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AUTUMN 2013



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12 SELVIN: YOUNG COMMUNITY LEADER 26 CHILDREN'S HOPES, OUR PRAYERS

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The screenshot shows the 'Share Sponsorship' interface. At the top, it says 'JOIN US IN SPONSORING A CHILD TODAY' and 'The Kautz Family'. Below this is a search section for 'Sponsor Kristjan In Albania' with filters for Gender, Worldwide, Birth Month, Birth Day, and Age. It also shows a 'MY GOAL' section with a sponsorship goal of 10 and a 'MEET THE CHILDREN WE HAVE HELPED' section with 5 children sponsored.

WORLD VISION

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4 together **CHANGE** the life of a child



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LAURA REINHARDT/WORLD VISION

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CEES LAGUARDA/WORLD VISION

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The Software of Sponsorship

BY RICH STEARNS

This might surprise you: Poverty isn't just about lacking *things*.

When we think about helping the poor, we usually think about tangible things—clean-water wells, schools, health clinics, bed nets to prevent malaria, or agricultural inputs like hybrid seeds or irrigation systems. I like to refer to these as the “hardware” of development. Providing a community with these assets is an important part of addressing poverty.

However, poverty is more complex than the things—the hardware—that a community is lacking. After all, there is no place on earth with more stuff than we have in the U.S., and yet poverty exists here too. Poverty isn't just what you have in your hands; it is also about what is in your head. Poverty encompasses how we think about our future and our hopes and dreams. It is about knowledge, behavior, and cultural practices. You see, people often live in poverty because they don't have access to the relationships, education, and value systems that can help them move beyond poverty.

Here is where the World Vision “software” comes in. I like to say that this is World Vision's “secret sauce.” In addition to the hardware we might bring to people, the software provides the kinds of things that help a community improve its knowledge base and opportunities for the future. These include activities like community groups, farmers' co-ops, advocacy, savings groups, education committees, and youth leadership programs.

And then there's the most powerful software of all: the human transformation that occurs when people have a saving relationship with Jesus Christ, which changes lives from the inside out.

World Vision's software makes the hardware function by fostering a flourishing community where people work together and local leaders promote the best interests of all. The thriving community keeps the school running, the well pumping, and the health clinic staffed and stocked with supplies.

All of these software strategies provide the foundation a



Rich visits with Selvin in Honduras.

community needs to leverage its hardware assets. The hardware and software solutions together are incredibly powerful in changing the lives of the poor. It's a “one plus one equals 10”-kind of equation that helps people lift themselves out of poverty as they develop well-functioning communities with institutions able to bring people together in a positive way.

These are the things I saw at work when I visited the community in Honduras where 12-year-old Selvin lives (see story on page 12). Once poor and with little hope, Yamaranguila is now bustling with life and optimism. Children who graduated from leadership development programs are engaged in school and participating at all levels in their community with their own vision for the future. Even meetings about farming or child health

begin with prayer and Bible reading—often led by the children. Bible study groups flourish across the community.

The people of Yamaranguila now have the dignity of helping their community thrive, knowing they are the ones working together to create a new and better future.

World Vision will soon be able to leave Yamaranguila knowing the Bible studies and other community groups will continue, and the people will be able to address new challenges on their own. In essence, we will have worked ourselves out of job.

The software makes our work sustainable. When we leave, the community will have the tools it needs to continue to move forward in the right direction. Though we often part with tears, we know that the hardware and software World Vision and child sponsors brought into a community will remain behind and continue working. ●

*“The righteous will flourish
like a palm tree, they will grow
like a cedar of Lebanon;
planted in the house of the Lord,
they will flourish in the
courts of our God.”*

—PSALM 92:12-13

FOR MORE FROM RICH and information about his latest book, *Unfinished*, visit www.richstearns.org.

FRONTLINES



LE THIEM XUAN/WORLD VISION

f

BRAIN FOOD FOR BRIGHT MINDS

For children beginning the school year in developing communities, the “three R’s” often aren’t enough. A fourth “R”—readiness—is critical for young people whose impoverished families can’t provide three meals a day.

