the price but believing that God had called them for the great privilege of serving. Rarely does a year go by that doesn't cost one or two of our staff their lives—seven have died this year alone.

That audacious faith of Bob Pierce has always characterized World Vision, and I dare to say it has changed the world for millions of children over the past six decades. That tiny seed planted in Asia in 1950 by one man has now grown into an organization of more than 40,000 men and women on six continents in 97 countries. More than 3 million children are now assisted by sponsors worldwide, and 100 million people receive help of one kind or another—all because one man had the audacity to believe God and because millions more just like you were willing to join him.

*World Vision ... I think it still makes God smile.*



**KEEP UP WITH** Rich at [www.facebook.com/RichardStearns.WVUS](https://www.facebook.com/RichardStearns.WVUS).

# FRONTLINES

Compiled by James Addis

f



STEPHEN MCGEE/GENESIS PHOTOS

## CHANGE AGENT

**NAME**

Chloe Shoop

**HOME**

Detroit, Mich.

**OCCUPATION**

Child car-seat tester

**PROGRAM**

Haiti Relief

**THE BUZZ**

Promising dancer Chloe Shoop, 9, faced giving up ballet lessons when both her parents lost their jobs in recession-hit Detroit. Chloe herself works occasionally as a child car-seat tester, and although her pay is not huge, the family hoped Chloe might earn enough to start ballet again. But when she heard about the devastating quake in Haiti, she was so moved that she donated \$90—her entire savings—to the relief effort. As it happened, Chloe did not miss out. A family friend offered to cover her ballet tuition for the rest of the year.

“*I saw that all their houses and everything had crashed to the ground. I wanted to make their life better.*” —CHLOE SHOOP

GIVE to Haiti earthquake relief at [www.worldvision.org/ReadandRespond](http://www.worldvision.org/ReadandRespond).

# WORLD WATCH



PAUL BETTINGS/WORLD VISION

HAITI

## HAITI | CONTINUING EDUCATION

Young adults volunteering at World Vision's Child-Friendly Spaces in quake-shattered Port-au-Prince will get a free university education. Through a partnership between World Vision and the Global University for Lifelong Learning, about 500 volunteers will study for a degree in community education. Most of the students would not otherwise have this opportunity as many of Haiti's universities were destroyed in the quake on Jan.12.

**AFRICA | NET GAINS** World Vision's goal to deliver 3 million insecticidal-treated bed nets to Zambia, Mali, Mozambique, and Kenya has been dramatically increased to 10.6 million nets with beneficiary countries extended to Rwanda, Ethiopia, Uganda, Malawi, and India. Concerted efforts by the Roll Back Malaria campaign, a partnership of humanitarian organizations including World Vision, has seen about 200 million bed nets reach Africa in the last three years.

## LEBANON | CHILDREN SPEAK OUT

Children shed light on issues affecting their lives in an unprecedented child-led report submitted to the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva. The report, part of a World Vision project to make children's voices heard, covered issues such as conflict and child labor.



[ HAITI ]



### CHILD ABUSE

Global number of children...

**150,000,000**

... Engaged in child labor

**18,000,000**

... Suffering from displacement

**1,200,000**

... Trafficked each year

SOURCE: UNICEF

PATRICIA MOUAMAR/WORLD VISION

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA | CHOLERA SCARE** An outbreak of cholera in Madang prompted World Vision to mount a public health-awareness and monitoring campaign. More than 1,000 cases of the disease have been reported in the province. World Vision has been active in PNG since 1978, focusing on providing clean water, health care, and income-generation projects.



PAULA KARI/WORLD VISION

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

## GEORGIA | THRIVING TOGETHER

More than 80 children showcased their artwork in an exhibition in Kutaisi demonstrating that students of varying abilities, and those with disabilities, can thrive in the same classroom. The children were in World Vision-supported integrated classes—the first of their kind in Georgia. Children with disabilities are often isolated due to a lack of programs to meet their needs.

## ETHIOPIA | SAVING MONEY

For the first time in their lives, more than 250,000 rural farmers will get the chance to open savings accounts to



**KILLER  
QUAKES**

*The earthquake that struck Haiti was the 5<sup>th</sup> most deadly of all time.*

**830,000 DEAD**

SHAANXI, CHINA, Jan. 23, 1556

**255,000**

TANGSHAN, CHINA, July 27, 1976

**230,000**

ALEPPO, SYRIA, Aug. 9, 1138

**227,898**

ASIAN TSUNAMI, Dec. 26, 2004

**222,570**

HAITI, Jan. 12, 2010

**200,000**

DAMGHAN, IRAN, Dec. 22, 856

**200,000**

HAIYUAN, CHINA, Dec. 16, 1920

**150,000**

ARDABIL, IRAN, March 23, 893

**142,800**

KWANTO, JAPAN, Sept. 1, 1923

**110,000**

ASHGABAT, TURKMENISTAN

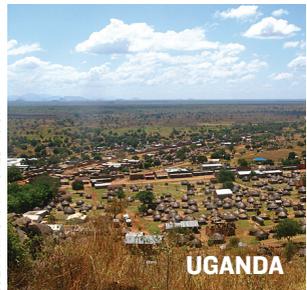
Oct. 5, 1948

SOURCE: UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

help protect them from financial setbacks. The project, funded by a \$3 million grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and operated by a World Vision micro-finance institution, will feature savings officers on motor-bikes recording transactions on handheld computers.

**UGANDA | RETURNEES  
REFRESHED**

A World Vision water and sanitation project will benefit thousands, initially focusing on those returning to Acholiland from displacement camps in northern Uganda. Many of the returnees spent years in camps following a 20-year campaign of killing, looting, and child abduction waged by the rebel Lord's Resistance Army. The project will include the construction of 28 new boreholes and installation of 16 rainwater harvesting tanks.



SUZUY SAINOVSKI/WORLD VISION

UGANDA

**GHANA | AID FROM AFRICA**

The Ghanaian government donated \$3 million toward World Vision's earthquake relief efforts in Haiti. Sam Okudzeto-Ablakwa, the deputy minister for information, urged media outlets to cover World Vision's campaign to secure further funding for Haiti relief from the general public.

**CHINA | BLIZZARD CONDITIONS**

World Vision rushed more than 2,000 quilts to Xinjiang Uygur for children and their families. In January, the region suffered the worst blizzards in 60 years. Relief workers had to battle through snow more than 5 feet deep in some places. More than 160,000 people had to be evacuated from the region, and 30,000 homes were destroyed. ●

**WORLD VISION TV—BROADCASTING HOPE**

**www.worldvisiontv.org** » This newly launched website features all World Vision's recent films and videos. Catch footage from the latest humanitarian emergencies, World Vision Artist Associates in action, and inspiring testimonies of those going the extra mile for the world's poor. Ideal for viewing at home or for presentations to groups.



**WANTED: 50,000 KITS**

**VOLUNTEER CAREGIVERS** in areas hard-hit by AIDS are desperately in need of World Vision's Caregiver Kits, containing basic medical supplies. Demand for Caregiver Kits has outstripped supply. World Vision hopes to provide an additional 50,000 kits by Sept. 30 to meet the needs. Could your church, business, or community group assemble kits?



ROBERT CORONADO/WORLD VISION

“*World Vision AIDS caregivers are flesh-and-blood examples of Jesus' love.*”

**JOHN ORTBERG,**  
PASTOR AND AUTHOR

**VISIT [www.worldvision.org/carekits](http://www.worldvision.org/carekits)** to register and track progress toward the goal of 50,000 kits.

# HIGH NOTE

## *A top musician recalls his big nights with World Vision.*

**A**rranger and conductor Ralph Carmichael worked and toured with the legendary Nat King Cole for eight years, but in 1959, even Nat had to take second place when Ralph was called upon by Bob Pierce. Nat wanted Ralph for a U.S. concert tour. Bob wanted him for World Vision's evangelistic rallies in Japan. Bob won.

Today, Ralph remembers that from a musical standpoint, it was no loss. Night after night, in a 10,000-seat arena in Tokyo, he conducted a choir of 1,000 voices accompanied by Japan's finest orchestras.