To ensure all children are ready to learn, World Vision encourages communities to provide children—like kindergarteners Tien (left) and Hoa—a nourishing lunch. The 4-year-old girls enjoy a daily meal that their teacher, Thu Ngan, prepares at their school in Hiep Duc, Vietnam. Full stomachs allow students to stay focused as they learn.

Thu and other local teachers are trained to encourage better

student participation—also part of World Vision’s investment in this rural community. For example, Thu recently added art activities to her lessons.

World Vision has walked alongside this community for 17 years. At first, World Vision paid for kindergarteners’ school fees and meals. Now, community members work together to provide these essentials, marking another step toward community-owned development. World Vision’s goal is to equip Hiep Duc as it continues to build a better life for children like Tien and Hoa—today and for generations to come. ●

CHILDREN OF WAR

War wreaks havoc for all—but children suffer most. Their security is disrupted; their education is suspended; food becomes a scarce commodity. In some countries, children are even kidnapped and forced to serve as soldiers. These ongoing conflicts provide a glimpse into war's impact on children.



PHUGANZI H ISHARAZA/WORLD VISION



PATRICIA HOUAR/WORLD VISION



THONGKAY PHANVAY/WORLD VISION

MALI | HUNGRY CHILDREN

Recent conflict in northern Mali has uprooted families and disrupted livelihoods. Compounding these circumstances are the lingering effects of a devastating drought, which caused severe food shortages. As a result, an estimated 650,000 children younger than 5 in Mali will suffer from acute malnutrition in 2013. Rebel groups have recruited child combatants, the U.N. reports. World Vision is distributing essentials to displaced families and continues work in communities with child sponsorship programs in the south.

MYANMAR | CHILD SOLDIERS

Hundreds of thousands of children younger than 18 are used as soldiers in armed conflicts around the world. Many are forced to serve as soldiers; others join in an attempt to escape poverty or defend their communities. In Myanmar, eight armed groups recruit and use child soldiers. Myanmar's official armed forces recently released 24 child soldiers—the result of a U.N. action plan the groups signed. Others have pledged to stop recruiting child soldiers and release those already in their ranks.

SYRIA | DISPLACED CHILDREN

Since Syria's civil war began in March 2011, 3.6 million people have been displaced within the country, and another 1.1 million have fled to neighboring countries. Children are especially susceptible to poor health due to unsanitary conditions and lack of food. They're also more vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. When parents can't afford school fees, many children must work to earn money. World Vision's Child-Friendly Spaces in Lebanon and Jordan provide places where child refugees can engage in fun activities and find a peaceful respite.

LAOS | DANGEROUS TOYS

Nearly 35 years after the end of the Vietnam War, unsuspecting residents—including children—continue to find unexploded bombs in Lao forests. Even though Laos was not officially involved in the war, the country was targeted due to its extensive border with Vietnam. Thousands of unexploded ordnance (UXO) remain. Each year, UXO kill and injure some 100 people, including many children. World Vision works with teachers and community volunteers to educate children on the dangers of unexploded bombs. ●

MDGs | ONE DOWN, SEVEN TO GO

The first Millennium Development Goal (MDG)—to halve the proportion of people living on less than \$1.25 a day—has been met ahead of its 2015 deadline. A U.N. report shows a dramatic decline in global poverty in the last two decades, from **43.1 percent in 1990 to 22.4 percent in 2008**. “Never in history has the living conditions and prospects of so many people changed so dramatically and so fast,” says the 2013 Human Development Report. The decline is largely due to sustained investment in education, healthcare, and social welfare, coupled with more enlightened trade and economic policies.



KHANG HIN HTO/World Vision

LINDSEY RHINEMA/World Vision

MYANMAR | CHELSEA CLINTON VISITS

Chelsea Clinton visited a remote village in Myanmar last spring to see World Vision and Procter & Gamble’s partnership to provide clean water to children. The former first daughter watched as dirty water from a local pond was transformed into clean, drinkable water using P&G’s purification powder. “When there are urgent needs—whether it be after a disaster like an earthquake or Cyclone Nargis here in Myanmar,” said Clinton, “it’s crucial that there be organizations like World Vision who are already on the ground, so that they can quickly get resources to people who need them.”

U.S. | OKLAHOMA TORNADO RESPONSE

World Vision continues to assist affected families recovering from the deadly EF5 tornado that swept through Moore, Okla., in May. The massive twister killed 24 people and flattened homes, businesses, and schools. Working alongside local churches, World Vision responded immediately with critical relief supplies—food, diapers, hygiene items, cleaning supplies, blankets, and more. Staff continues serving in Moore to assist families as they recover and rebuild their homes, similar to World Vision’s work following the 2011 tornadoes in Joplin, Mo., and Tuscaloosa, Ala. ●

BROKEN DREAMS

Five worst places for early marriage.

The excitement of wedding planning and newlywed life won’t be the experience of 13.5 million girls this year. Instead, they will marry because of threats and coercion, according to a recent World Vision report. Worldwide, one in nine girls marries before her 15th birthday—and those living in countries facing humanitarian crises have the greatest risk of forced marriage.

The top five countries with the highest child marriage rates (before 15 years old):



* Indicates where World Vision is working to eliminate poverty.

THE WORLD VISION DIFFERENCE

Every day World Vision works among millions of people in nearly 100 countries worldwide—and now you can keep up with that work. Check out the new “Our Impact” section of World Vision’s website. Here’s what you’ll find:

- Filter by geography or issue to see accomplishments from the past year.
- Explore World Vision’s unique approach to working in communities.
- Read stories from the field.
- Watch videos.
- Discover how the ministry has evolved over the years.
- Read what others—from world leaders to rural mothers—say about World Vision. **Find it all at www.worldvision.org/ourimpact.**



PRECIOUS MEDALS

A Tennessee woman trades tokens of love with her sponsored children.



PATRICK MURPHY/RACE/GENESIS PHOTOS

Peggy King's fireplace mantel tells a story of love and commitment that spans more than a quarter of a century throughout Latin America.

Prominent among the photos of Peggy's brood is an 8-by-10 of a smiling Yisleydi, one of a parade of children Peggy has sponsored through World Vision since 1986. Yisleydi had just graduated from kindergarten in Nicaragua, but Peggy couldn't be there. So Yisleydi's family sent her the photo.

Yisleydi and Juan, Peggy's other Nicaraguan sponsored child, call her *mi abuelita*—my little grandmother. "I am part of their family, just like they are part of mine," the Knoxville, Tenn., grandmother says of the 10 children she has sponsored over the years.

Peggy has always looked at sponsorship as a relationship. When she sponsored her first child, Peggy was a single mom struggling to raise four children on a

teacher's salary of \$10,000 a year.

Her children begged her to sponsor a child, but Peggy doubted they could afford it. They promised to help cover the cost and began filling a jar with change. Every month the family managed to gather enough to sponsor a boy in Colombia.

Since then, Peggy has shared her life with her sponsored children, and they in turn have shared their lives with her. She sends them letters and packages. She has even visited several children in their communities.

One of Peggy's most touching sponsorship moments was when Luis, a young boy from Ecuador, sent her a medal he had won in a race. Peggy said her heart "just broke" to know a child with so little would give her what he called his "prized possession." She wanted to return the favor—and once again her children stepped in.

At their urging, Peggy sent Luis one of the medals that her youngest child, who



LAURA REINHARDT/WORLD VISION

had died in a car accident, earned in the U.S. Army Reserve. Luis responded that this medal was now his most prized possession, and he would treasure it forever.

Luis is grown now, but Peggy says she will always sponsor a child. And she's taken this commitment a step further. To ensure her sponsored children are cared for beyond her lifetime, she included World Vision in her estate plan. "I want my sponsored kids and others like them to be taken care of," Peggy says. ●

LEAVE A LIFE-CHANGING LEGACY.

Contact World Vision's Gift Planning team toll free at 800.426.5753.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A new DVD-based study guide on Rich Stearns' *Unfinished: Believing is Only the Beginning* is a dynamic tool that will equip your small group or Bible study to step more fully into God's story. The inspiring six-session study will help your group to rediscover the critical mission of Christ in our world and the richness of God's calling on our lives. Each 20-minute video is followed by group discussion and related activities. Scan the QR code below to preview the first video.