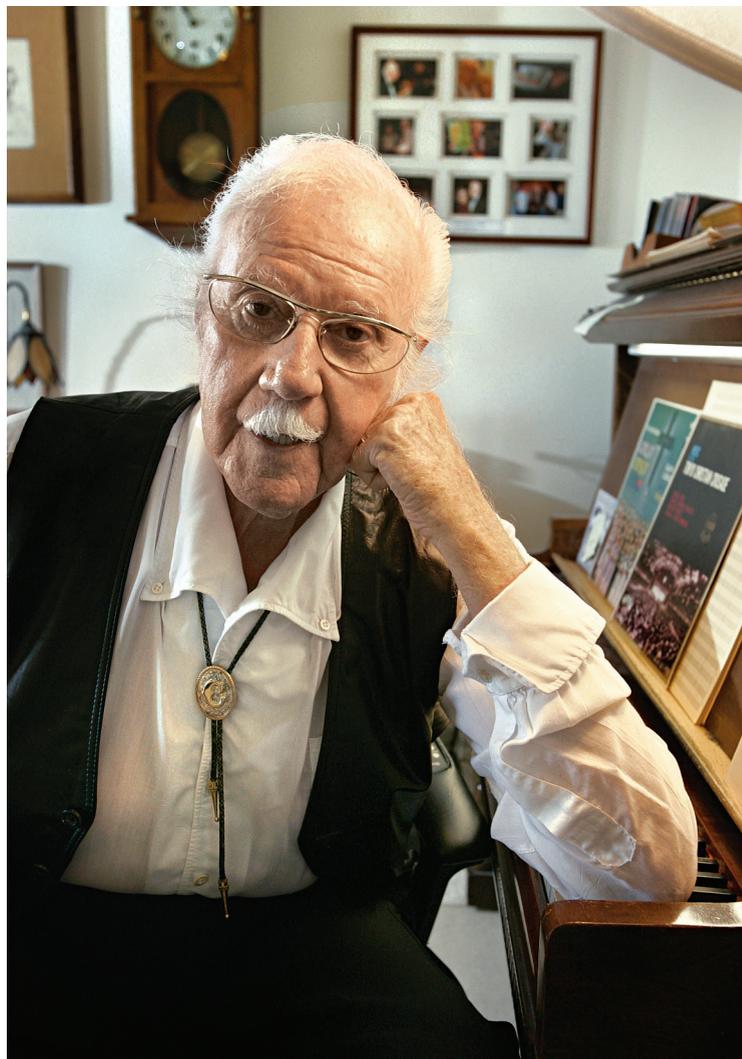
"I had to stand up there and act like a windmill," Ralph says, recalling the gargantuan physical gestures required to keep them all in time. "I had to have my coats tailor-made because the area around my shoulder blades would not fit into an ordinary JCPenney suit."

Each night, after Bob finished speaking, the choir sang Ralph's composition "The Savior is Waiting," and thousands streamed forward to give their lives to Christ.

Ralph, now 83, says the Japanese concerts opened a lot of doors for him professionally. It was the first time he had conducted such a large orchestra, and the experience gave him the confidence to work with other big orchestras such as the Charlotte, Sacramento, and London symphony orchestras.

Ralph remains especially grateful to Bob Pierce for this, because employing Ralph did have its risks. In the 1950s, Ralph was at the forefront of introducing the big-band sound into church music, but many considered such music worldly. "[Bob] knew more about music than the average preacher did. He had an appreciation for the experiments I was doing," says Ralph. "Through the ages we have been skeptical about anything new, but it turns out God can use anything."

Today, Ralph lives in Camarillo, Calif., with his wife, Marvella, and continues to keep up a busy schedule of performing, composing, and arranging. Next year he plans to record songs by Aimee Semple McPherson, founder of the Foursquare Church, with the London Symphony Orchestra. ●



**Ralph Carmichael, still a busy music man, first worked with Bob Pierce (below) at evangelistic events in Tokyo.**



GARY FONG/GENESIS PHOTO

COURTESY RALPH CARMICHAEL

## CHEERING FOR HAITI

WHEN CHEERLEADER Maddie Gardner, 16, first heard about the devastating earthquake in Haiti, her first thought was for her sponsored child who lives there, Jean Robert.

Maddie, from Mt. Airy, N.C., writes to Jean every month and delights to receive his colored drawings. “He likes to send us pictures of flowers and stuff like that. He just seems so sweet and humble,” she says.

As it turned out, Jean Robert was unaffected by the quake. But Maddie was determined to play a part in bringing relief to others who were suffering.

She joined forces with friend McKenzie Culler, 17, to design, print, and sell a Hope for Haiti T-shirt, with all profits going to World Vision’s Haiti relief efforts. The pair put up posters at their school and set up a Facebook page to advertise the shirts.

Sales took off. Just two months after the quake, Maddie and McKenzie’s efforts had raised more than \$2,000.

A special moment came at the Cheersports national cheerleading championships in Atlanta,



COURTESY MADDIE GARDNER

Gymnast Shawn Johnson (right) signs a Hope for Haiti T-shirt designed by Maddie Gardner (center, with sister Cassie).

Ga. Maddie caught the attention of Olympic gymnast and gold medalist Shawn Johnson and got her to sign one of her Hope for Haiti shirts. It turned out to be an exhilarating weekend. Maddie’s team, Cheer Extreme, won the competition.

“I’ve always enjoyed doing things for other people,” she says. “When this opportunity came up, I knew it was the right thing to do.” ●

## WHY I LOVE BEING A CHILD SPONSOR

**KATE HINSON,  
CHADBURN, N.C.**



COURTESY KATE HINSON

THE ONLY THING I ever wanted to be was a wife and mother. I wanted four children. Every year, I feel part of that dream die. Here I am at 34, no husband or children in sight.

But recently, I went to a Jason Gray concert. As Jason started a speech about sponsoring children, I listened politely without hearing him. I already sponsor two boys. Then a voice in my head asked, “But don’t you want four children?” Later, Jason pulled out the verse that shattered me. “Whatever you did for the least of these ... you did for me.” It brought to mind an internal struggle weeks earlier, about whether I should help a hungry woman—frozen in front of my eyes. Sad to say, I drove away.

This time I had to act. I have added 3-year-old Vanesa from Peru to my family. I will probably never hold her or rock her to sleep. But I know that I am providing a better life for her. Somewhere out there, I know there is a fourth child waiting for me. Sometimes all it takes is looking at things with different eyes. ●

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

### JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Share your comments, reflections, fundraising ideas, prayers, and stories on World Vision’s Facebook pages.

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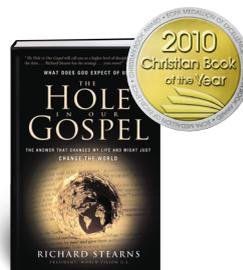
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#### MALARIA CAMPAIGN

[www.facebook.com/endmalaria](http://www.facebook.com/endmalaria)

## BOOK OF THE YEAR

*The Hole in Our Gospel* by World Vision U.S. President Richard Stearns won the 2010 Christian Book of the Year award from the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association (ECPA). Find out more at [theholeinourgospel.com](http://theholeinourgospel.com).