ELANIE BLANDING/GENESIS PHOTOS

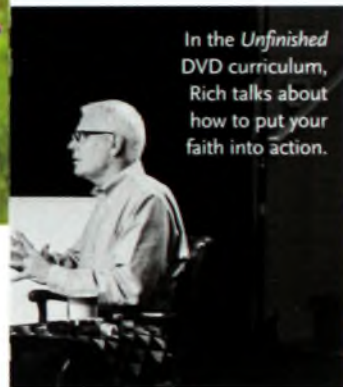
Unfinished

...story can be part of the Great Story. Stearns knows the story and lives it. Unfinished may call you to the greatest chapter of your life."

—John Ortberg

Senior pastor, Menlo Park Presbyterian Church and author of *Who Is This Man?*

In the *Unfinished* DVD curriculum, Rich talks about how to put your faith into action.



It explores the real questions—how do we find our true purpose by faith? Thought-provoking, practical, and will

Have you planned for the future?

Though Tim and Andrea Russell are far from retirement, they realize they have plenty of reasons to plan for the future—the three most important being their young children.

"We don't want to leave decisions about our life and kids up to someone who doesn't know us, like the government," explains Andrea. The Russells knew that without a will in place, that's exactly what would happen. "We want to make these decisions beforehand so we can have control of what happens to the things that are important to us," she says.

By establishing a will, the Russells have taken steps today to care for their family tomorrow. (Turn over to read more.)

Mybels
Church



SCAN THIS QR CODE or visit www.richstearns.org to learn more about *Unfinished*, watch the first video study session, and purchase the *Unfinished* DVD curriculum for your church or small group.

World Vision*



PRECIOUS MEDALS

A Tennessee woman trades tokens of love with her sponsored children.



“This is important to us.”

In addition to providing for their children, the Russells' estate plan also includes the causes they care about most—like continuing to help children through World Vision. “We are placing ourselves in a position to help others after our lifetimes,” says Andrea. By planning for the future now, the couple is modeling generosity for their kids and creating a legacy of giving.

You too can make a lasting difference by including children in need along with your own family. **World Vision's Gift Planning team offers resources to help you create a plan that:**

- Ensures your loved ones are provided for
- Determines who will be responsible for your dependents
- Enables you to decide how your resources will be used
- Passes on your values
- Honors your family's tradition of giving
- Gives you peace of mind

Peggy King's fireplace mantel tells a story of love and commitment that spans more than a quarter-century throughout Latin America. Prominent among the faces of Peggy's brood is an 8-year-old smiling Yisleydi, one of a group of children Peggy has sponsored through World Vision since 1986. Yisleydi has graduated from kindergarten in Nicaragua, but Peggy couldn't be there. So Yisleydi's family sent her the photo.

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To request your **FREE** copy of World Vision's Legacy Planner, use the card between pages 24 and 25 or call 1.800.426.5753.



WHY I LOVE BEING A CHILD SPONSOR

TOM BASTIAN | MOUNTVILLE, PA.

I'm a regular guy. I'm married, I work, and I've adopted several kids from the U.S. I like sponsoring a child because of what I think it does. I was laid off from work in 2010 and, in a roundabout way, got to go to Honduras on a mission trip. It was low-budget, and I was able to raise money through friends and family. The trip ended up being a life-changer for me. I had already been sponsoring children because I believed it was just "what I should do." But the trip really cemented for me what a difference I can make in a child's life. Because people in developing countries do with so little, I know for a fact that what little I give through sponsorship makes a world of difference to the child and his or her family when it's structured through World Vision. Yes, I wish I could visit my sponsored child, Orlando, but I have to trust that he is doing better being on the receiving end of my small contribution to his world. Small in my eyes but, I believe, very helpful in his eyes. Praise God for the opportunity. ●

TELL US YOUR STORY.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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What pastors are saying about Unfinished

"Just when I've gotten comfortable with my faith, here comes Rich Stearns, reminding me what matters... Just when I dare think my work is done, Rich reminds me that we are just getting started."

—Max Lucado
pastor and best-selling author

"Your story can be part of the Great Story. Rich Stearns knows the story and lives the story. Unfinished may call you to the greatest chapter of your life."

—John Ortberg
senior pastor, Menlo Park Presbyterian Church and author of *Who Is This Man?*



In the *Unfinished* DVD curriculum, Rich talks about how to put your faith into action.

"This DVD study takes the message of Unfinished and explores the real questions—how do we see our stories as part of God's story? And how do we find our true purpose by carrying out his mission to love the world? It's thought-provoking, practical, and will help you move from believing to doing."

—Bill Hybels
senior pastor, Willow Creek Community Church



SCAN THIS QR CODE or visit www.richstearns.org to learn more about *Unfinished*, watch the first video study session, and purchase the *Unfinished* DVD curriculum for your church or small group.



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

DIGGING DEEP WITH DA VINCI

A Renaissance drawing inspires an innovative solution to bring clean water to African communities.

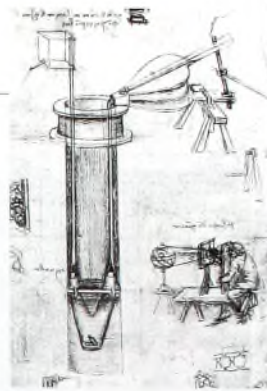
Centuries after his death, Leonardo da Vinci continues to be a font of inspiration—in unlikely ways. A new water pump based on a da Vinci drawing promises to provide clean water to more than a million people in the next few years.

Oklahoma-based organization Water4 developed its pump after engineer Steve Stewart discovered a da Vinci drawing of a water pump. “I went back through one of his books and found the design he had for water raising,” Steve says.

Adapting da Vinci’s concept of a bellows pump, the Water4 pump features a plunger that forces trapped water to the surface—creating a system Richard Greenly, founder of Water4, describes as “elegantly simple.”

Couple the pump with innovative manual drill tools, and the portable system is expected to reach areas that truck-mounted drills cannot access. World Vision has already successfully used manual drilling rigs to sink about 200 wells in Angola.

LEFT: A Water4 drill, based on drawing, at work in Ethiopia. RIGHT: Da Vinci’s drawing of a bellows pump, found by Water4 engineer Steve Stewart.



Encouraged by the results, World Vision’s Campaign For Every Child is partnering with Water4 to drill 7,000 wells in eight African countries over five years.

This groundbreaking campaign aims to help 10 million people by 2015. In addition to leveraging deep development expertise, World Vision also is testing new approaches that empower families to address critical challenges. The inexpensive technology will allow local entrepreneurs to secure their own rigs and establish well-drilling businesses—providing jobs and boosting the economy.

The drilling tools are constructed from materials available in most countries worldwide, and the drill kit consists of a variety of tools, each used in a different geological layer. As new layers are encountered, drilling can progress by simply switching to another tool in the set. This system can go down 150 feet, making it an economical alternative to mechanized drill rigs in many areas.

Now, where geology is suitable, the cost of drilling each well drops from about \$13,000 to \$1,000.

The portable rigs are already being prepared to send to Ethiopia, Mali, Malawi, Mozambique, and Zambia—countries where World Vision’s Campaign For Every Child is working to provide rural communities with clean, accessible water.

About 780 million people in the world lack access to safe drinking water. Some 2.2 million children die every year because of dirty drinking water and poor sanitation and hygiene.

But Richard is optimistic: “In our lifetime, we can see the end of the water crisis—we totally believe that.” ●

—James Addis



EUGENIA'S WORLD

Sponsored child Eugenia from northern Tanzania takes viewers on a video tour that brings the transformation of sponsorship to life.

Step into "Eugenia's World" of sponsorship to discover how her community is learning to address its challenges:

- When even dirty water is scarce, how does a community find clean water?
- What can be done when a community doesn't value education for girls?
- How can parents in an isolated area earn income? ●



LEARN HOW WORLD VISION and child sponsors are working alongside people in Tanzania—and around the world—to provide clean water, healthcare, education, economic opportunity, Christian witness, and more. Visit myworldvision.org/sponsorshipatwork.

ALL THAT IN ONE APP

World Vision Now, a free iPhone app, is your personal passport to news and stories from the developing world, featuring voices and imagery you don't see in the mainstream media. To make it even more convenient for sponsors, now you can also tap into your sponsored child's world right in the app. Hit the center icon and log onto **My World Vision**, where you can view photos of your sponsored child and their community, send a note to your child, and get project updates. ●

TO DOWNLOAD, search "World Vision Now" in the iTunes store. If you already have the app, make sure to update for My World Vision access.