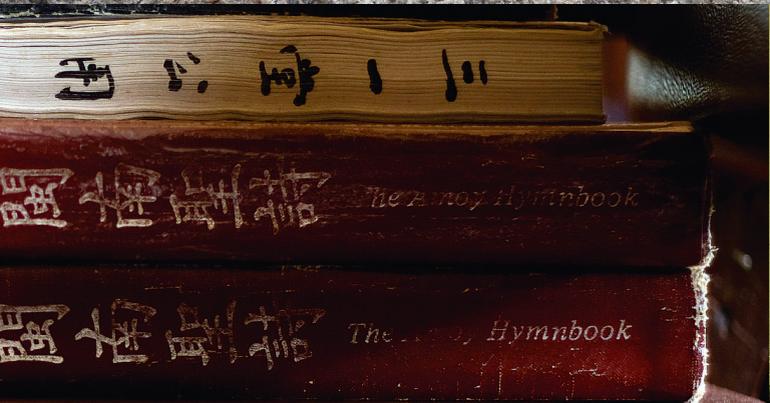
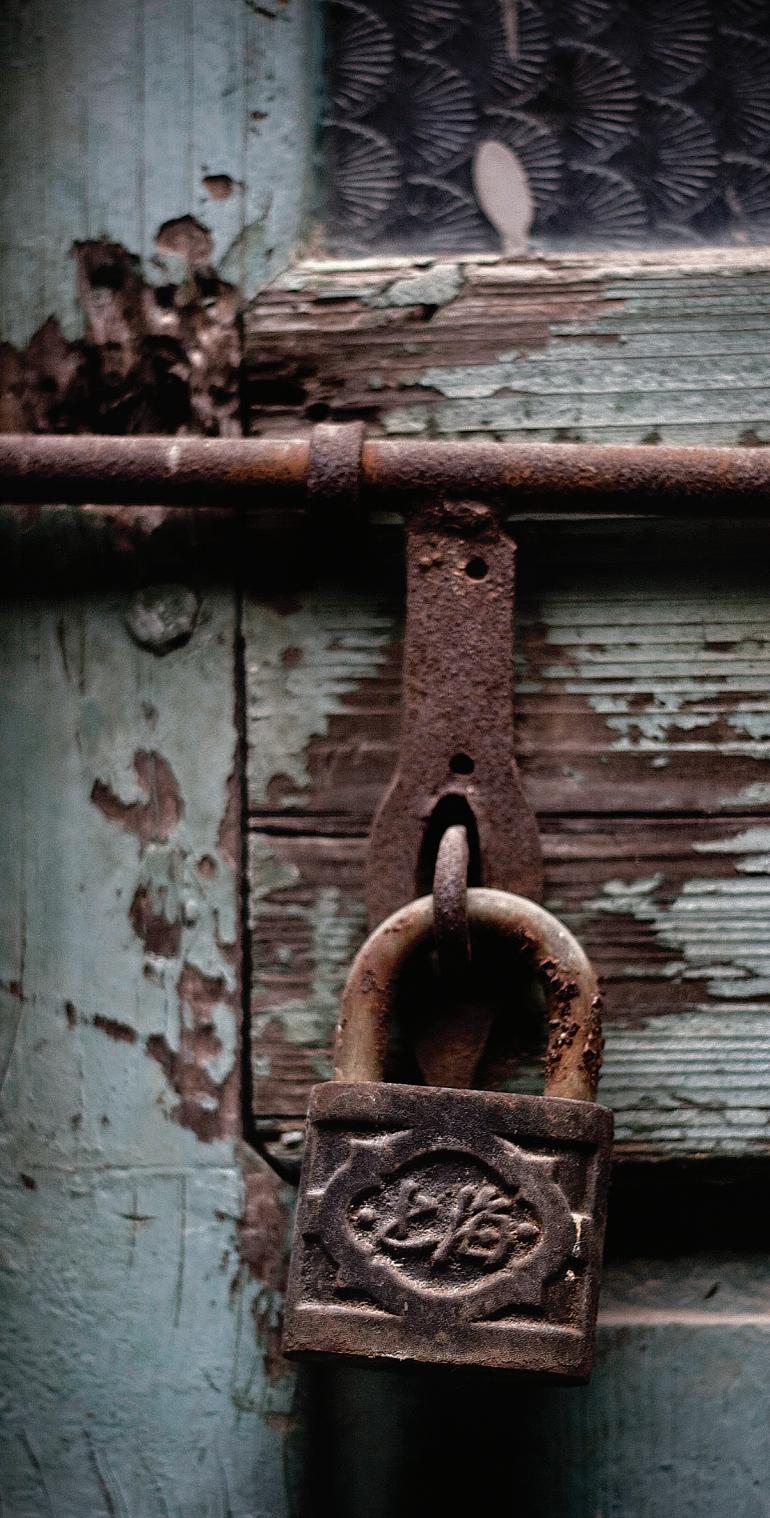


# IN MY FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS

The daughter of World Vision's founder visits a small Chinese island where, in 1947, a child's pain and a missionary's challenge prompted a movement to serve the poor in the name of Christ.

BY MARILEE PIERCE DUNKER | PHOTOS BY ABBY METTY







W

e all experience unexpected moments that change our lives, and often, we don't recognize the moment's significance until years later. Usually we are the only ones changed, but sometimes—just sometimes—the moment changes the world.

The day my father, Bob Pierce, was challenged by a missionary to help a little girl named White Jade was such a moment.

The story of White Jade begins in June 1947, when 33-year-old Bob Pierce went to China to hold evangelistic meetings for Youth For Christ. Teaming with another YFC evangelist, David Morken, and Chinese evangelist Andrew Ghi, he shared the gospel in universities, schools, and churches. According to one source, the meetings resulted in 30,000 decisions for Christ.

That summer would not only change the eternal destiny of thousands of Chinese, but would also have a profound impact on my father's life and ministry. Everywhere he went, he saw not only spiritual poverty but also physical poverty that stunned his Western sensibilities. He also met missionaries responding to that need, challenging his own definition of what it meant to live out his faith.

In Franklin Graham's book, *This One Thing I Do*, my father reflected on the anguish he felt over what he was seeing: "I'd go to bed at night and say, 'God, I am not doing anything for anybody! Here are these [missionaries] without any help ... I can't give them anything, and they need everything. What am I supposed to do, Lord?'"

God would soon answer my father's question with another life-changing question. He arrived on the island of Amoy, where he was to speak for a week at the university before returning home. Amoy had been occupied by the Japanese until 1946, and local churches and missionary groups were working to rebuild their schools and churches. Tena Holkeboer, a Reformed Church of America missionary and teacher, invited my father to speak at Iok Tek Girls' Middle School, one of the

first formal girls' schools in China, located on a tiny nearby island called Gulangyu.

Each morning for a week, my dad hopped on a *sampan* ferry to make the 15-minute trip across the water to Gulangyu to speak at chapel, and every morning, several girls came forward to pray for salvation. As he had done so often in the States, my father encouraged the new converts to share their Christian faith with family and friends.

At the end of his time in Amoy, my father went to Tena's home to say goodbye. She met him at the door with a little girl cradled protectively in her arms. The child had obviously been beaten, and the fiery look in Tena's eyes left no doubt as to why her students affectionately called her "Auntie Tiger." "This is White Jade," said Tena. "When she told her family that she is now a Christian, her father beat her and threw her out into the street. She has lost everything."

Shocked and feeling utterly helpless, my father asked, "You will take care of her, won't you?"

"I am feeding as many children as I can," Tena replied. "The question isn't what I am going to do. The question is, *what are you going to do?*" She thrust the child into my father's arms.

Digging in his pocket, my dad gave Tena his last five dollars, promising to send more when he got home.

"I had turned my back on so much of the need I had seen," he later reflected on the TV show, "This is Your Life," "but I couldn't turn away from the need of this one child."

We know what happened to Bob Pierce and Tena Holkeboer in the years following that fateful moment. In 1950, my father went to Korea where he was confronted with the needs of thousands of White Jades made homeless by the war. Again, God challenged his heart to do something about it. World Vision and later, Samaritan's Purse, were his responses to that challenge. Tena Holkeboer, forced to leave China by the communists in 1948, went to Singapore where she continued her work as a teacher and missionary.



COURTESY PIERCE FAMILY

—continued on page 15



ABOVE: Bob Pierce and Youth For Christ's David Morken in China. FACING PAGE: Marilee and Michelle tour Gulangyu and meet people like Zhu Siming (top right) who remember Christianity's beginnings on the island.



“Each morning for a week, my dad hopped on a sampan ferry to make the 15-minute trip across the water to Gulangyu to speak at chapel, and every morning, several girls came forward to pray for salvation.”





“I want you to know that I never forgot the things that the missionaries taught me. Even in the years when I had to do many things to survive ...”

— LIN MANYUE (PICTURED BELOW) —





—continued from page 12

But what about the courageous little girl who went home to share her newfound faith and lost her family because of it? How did she survive once my parents' monthly support could no longer reach her? Did she ever have a family of her own? And perhaps most important to this evangelist's daughter, did the faith that had cost her so dearly hold her steady through the years of darkness to follow?



In January, my daughter Michelle Allsopp and I flew to Amoy (now called Xiamen) in search of the answers to those questions. For me, the trip was the fulfillment of a long-held dream to follow in my father's footsteps and find the spot where he had heard a challenge that had changed his life forever.