SELVIN

AT
AT

THEIR SERVICE

Traditionally the hard work of a community has been left to adults. But in western Honduras, one boy isn't waiting to grow up to serve his community.

Story and photography by Laura Reinhardt

S

elvin Garcia slips on a khaki vest with a smiling water droplet on the back and, grabbing a clipboard, joins World Vision staff member Emilio Dominguez on the dusty, red clay roads of Yamaranguila, western Honduras.

Walking with determination from house to house, Selvin checks off his list: Are animals penned up away from water sources? Are family members washing their hands after using the latrine? Is the home kept generally clean?

This is ordinary work for a health volunteer. But 12-year-old Selvin isn't ordinary. His involvement in these activities proves that development work isn't just for adults. In fact, often a community's most powerful resources are its children.

In Yamaranguila—and around the world—World Vision equips young people to play important roles in strengthening their community. For Selvin, it didn't happen overnight. "I stopped being shy, so I was able to speak up to say what I think," he says. "I feel that I have grown a lot, and it was World Vision that awoke this."



Papi celebrates with Selvin as he turns 1 year old.

PAPI TO THE RESCUE

In his dozen years, Selvin has experienced more than his share of tragedy. He never knew his father, who went to work in another country when Selvin's mother, Glenda, was pregnant with Selvin. After he was born, Glenda worked long hours to make ends meet, and at times the young boy did not see his mother for days.

The bright spot in his life was his grandfather, whom he called Papi. The family's photo album memorializes Selvin and Papi together: Papi, wearing a cowboy hat carrying a young Selvin in his arms; a bright-eyed Papi pointing at the camera, encouraging a bewildered 1-year-old Selvin, his face smeared with frosting, to smile.

The album holds no photo to remind Selvin of the time he fell out of a tree. But Selvin remembers the accident clearly—Papi was right there to rescue him, even though it was time for Papi to be at work at the telephone company.

Once Papi was sure Selvin was fine, he urged the youngster to stay out of the tree: "If you fall, all right, I'm going to stay, and I'm going to help you. But then I could lose my job, and we need my job

to help the family."

His words were prophetic. That same year, Papi did lose his job. Increasingly, he was forgetting things.

"It was very difficult for us," Selvin says, "because most of my uncles were already studying at the university. So when he lost his job, they had to quit the university and start working." When Selvin turned 6, the diagnosis came: Papi had Alzheimer's disease.

On top of this grief, Selvin's great-grandmother passed away. When the news reached Selvin's father, he flew into Honduras' capital city of Tegucigalpa. Home was a three-hour drive away. "As he was coming on the road, there was a truck that was coming the other way," Selvin says. "The truck moved sideways, and my father crashed and fell into a ravine." He died there, never seeing his son.

Selvin has a photo of his father. "I remember that the first time I saw that photo, I cried," says Selvin. "I said to myself, 'Why did he have to die the same year that my grandfather got sick, that my [great] grandmother died. Why did it have to be that way?'"

—continued on page 17



Despite the tragedies that plagued his childhood, 12-year-old Selvin has stepped boldly into the role of a community leader.

"We teach them to dream
with their feet on the ground."

—NORMAN SANCHEZ, WORLD VISION'S MANAGER IN YAMARANGUILA



*ABOVE: Selvin's mother, Glenda, adjusts her son's vest as he prepares to visit neighbors' homes.
RIGHT: Selvin and World Vision's Emilio Dominguez go door to door, encouraging families to improve their health practices.*



"The sponsor sends the seed.
World Vision is the farmer who
plants it, and that yields fruit.
I am the fruit of that seed."

—SELVIN GARCIA, 12

—continued from page 14

SOMETHING GOOD HAPPENING

Subtract Selvin's tragedies, and Yamaranguila still isn't an easy place to grow up. The area is home to the Lenca ethnic group, which includes Selvin and his

that security is that children can attend school—and not have to drop out to work.

Norman Sanchez, World Vision's manager in Yamaranguila, says World Vision bases its work on the needs of the people: "We teach them to dream with their feet on the ground."

World Vision also works directly with the community's children—those who have sponsors and those who do not—nurturing youth in self-esteem, gender equality, and children's rights. Boys and girls are equipped to help peers who are struggling in school. To ensure children have a stake in their community's progress, World Vision also invites young people to join the Children's Basic Sanitation Committee. Members share the sanitation messages they've learned with other children, and those messages ripple outward in ever-increasing circles.

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World Vision®



ASTRID ZACAPA/WORLD VISION

HELP ANOTHER CHILD

SHINE

No wonder Alejandra Ceballos is smiling.

This sponsored child shines as a beacon of peace and hope in Colombia. (Read more on p. 23.)

Through child sponsorship, you too can empower children to bring peace and stability to their communities—and so much more.



Sponsor a child with this envelope, online, or on your smartphone.



ABOVE: Selvin's mother, Glenda, adjusts her son's vest as he prepares to visit neighbors' homes.
 RIGHT: Selvin and World Vision's Emilio Dominguez go door to door, encouraging families to improve their health practices.



"The sponsor sends the World Vision is the farm plants it, and that yield. I am the fruit of that."

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—continued from page 14

SOMETHING GOOD HAPPENING

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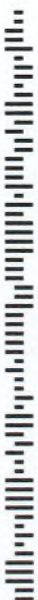
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"The sponsor send World Vision is the plants it, and that I am the fruit of t

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—continued from page 14

SOMETHING GOOD HAPPENING

Subtract Selvin's tragedies, and Yamaranguila still isn't an easy place to grow up. The area is home to the Lenca ethnic group, which includes Selvin and his family. Previously, the people suffered from high rates of acute respiratory illness, fueled in part by open fires and dirt floors indoors. Tiny bugs living in the thatched roofs of homes spread the heart-swelling Chagas disease. The high elevation and colder climate left families struggling to eke out meager crops on steep hillsides dotted with *los pinos*—pine trees.

World Vision introduced child sponsorship here in the mid-1990s as a way to care for all Yamaranguila children. To provide new opportunities, staff set to work training parents to raise family income and literacy through economic development. As their assets grew, parents were equipped to provide a more secure future for their children. Core to

that security is that children can attend school—and not have to drop out to work.

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CHILD PROTECTOR

On a cold morning, smoke from the open-fire stove circled in the Garcia kitchen. Soot stained the corner of the mud and straw walls above the stove. A single bulb overhead offered little light, but a ray of sunshine streamed through the kitchen's only window.

Selvin kept a scarf wrapped around his neck as he hustled across the kitchen's dirt floor. He pulled a small bit of cornmeal dough from a big blue plastic bin, patted out thin tortillas, and dropped them on the griddle. The fire didn't heat the stovetop quickly, so the eggs scrambled slowly. He stirred a warming pan of beans at the same time.

Selvin dropped pieces of tortilla into a bowl, added the eggs and beans, and garnished the meal with a few pieces of avocado. The breakfast was for his 4-year-old half-brother, Lester. Selvin watched as Lester ate, and then prepared breakfast for himself.

His culinary skills grew out of his experience with World Vision's Basic Sanitation Committee. "I learned about how things had to be cooked clean," says Selvin. With his newfound knowledge, Selvin questioned whether the food they ate was prepared properly. At the age of 7, he decided to learn to cook.

His first cooking adventure wasn't so successful. He dropped parts of the eggshell into the pan. But in time, he improved. Now on most mornings, Selvin can be found making breakfast for Lester.

"I'm the protector for my little brother," Selvin says.

He's also become a protector of his peers. "Life here in my community is very harsh," he says, pointing out that many children are forced to sacrifice school to harvest coffee.

As his grades climbed, Selvin also decided to help friends who struggle in school—some who had repeated a grade more than once. He asked his teacher about the tutoring program World Vision offers, and soon he was working with two students. He's proud to report that both students advanced to the next grade.



Selvin likens this accomplishment to saving someone hanging from a cliff, helping them to be the person they are meant to be. "Maybe this person could have become a doctor, maybe this person even could become president of the republic," he says.

COMMUNITY CARETAKER

When Selvin isn't using his clipboard to monitor the community's health practices, he often can be found behind a table outlined with ribbons of green tissue paper. Straw, pine needles, and moss also decorate this tabletop tableau of Yamaranguila.