Our first view of Gulangyu from the airplane revealed a closely knit patchwork of tenements, shops, and open markets sewn together by threads of narrow streets. Looking down on the rooftop gardens and clotheslines with brightly colored laundry, it was easy to imagine what the island looked like when my father saw it more than 60 years before. Then the plane banked and we saw the towering skyscrapers and apartment buildings that line the harbor, and the illusion was broken. Xiamen, which is connected to the mainland by four bridges and an undersea tunnel, is now a modern city with designer shops, gourmet restaurants, and a university with 40,000 students.

Dr. William Brown, a professor at Xiamen University and the author of many books on Amoy and Gulangyu history, met us at the airport and served as our guide. Before the trip, I had e-mailed Dr. Brown, who has lived on Amoy for more than 20 years, and he offered to help us. He became an invaluable resource, setting up interviews and getting the word out through the media that we were coming.

Over the next five days, Michelle and I explored the area, walking the mile from our hotel to the waterfront where we caught the ferry between Amoy and Gulangyu. Far from the battle-scarred rock I had imagined, Gulangyu today is a beautiful vacation destination with tree-lined streets and dozens of white sand beaches. The islet can be walked in a couple of hours—no cars or motorcycles are allowed. It seemed amazing that God had chosen this tiny speck in the ocean as “ground zero” for two of the world's largest Christian relief organizations.

We stepped off the ferry and into the China that my father had written about. Narrow streets were lined with shops that offered everything from buffalo-bone hair combs to seafood

so fresh it would wiggle out of your hand. Workers in wide-brimmed coolie hats swept the streets with brooms made of leaves, and men grunted for us to get out of the way as they strained to pull carts piled high with everything from rice bags to building materials.

Of course, every little girl we saw reminded us of White Jade. Small as the island is, we knew that there wasn't a street she hadn't walked or a storefront she hadn't passed. By our best calculations White Jade would now be in her late 70s, and we couldn't help but look at every gray-haired grandmother and wonder, *could this be her?*

Bill Brown had arranged for us to meet with some of Tena's former students, now residents in a nursing home. “Miss Holkeboer was very strict and could have a temper,” confided Lin Manyue, 86. “But we all knew that she loved us. She would do anything to protect her girls.”

I thought of Bob Pierce being confronted by a furious Tena over the pain he had inadvertently caused one of “her girls” and nodded. I told Lin Manyue about White Jade, hoping she would remember a student Tena had cared for in a special way. The old woman smiled and shook her head. “There were many of us who needed help in those days. In fact, you could be describing me ... only it wasn't Miss Holkeboer who helped me. It was one of the other teachers. I wouldn't have eaten if she hadn't shared her rice with me.”

Lin Manyue went on to explain that the other students didn't know that she was getting this special help: “It wasn't something we talked about.” We began to realize that identifying White Jade would be more difficult than we had hoped. Her circumstances were not unique, and Tena would have been careful not to treat her differently in front of the other girls.

As we got up to leave, Lin Manyue grabbed my hand and with tears shimmering, she said, “I want you to know that I never forgot the things that the missionaries taught me. Even in the years when I had to do many things to survive...” Her voice caught, and the tears spilled over. “In my heart, I never forgot. No matter what ... I carried it all in here,” she said, touching her heart.

Michelle and I wiped our own tears away as we hugged the older woman goodbye. I had wondered if the seedling faith that had been planted in White Jade's heart could have survived the rejection of her family and the difficult years that followed. Lin Manyue had given me my answer.

Our next stop was the home of Lin Shiyan, the son of Tena Holkeboer's cook, who had grown up in Tena's house. At 82, he has a sharp mind and seemed to remember those long-ago



FACING PAGE: TOP: Lin Shiyan, who grew up in the missionary compound, gives Marilee and Michelle a guided tour.  
LOWER LEFT: Lin Manyue shares her memories of Tena Holkeboer.



days as though they were yesterday. If anyone would be able to help us in our search for White Jade, it would be him. “Do you remember a little girl named White Jade?” I asked. “She may have stayed with Tena after my father left.”

We all held our breath as Mr. Lin thought and then slowly shook his head. “No, I don’t remember any girl like that. She would have stayed at the school, not in the house. And White Jade was a common nickname for girls, like ‘pretty flower’ or ‘sweet girl.’ It wouldn’t be her real name.”

Disappointing as it was that Mr. Lin could not help us identify White Jade, he proved to be a wealth of information about life on the island. As he walked with us up the steep paths leading to Iok Tek Girls’ School and San Luo, the house where Tena Holkeboer and the other teachers lived for 30 years, he told us stories about his childhood. Showing us a deep shaft that had been boarded up for years, he said, “This was the well where I used to draw water for Miss Holkeboer. I would carry it in buckets several times a day.” Surprised, I looked up the steep road and thought of the many African children I have met who must carry water every day to survive. Obviously, life on Gulangyu had not been so different. Did White Jade also have to carry water?

He also talked about the years when the Japanese occupied the island during World War II. “Many people were killed. Some people tried to swim away, and the soldiers would shoot them in the water,” he said. This, too, was a part of the world White Jade had known. I thought of the children World Vision serves in places like Darfur, Pakistan, and the Middle East.

We arrived at the expansive grounds that were once home to Galangyu’s missionaries and walked down a wide, tree-lined lane leading to the picturesque beaches that had made this island a popular resort in the early 1900s. We reached an imposing two-story, red brick building. Wide arches ran the length of the building, framing a row of shuttered windows and doors. Over the center arch was etched five Chinese symbols: Iok Tek Girls’ Middle School.

We walked up the wide front steps and tried the door. Locked! It seemed impossible that we had come so far only to have to content ourselves with peeking through the windows. Then Michelle called, “Over here!” She had found another door.

Only a few weak streams of light leaked through the heavy wooden shutters as we stepped into a large, open room that had been stripped down to the bare walls and cement floor. “This was the meeting hall. It is where your father would have spoken,” Mr. Lin said softly.

The room was cold and heavy with the smell of mold and dust.

But it wasn’t hard to imagine rows of chairs filled with bright-eyed young girls attentively listening to their devoted teachers. I walked over to where the platform would have stood and closed my eyes. Suddenly, I could hear the familiar voice of a young evangelist, preaching about the love of God and inviting all to receive the gift of life through Jesus Christ. My tears came freely as I imagined one little hand reaching up to receive the gift.

Certainly more than one person responded that day to my father’s invitation. But God had a plan, not only for Bob Pierce and Tena Holkeboer, but also for the little girl whose story would one day inspire millions to care about the need of one child. As we left the school to walk the short path to Tena’s home, I couldn’t help but think about the next part of White Jade’s story. The faith she had so joyfully embraced had been met with anger, cruelty, and rejection. In her pain and despair, the girl had run to the one place she knew she would be safe—the arms of Auntie Tiger.

Arm in arm, Michelle and I walked up the stone driveway. Tena’s former house had been gutted for a major restoration, and the windows and doors were nothing more than gaping holes under the red tile roof. At the top of the stairs I stood, trying to picture the heavy carved doors on which my father would have knocked. Mr. Lin’s mother would have opened the door. My father had probably stopped by Tena’s home for tea several times while on the island. But that morning had been different. That morning, there had been no tea. *That morning, God chose to put a name and a face on poverty: “This is White Jade.”*

As I stood on the spot where my father had held White Jade, I had to smile. Wouldn’t Tena have been amazed if she had known then what God would do through her challenge? For that matter, wouldn’t my dad?

But most of all, I thought about White Jade and the difference her life would make. For 60 years, World Vision has been putting a name and face on poverty, sharing the needs of children who live every day as hungry, sick, hurting, and alone as she was. And every day, we ask the question: *What are you going to do about it?* ●

*Marilee Pierce Dunker is a World Vision ambassador for children and a speaker. She is the author of four books, including Man of Vision: The Candid, Compelling Story of Bob and Lorraine Pierce.*

*Read more about Marilee’s journey to China at [blog.worldvisionmagazine.org](http://blog.worldvisionmagazine.org). Also, watch the related documentary, “Back to Amoy,” on [worldvisiontv.org](http://worldvisiontv.org).*



FACING PAGE: Marilee walks in her father’s footsteps to the girls’ school (top, bottom photos) and Tena Holkeboer’s house (center photo), where Bob Pierce faced a child and a challenge.





# LEGACY

Bob Pierce's often-read, well-traveled, beloved Bible.

How I feel about the fall you will find me  
 here at this camp during fall camp.  
 Location Ft. 1006 1239  
 Bible of A. H. H. - by acts Pg 1229  
 Good text for church or missionary group - P. 252

Samples of letters being for Father's, Chicago  
 about 14:22 - 22-29

TO OVERCOME BY  
 SONGS ALBUM ETC. in 1948  
 EPH. 3:19  
 Man asked why - it that goodness is as slow as  
 compare to world. God still seems to triumph -  
 Man answered "He good seem to here quicker?  
 being god, then it will this of being and."  
 "He stay spent in us new times. We  
 not this - when to be tedious.

If you draw a line  
 from Tokyo to Karachi  
 Karachi to Ceylon  
 "Ceylon to Tokyo  
 you have a triangle.  
 Inside, 1/2 world population  
 3 at 1,000 churches  
 1 at 1 Protestant.

I would rather lose in a cause that  
 "all on day win than win in  
 a cause that will some day lose."  
 "Robert Wilson"

Saturday here he broken with his  
 Sept 17, 1957  
 Pastor Mrs. Claude, New York  
 (back later) to the Congress Hospital  
 could be the next night to see him  
 Council in my meeting of first mission  
 group) in Chicago at Washington  
 or Boston in July 14, 1947. He has a  
 woman called someone. How we  
 were there Sunday on a road. God  
 indeed night of 7:30 and up with  
 you read. I am delighted to hear  
 about it with all. How accurate  
 pastor of the student center. The  
 printed letter in summary, attached  
 you at Tokyo. The name  
 had coming 7 months. I would  
 to hospital and hospital bills  
 \$50 and enough to be paid for  
 your return, thank for him,  
 but to be very well.

"Revolution has never  
 lightened the burden  
 of tyranny. It  
 has only shifted  
 it to another  
 shoulder."  
 Sir Bernard Shaw

Lam 1:12 "Do I  
 that P  
 of them  
 know u



**“LET MY HEART BE  
BROKEN WITH THE  
THINGS THAT BREAK  
THE HEART OF GOD.”**

The words, inscribed on the flyleaf of a red-leather Bible, were the pledge of a man committing himself to a mission greater than he could then have conceived. Written nearly 60 years ago and quoted countless times, the words still feel new. They are a prayer, a sacred promise to God to participate in the world's suffering. Today, the words continue to inspire World Vision's global ministry of staff and supporters as they seek God's leading to love those in need.

PHOTO BY JON WARREN

# Past Meets Pre

**Sixty years after** World Vision started its ministry on the war-torn Korean peninsula, South Korea has grown into a thriving country serving the poor locally and globally—while in North Korea, great need remains.

*Story and photos by Dean R. Owen*



1950



WORLD VISION ARCHIVE

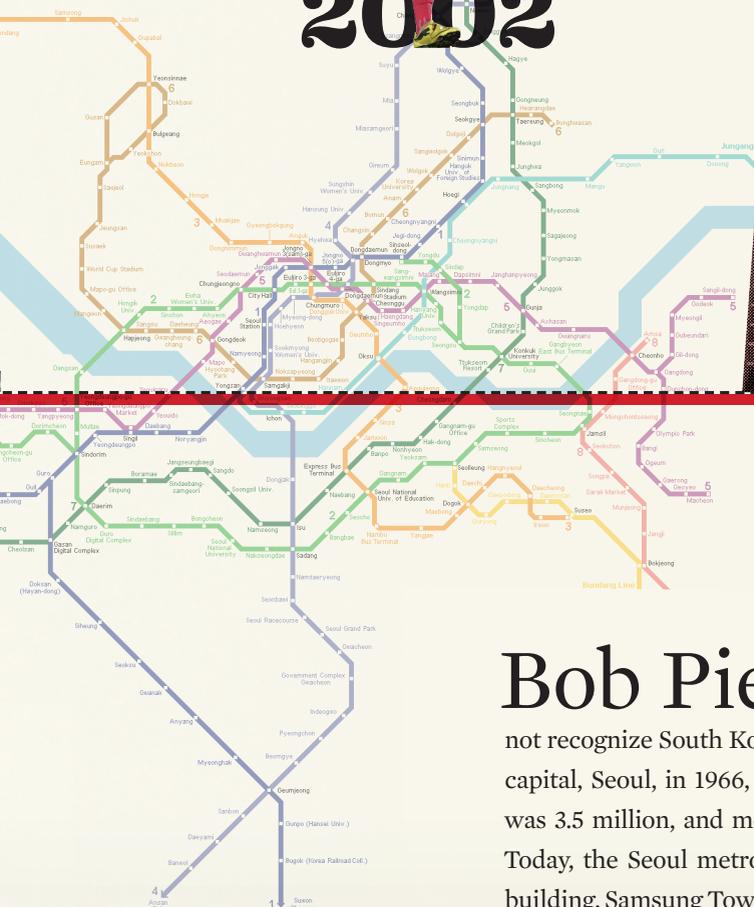
1966

LEFT TO RIGHT: Bob Pierce visits Korean orphans; communism thrives in North Korea; South Korea hosts the FIFA World Cup; Seoul's subway system and tallest building; South Korean children enjoy education programs.

# sent



# 2002



# 2010



**Bob Pierce**, the founder of World Vision, likely would not recognize South Korea today. When he and his wife, Lorraine, last visited the capital, Seoul, in 1966, its tallest building was eight stories high, the population was 3.5 million, and most residents rode busses or an electric streetcar to work. Today, the Seoul metropolitan area has more than 10 million people; its tallest building, Samsung Tower Palace Three, Tower G, is 73 stories high and can be seen for miles. The subway system—all 470 miles of it—carries more than 8 million passengers a day. And the city’s designer boutiques and jumbotrons are reminiscent of Times Square. ¶ But Bob Pierce might well recognize parts of North Korea. »

SHUTTERSTOCK.COM/JONATHAN LARSEN



## NORTH KOREA



Outside the capital, [Pyongyang](#), in a rural community called Dochi-ri, farmers tend their fields with the help of oxen, not tractors. People walk or ride bicycles; vehicles—and gasoline—are luxuries. And the nation's tallest structure? The 560-foot Juche Tower, honoring the "Great Leader" Kim Il Sung and the nation's ideology of self-reliance, autonomy, and independence.

World Vision's work in North Korea (formally known as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea), like its programs in nearly 100 other countries, is focused on serving the poor, especially children.

Some of those children attend the Sinanju Kindergarten in Anju, a city of nearly a quarter million people about an hour's drive north of Pyongyang. In the lunchroom, idyllic images of Korean children and mountainous scenery adorn the white walls below the ubiquitous images of Kim Il Sung and his son, the nation's current leader, Kim Jong Il.

Dozens of boys and girls ages 5 and 6 are giggling and showing off for visitors. Some may be relieving the anxiety they felt a few minutes earlier when they flawlessly performed traditional Korean music—complete with costumes, make-up, and choreography. Those costumes now have been replaced with school clothes.

It is lunchtime on a Friday afternoon, and the children are hungry. Teachers and volunteers serve each child a stainless steel bowl of steaming soup, brimming with noodles and tofu, made fresh minutes earlier in the adjacent kitchen. Wielding orange chopsticks and impeccable manners, the children dive into their main course. Red plastic bowls on each table also offer cooked spinach and strips of boiled chicken. It may be their best meal of the day.

Those noodles and tofu likely were delivered to the school that morning, thanks indirectly to World Vision, which built a noodle factory in 1997 and tofu processing center barely a mile away. Staffed by trained local residents, the factory can churn out 2 metric tons of noodles over a 16-hour shift. That's enough to serve nearly 80,000 children in 200 kindergartens and schools in Anju alone—every day.

The Anju noodle factory is one of six World Vision has established in North Korea over the past 13 years, along with greenhouses for growing potato seeds and soybean plants, a fertilizer factory, and other agricultural-related programs. Plans are under way to construct a bio-fuel plant, converting manure from 100,000 chickens into gas for cooking and lighting 200 homes in Chilbong-ri, a rural community south of Pyongyang.

Moreover, World Vision, with the help of two American engineers, recently completed an extensive gravity-fed water system in Dochi-ri, where 1,500 residents previously drank and cooked with water from unprotected, hand-dug wells and springs. The three-year project included piping water from a

ABOVE:  
North Korean kindergartners perform before lunch, which features noodles from a World Vision-funded factory (below).



SHUTTERSTOCK.COM/SHIRINOV

In rural North Korea, government farms grow corn and rice (below) and murals encourage laborers in this “worker’s paradise” to be diligent (right).



mountain spring to a 20,000-gallon underground holding tank. The three-foot-deep, three-mile-long trench was excavated over three days by 600 volunteers—working by hand, with only picks and shovels. The final half-mile of pipe from the tank into more than 100 homes required research on Google Earth, since visitors are not allowed to bring global-positioning systems into North Korea.

Driving to Dochi-ri takes about two hours from Pyongyang, first along a modern, four-lane highway, then narrow, paved roads, followed by wide, dirt paths. Along the way, there are few cars, but numerous roadside monuments proclaim the date Kim Il Sung, stood there and provided local residents “on-the-spot guidance.”

Government farms dominate the landscape; corn or rice is planted seemingly everywhere, except on rock-strewn hillsides. Large murals exhort the people to work diligently, and loudspeakers broadcast patriotic music and messages, reminding residents that they are toiling in a “workers’ paradise.”

Why should World Vision help a nation where its leaders are idolized, visitors are assigned government “escorts,” and the U.S. is portrayed as an evil regime? Where a famine in the 1990s, reportedly caused by flooding and a failed state-run economic system, killed upward of 3 million people?

The answer is simple, according to former World Vision International President Dean R. Hirsch, who has visited North Korea seven times in 13 years. “We must not let government policies, nor political rhetoric impede the humanitarian work of World Vision and other relief and development organizations in North Korea,” he says. “Hungry children know no politics. Nor should they.”

The Rev. J. Sam Park, the president of World Vision South Korea, could not agree more. “It is our firm belief and it is the teaching of our Lord that we should love and look after needy children, especially in adverse circumstances such as North

Korea,” says Sam, who was born there and fled south during the Korean War (see sidebar on page 26).

He has an uncompromising commitment to carrying out Bob Pierce’s legacy, which began in Seoul in 1950. Sam oversees World Vision’s operations in both North and South Korea, as well as fundraising for the poor in 44 other nations, an endeavor that started in 1991. Last year, the South Korea office raised more than \$100 million in cash and government grants and engaged 360,000 donors, making it the fifth most successful World Vision fundraising office.

**S**outh Korea’s domestic programs include 70 childcare programs, more than 20 family and community development centers, and two family sponsorship projects. World Vision Korea was recently recognized for its community service work through the prestigious Ho-Am Prize, considered the Korean equivalent of the Nobel Peace Prize.

In and around **Seoul**, community programs focus primarily on children, from toddlers to adolescents. In a crowded classroom within the four-story Seongnam center, about 90 minutes from downtown Seoul, 9-year-old Lee Ji Min seems irritated at the boy next to her, who is trying to coax her attention away from the storybook she wants to read.

Clearly, her book is winning the battle. The boy reluctantly retreats back to his studies, but over the next 30 minutes he



“MY GOAL IS TO BE A TEACHER. I WANT TO SHARE WHAT I AM LEARNING WITH OTHERS.”

—Ji Min



**Kim Su Yu**  
**BEGGAR BOY**

I am Kim, the beggar boy.  
 My mother and father were killed by the Communists. I lost my brothers in the crowds of homeless people. I was hungry, and I had to beg for food.  
 But boys and girls like you have prayed and given, and World Vision has been able to make homes for children like me.  
 Now I want to live in a kind Christian orphanage—if someone will be my sponsor.

A MISSIONARY PROJECT FOR YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS  
 \$10 per month will provide food, clothing, shelter and Christian education for needy children.  
 Your class can “adopt” and write to an orphan.

**WORLD VISION, INC.**  
 P.O. BOX 0—PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

WORLD VISION ARCHIVE

TOP RIGHT: South Korean children participate in an after-school study program near Seoul. Child well-being has come a long way since the postwar years depicted in this 1950s ad (above).

sneaks a few adoring glimpses at Ko A Reum, another 9-year-old wearing bright red glasses and a flowered barrette in her pageboy-length, brown hair.

This is a World Vision-supported after-school program for more than 100 children and teenagers to study and socialize. “I like studying here and going on field trips to museums and amusement parks,” says Ji Min, sporting a star-laden cotton hoodie and a winsome smile.

Ji Min, along with her older sister and younger brother, visit the center each day after school. All three leave around 6 p.m., walking 10 minutes home to their widowed mother, a social worker. Like countless other Korean students, these three have grasped at an early age the value of diligent study as a significant step to success. About 97 percent of Korean students graduate from high school, compared to 70 percent of American students.

“My favorite subject is art,” she says. “My goal is to be a teacher. I want to share what I am learning with others.”

Some of Ji Min’s classmates receive “love-lunch boxes” five days a week, another service provided by World Vision at the Seongnam center. The powder-blue, zippered boxes contain tins of *kimchi*, the spicy, pickled vegetable dish, and other traditional Korean staples. To many children whose families’ incomes fall below the poverty line in South Korea—earning less than 1 million won per month (about \$900)—the lunches provide a much-needed source of nutritious food.

Still, today’s children are far better off than the Korean war orphans for whom Bob Pierce felt such compassion. A framed poster in the Seongnam center reminds visitors of the past: an advertisement from the mid-1950s illustrating a forlorn, barefoot Korean child in tattered clothes, urging American Sunday school students to “adopt” the boy by sponsoring him for \$10 a month.

The model for this boy might have been Young Suk Oh, now a

67-year-old professor emeritus and former president of Hanshin University in Osan City, near Seoul. He survived a childhood of poverty and persecution and became a World Vision beneficiary during two formative periods of his life—as a sponsored child in the 1950s, and later, as a scholarship recipient in seminary (see “Where Are They Now?” on page 32).

“I am very grateful to Pastor Bob Pierce,” says Young, sitting in a coffee bar near his home, sipping a cappuccino and holding a prized World Vision artifact: a copy of the December 1961 issue of *World Vision magazine*. “Without this scholarship, I would have faced a very difficult economic situation. [Bob Pierce’s] brilliant efforts and contributions are worthy of many students’ thanks from their deepest hearts.”

For Young, World Vision represents a cornerstone that made the difference in his life. For Ji Min, the 9-year-old third-grader, World Vision is an anchor of stability, offering a valuable academic supplement as she pursues her dream to be a teacher. And, for the residents of Dochi-ri, in North Korea, World Vision has provided an integral element of life itself—a permanent source of clean drinking water.

The special role Korea—North and South—plays in World Vision’s 60-year history is demonstrated in one of Bob Pierce’s more memorable remarks: “World Vision is loved in Korea because we were physically with them in their darkest hour, so we have a special place that can’t be bought by those who came when it was safe.” ●

*Dean R. Owen is director of executive communications for World Vision.*



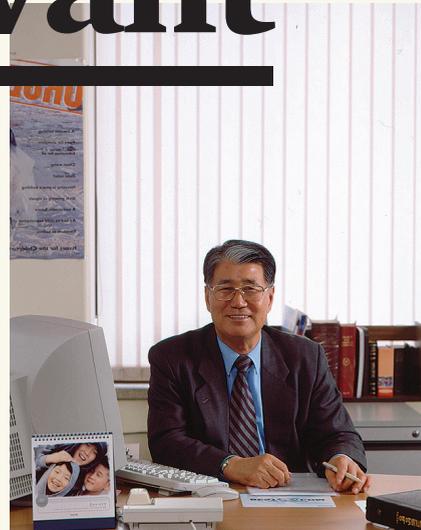
TAE GYU SONG



ABOVE: Today, South Korean donors support World Vision’s programs in 44 countries. LEFT: Sponsorship helped Dr. Young Oh become a university president.

# Lifelong Servant

**SAM PARK, president of World Vision Korea, is an ordained minister and author with degrees in social work and theology. He fled North Korea as a child and went on to lead a diverse career as a dentist, professor, and army chaplain. He shares how God's hand was on his life every step of the way.**



Sam Park, the executive (right) and champion for the world's children (below).

WORLD VISION KOREA (2)

I was born in a Christian family. And under so many unbearable adverse circumstances, God has empowered me to keep my Christian faith and belief in the saving power of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

When I was born, my family was suffering from the cruel rule of the Japanese colonial government over the Korean peninsula. When Korea was liberated in 1945, I witnessed joyful tears by the villagers, thanking and praising God. The Korean War broke out in June 1950. One snowy November morning, I heard the blasting sounds of North Korean artillery and machine guns, along with U.S. bombing raids.

The next day, village leaders decided to evacuate as many villagers as possible. My father chose to stay with my mother, grandmother, and our extended family. I was the only one who joined in the refugee group. "My son, you must go with other villagers and never forget that your Heavenly Father will always be with you," my father said.

I soon found myself [without] relatives and protectors. Hunger, frostbite, fatigue, and sniper attacks were daily realities. As a refugee boy and during the postwar period, I experienced the pains of

poverty. I believe Luke 4:18-19 describes God's leading for my life. God taught me to participate in suffering.

As I started my higher education, many missionaries and Christian leaders taught me how to be an [effective servant](#) of Jesus among the poor. My dentistry training opened a wide ministry door, especially among North Korean refugees. When I studied theology in Seoul, I continued free weekend dental clinics, through which I was able to share the love of God.

In 1967, with a scholarship provided by two Presbyterian churches, I completed my master's in pastoral counseling at Princeton Theological Seminary and master's of social work at Virginia Commonwealth University. I returned to Korea and with friends established Kwangju Boys Town, a ministry for homeless juvenile delinquents. Later, I completed a doctoral program in social work at the University of Southern California and continued serving several ministries until becoming a professor of social work at Soong Sil University for 25 years.

I had to retire from teaching according to mandatory retirement, but the door for social ministry was wide open to me. I helped the Korean church engage in effective ministries at the local and national level and worked with former students, now professors, to establish the Korea Institute of Church Social Work.

I thank God that I've committed my life to the ministry for the poor. It is not easy living as a lifelong single person, but to have the freedom to serve has been a blessing from our Heavenly Father. God has provided me so many Christian friends all over the world, who welcome me as a part of their families—always as "Uncle Sam" to their children. ●





# MAX LUCADO: MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Celebrating his 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in publishing—the popular Christian author and pastor sets a bold goal to help the world’s children.

BY KARI COSTANZA

JON WARREN/WORLD VISION (3)





# M

OPPOSITE PAGE: In Ethiopia, Max and his wife, Denalyn, got to know their sponsored child, Mimi (center, in purple) and her family.

A X L U C A D O was surrounded by hundreds of Ethiopian fathers, mothers, and children. For many, life had been difficult. Some were infected with HIV and had made the complex mental shift from thinking constantly about death to believing in the promise of life. In a candlelit coffee ceremony, they celebrated four years as the Hope and Light Association—ministering to others with HIV. Together they broke down the walls of stigma that left sufferers shunned and silent.

As the candlelight flickered, a visitor crawled into Max's lap: Deborah, a 3-year-old Ethiopian toddler in her finest party gown. It was a fitting moment on the first day of Max's first trip to Africa—surrounded by angels of compassion and holding a child.

Visiting Ethiopia last year crystallized Max's concern for children. "To see the faces of the people, to see the genuine joy and to see the difference—[now I can say,] 'I have met people whose lives were changed through child sponsorship,'" he says. In Ethiopia, Max and his wife, Denalyn, decided to change a life themselves by sponsoring Mimi, 6.

Ethiopia was also a fitting setting for Max as he worked on his latest book, *Outlive Your Life*, focusing on the lessons of the early church in Acts. Not so long ago, Ethiopians were persecuted for their faith, like Stephen in Acts chapters 6 and 7. In chapter 8, Philip encounters an Ethiopian eunuch who discovers that there is nothing that can separate him from the love of God.

In 2009, Max started teaching the book of Acts at his church, Oak Hills Church in San Antonio, Texas. He was struck by how the early Christians organized themselves to help the poor. "Peter and Andrew and James and John and the women—that group





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of 120 in the upper room—there was nothing special about them that we are not. Yet Jesus went in there, he found these people, and he empowered them.”

He began to ask: “Could God use just regular people like us to really make a difference? The book of Acts is God’s big answer to that question, because everybody in the book of Acts was just a regular Joe or regular Joanne.”

What happened back in biblical times can happen again, Max believes. And so the message of *Outlive Your Life: You Were Made to Make a Difference* is simple: You don’t have to do everything, but you’ve got to do something.

Max took his own message to heart. He has been called “America’s best preacher” by *Readers Digest* and “America’s pastor” by *Christianity Today*, and his books have sold 65 million copies—but still, Max felt there was a gap in his ministry.

“It seems to me there are three legs on the stool of ministry—evangelism, discipleship, and compassion,” Max says. “Most of my life, I focused on evangelism and discipleship and neglected the whole idea of compassion. A few years ago, I thought, *Where have I been? Why have I not given some encouragement and some leadership in this area?* I felt like I needed to get more involved in

the issues and concerns of justice and compassion.”

He tells the story of Mimi’s father, Dadhi, in *Outlive Your Life*, published by Thomas Nelson this year—his 25<sup>th</sup> year in publishing. At first, Max first felt conflicted about celebrating his publishing anniversary. “I think it’s harder to be a parent for 25 years or love your spouse for 25 years than it is to write books,” he says. “But if we could leverage [the anniversary] into something that would raise awareness, then I thought that would be really worthwhile.”

He consulted with his publishing team at Thomas Nelson Inc., which also published World Vision U.S. President Richard Stearns’ book, *The Hole in Our Gospel*. Together they came up with the idea to set a goal of finding sponsors for 25,000 children through World Vision, in honor of his 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Max and Denalyn have long known about child sponsorship, as they had assisted children through Compassion when their three daughters were young, and later, also sponsored children through World Vision. And by going to Ethiopia—where U.S. sponsors care for more than 60,000 children—they had the chance to see the impact in children’s lives.

As part of his 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, Max is headlining





World Vision's Make a Difference Tour, featuring Christian artists Michael W. Smith, TobyMac, and Third Day. The October tour in 20 cities will encourage audiences to sponsor children through World Vision as one way to *do something*. Max knows from experience that helping one child is a good place to start. "That's what I love about child sponsorship—it gets us all engaged, at least on an entry level, to some form of compassion," he says.

Back in San Antonio, Oak Hills' congregation is also working to make a difference—locally and globally. "Our church is really taking seriously the whole idea of trying to be the church of the book of Acts," Max says. "We're very excited about how the church is growing and expanding." Members are forming mini-churches, or missions, to reach out to local hurting populations—from single moms to the hearing impaired to those in prison—or to come alongside a developing-world community.

"People really do want to make a difference in the world," Max reflects. "I think there's something built within each one of us that resonates with the idea of making a difference, changing the world. And I think that's just a gift from God inside of us that every person has." ●

## Make a Difference Tour

The Make a Difference Tour 2010, presented by World Vision and AEG Live, features Max Lucado, Michael W. Smith, TobyMac, and Third Day, and travels to 20 cities between Sept. 30 and Oct. 30. For information, visit [www.makeadifferencetour.com](http://www.makeadifferencetour.com).

### @MaxLucado

TWEETED IMPRESSIONS FROM ETHIOPIA.

- » 1st day in Ethiopia: never expected such poverty and joy in the same place.
- » Met a farmer whose annual income increased from \$70 to \$5k due to WV irrigation.
- » Met a widow who lives w/4 kids n 100 sq ft house. Said: "I'm happiest woman on earth."
- » Exhilarating day: met pastor who spent 3 months n jail 4 faith, farmer who lives on .50/day.
- » Just preached 1st sermon n Ethiopia! 500 people packed n bldg built 4 300!
- » After seeing this poverty I told my wife, "If ever complain again, kick me twice. Hard."



# PERFECT PITCH

*MEET ANOTHER MAN  
COMMITTED TO FINDING  
SPONSORS FOR THE WORLD'S  
CHILDREN—WITH 41,000  
ALREADY UNDER HIS BELT.*

**WHEN SINGER/SONGWRITER** Frank Grubbs stands up in a church and spends just three minutes encouraging people to sponsor a child, few people can resist the urge to do so.

In about 17 years of making such presentations on behalf of World Vision, Frank's talks have prompted more than 41,000 people to sponsor children and raised about \$42 million.

Frank, who lives in Oceanside, Calif., says he used to perform mission-related songs in churches, which he hoped would inspire, but he also hoped it would help sell his music. "Now I would much rather encourage people to sponsor kids than buy my CD," he says.

Frank has about 150 speaking engagements each year. Often he tells the audience about meeting one of his nine sponsored children, such as Isaac in Haiti.

He describes the scenes he saw in Haiti, where people are desperately poor and hungry—a plight now even worse after the January earthquake. But for about a dollar a day, a sponsor can provide things like food, clothing, shelter, and education to a child in need. He will go on to explain how sponsorship has made a difference in Isaac's life.

Frank says he is not entirely sure why his message is so effective, but he believes his talks are used by God. He simply speaks from the heart.

"I feel like I have the best job in the world," he says. "I get to encourage people to do what Jesus commanded us to do, which is to reach out to the 'least of these.'" ●

—James Addis

» TO INVITE FRANK to speak at your church, visit [www.frankgrubbs.com](http://www.frankgrubbs.com).





EUNHA KIM/WORLD VISION

BY JAMES ADDIS

# TRIUMPH OVER TRIALS

HOW A FORMER SPONSORED CHILD BECAME A UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT.

Unlike most sponsored children, Young Suk Oh was born into a wealthy family. His grandfather was a prosperous farmer from a village in Jeonnam province, in the southernmost part of the Korean peninsula. Unfortunately, Young's father was a drunkard, a brawler, and a gambler. He soon squandered all the family's money and lost their home and land. The family nearly starved during the harsh Korean winters.

Hope came when missionaries visited the village and Young's mother accepted Christ. "Whenever she confessed her faith, her face was brilliant with joy," Young remembers. Her testimony inspired her son, who became a Christian at an early age.

But Young's father hated his wife's newfound faith. One night he came home drunk, dragged his wife to a remote cave, and presented her with an ultimatum: Renounce Christ or be buried in this cave. His mother replied, "If you bury me in this cave, I will go to the Kingdom of God and God will take my soul into his arms." Young's father broke down. He could beat any man in the village but had to admit, "Jesus Christ, in whom you believe, is mightier than me."

Young's father changed his ways and began to attend church. But persecution continued. During the Korean War, communists shut down the village church, and Young was forced to learn songs praising communist leader Kim Il Sung. One night, communists raided his family's home, demanding to know why they believed in God. His mother answered that she could not help believing because God had comforted her through unspeakable suffering. Nonplussed, the communists abruptly left.

After the war, Young desperately wanted to continue his schooling, but his family had no money to pay school fees. Young turned to God. "Often I prayed all night. I prayed with tears and fasting for two years," he recalls.

His zeal was noticed by a pastor who ran an orphanage funded by World Vision child sponsors. Pastor Lee arranged for Young to be sponsored, too, and he began studying at the orphanage. "I often got lovely letters from my sponsor in the USA. My sponsor encouraged me in the love of God," he says.

Young would write back to his sponsor in English—a measure of his academic progress—and explain his ambition to study fur-

## ABOUT WORLD VISION

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

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

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

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

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



COURTESY YOUNG SUK OH



DEAN OWEN/WORLD VISION

FACING PAGE: The professor emeritus lectures at Hanshin University, where he was also once a student (above, left). Today, Dr. Oh enjoys semi-retirement in Seoul.

ther and help people to develop a deeper faith in Jesus. His sponsor provided textbooks for Young to study for his university entrance exam.

After high school, Young entered medical school, hoping to follow in the footsteps of his hero, the doctor and theologian Albert Schweitzer. Later, he decided to study theology at Hanshin Theological Seminary in Seoul. That same year, Young was thrilled to discover that World Vision founder Bob Pierce was holding a series of evangelistic rallies in Seoul. Bob Pierce was renowned in Korea for his humanitarian work during the war and for his preaching.

Thousands went to hear Bob speak. At one point, Bob said: "If any theology students came into this church, they should stand up and be assured of their divine calling." Young stood up, and Bob prayed for him from the pulpit. On his return to the U.S., Bob Pierce raised money to provide scholarships for theology students from poor backgrounds like Young. Young completed his studies at Hanshin, married a novelist and poet, and went on to study for a doctorate degree in Basel,

Switzerland, majoring in the theology of Karl Barth.

Upon graduation, Young returned to Korea and became a professor at Hanshin University, where he taught for the next 24 years. In 2002, he was elected president of the university. Among his accomplishments was raising more than \$7 million for a new building for the university's theological seminary. He retired two years ago but still lectures once a week on Christology, eschatology, and ecclesiology.

Today, Young, 67, says he owes a deep debt of gratitude to his sponsor, the orphanage director Pastor Lee, and Bob Pierce. Each inspired and encouraged him to escape his troubled circumstances and realize his dreams.

He adds that he does not regret his tough formative years, as they brought an important benefit that has served him well throughout his life. "The difficulty of my early childhood taught me to seek for the God of grace and taught me to continually pray," he says. ●

*With reporting by Dean Owen.*

# Refreshing Woman

BY DALE HANSON BOURKE

I had always taken water for granted. I turned on the faucet and out it came, clean and in seemingly endless supply for drinking, bathing, and watering my garden. I didn't mean to waste water, but I didn't work very hard to conserve it either. It simply didn't cross my mind.

It wasn't until I visited Senegal that I began to understand just how precious water can be and why so many verses in the Bible talk about it. And it was in a dusty village in West Africa that I also witnessed an inspired example of effective advocacy on behalf of those who are thirsty.

The rainy season had ended months before my visit, and the only vestiges of it were shrinking ponds of fetid water that dotted the terrain. I was horrified as I watched women dip their buckets into the slimy mess and carry the liquid back to their village.

As we entered one village, we noticed how listless most of the people were. It wasn't just the heat; disease was clearly taking its toll on adults and children alike. I had come with some World Vision workers to see if anything could be done to help.

With great courtesy, the leader of our group asked the chief if there were many sick people in his village. "Yes," the chief replied. Then he asked if many babies died. "Yes," the chief replied again. He asked more questions about the source of their water, and the chief pointed toward the filthy pond we had passed on our way to the village.

Then our leader asked the chief if he would like World Vision to help this village dig a well so they could have clean water. "No," the chief replied, to our surprise. And then he reached into his robe and pulled out a tattered piece of paper. "We already have a well," he said.

Suddenly, we heard a murmuring among the people and



COURTESY DALE HANSON BOURKE

*“The poor and needy search for water, but there is none; their tongues are parched with thirst. But I the Lord will answer them; I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them.”*

— ISAIAH 41:17

watched as an elderly woman pushed her way to the front of the crowd. “I am an old woman and have no husband to tell me to keep quiet, so I will speak up,” she said.

“I have watched the children of this village die for too many years. I have lost too many of my own. Many years ago, someone came and promised us a well, but he never came back. The chief keeps telling us a well is coming, and he tells people like you that we don't need a well because he doesn't want to lose face.

“But we are losing too many children. If you can help us, please come to this village. I do not want to watch any more children die.”

Having said what she needed to say, the woman walked to the back of the group and sat down again. Some of the people began to complain that she shouldn't have spoken up, but others said she was right. The woman had advocated not for herself but on behalf

of the children of the village.

The chief was embarrassed, but he agreed to talk to the World Vision staff again. Months later, I learned that this village finally got a well, and their infant mortality dropped significantly.

I came back from that trip changed not only in my views about water but also inspired by the example of that woman. Today, I am much more careful about turning on the faucet. I am also bolder about speaking up on behalf of those who are poor and especially those who thirst. An elderly woman in Senegal showed me how it is done. ●

Dale Hanson Bourke (at left in photo above), a former World Vision board member, is the author of *Embracing Your Second Calling*, from which this story is adapted, and president of the CIDRZ Foundation, which supports health programs for women and children in Africa.

# RETROSPECT



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

## G H A N A

THE SCENE IS TIMELESS. Women and children have been gathering and carrying water for centuries. Not only does this consume their days; the water they collect is often dirty, so contaminants consume their health. Today, 884 million people worldwide lack access to safe drinking water, and diarrhea alone kills more than 4,000 children a day. But for three decades, World Vision has worked against this tragedy through major well-drilling and water projects in Africa, funded by the United States Agency for International Development and the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation. In Ghana alone, these partnerships have enabled World Vision to drill more than 2,400 wells, providing clean water for more than 1.2 million people. Someday, safe water sources will spare all villagers their onerous daily chore—and eventually, make waterborne diseases history. ●

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