His community model features





Selvin prepares breakfast most mornings to ensure his younger half-brother, Lester, has food that is properly prepared.



Selvin demonstrates how World Vision has helped local families build a stronger, healthier community.

"Our Yamaranguila has changed. It's not the same. It's a stranger Yamaranguila. A better one."

—SELVIN GARCIA, 12

cardboard houses sporting straw roofs. A church wears its hand-cut cross like a crown. Plastic orange tigers, pink lions, and brown dogs stand in for chickens, cows, and goats.

"This model represents Yamaranguila before World Vision arrived," Selvin says of the miniature village he built with the help of World Vision staff members. He launched into his presentation without hesitation.

He flips one straw-covered roof, then another to reveal the new tin corrugated roofs that now grace Yamaranguila homes. He explains that before World Vision began working in his community, the houses made of mud, clay, and straw bricks used to have thatched roofs. Now the tin roofs don't house the bugs that transmit the deadly Chagas disease.

Before, latrines were scarce. Now most houses have them, he explains, carefully placing miniature latrines in his model.

"The animals would hang out in the river. And those rivers are where families would get their drinking water. That's where they would wash their clothes. That wasn't hygienic," Selvin explains.

He puts the lion, tiger, and dog inside a pen made of Popsicle sticks. Now the once-polluted water source can remain uncontaminated and people can stay healthier.

He finishes with a flourish: "All this is what World Vision has done for Yamaranguila. And not just for Yamaranguila, but also around the world. Our Yamaranguila has changed. It's not the same. It's a stronger Yamaranguila. A better one."

Emilio Dominguez, who provides

"Wow, there is this person who wants to hold my hand and wants to help me."

—SELVIN GARCIA, 12

training to the community's youth, says Selvin is a bright boy. "We feel very proud of him because everything that we teach him, he will replicate in his community. I have to say that he even does this better than the technicians themselves."

SOMEONE TO HOLD HIS HAND

For years Selvin enjoyed the community benefits of sponsorship without having a sponsor of his own. Then one day that changed.

Two years ago, Selvin presented his community model to visitors from the United States. One of them was so taken with the boy that he asked to sponsor him. Selvin was delighted. "Wow, there is this person who wants to hold my hand and wants to help me," he recalls.

Selvin, who loves to give hugs, says that if his sponsor were with him right now, he would hug him and tell him that he loves him dearly. "I really want him to know that I keep him deep in my heart. I always carry him with me, and I hope he does [with me], too."

The steadfast support of World Vision's child sponsors ensures the transformation of young people like Selvin. Always the explainer, Selvin describes how this works.

"The sponsor sends the seed. World Vision is the farmer who plants it, and that yields fruit. I am the fruit of that seed. And thanks to World Vision who planted the seed, it has awoken the fruit inside of me," says Selvin. "I know that there are other children who have also been awakened and are that fruit as well."

Even though he has lost many people in his life, Selvin has found others willing to support and propel him onward to become the best person he can be. He knows now the power of finding his voice. He knows how it feels to be a spokesperson for his community.

But he also knows too much about sorrow. He despaired as he watched Papi decline to the point where he no longer recognized Selvin.

Last year, after Papi passed away, Selvin placed a Father's Day card on his grandfather's grave. For this tender young man, it was a moment of great sorrow.

But purpose gives him hope. There is still much work to be done in Yamaranguila. He has committee meetings to attend, house visits to make, and presentations to give. At home, Lester will be waiting for breakfast. Maybe there's a letter from his sponsor waiting there, too. ●

—Dana Cruz of World Vision Honduras contributed to this story.



Selvin loves to give hugs to his neighbors.

There's plenty to get done in communities across the developing world. And sometimes, the best person to step up is a child. Equipped by sponsorship and bold beyond their years, three children are taking on critical community issues:

faith, education, and peace.

*Jolly Okara from
Uganda. See his story
on the next page. »*



YOUNG **OKARA**
FEARLESS

WHEN JOLLY OLARA stood before the crowd, ready to deliver the opening prayer for the annual Day of the African Child festivities, a local politician wondered aloud, "Can this boy really pray?"

Jolly not only prayed—he spoke to God with deep inspiration that steamy June day.

The politician turned to a local pastor. "Do you have anything to add?" he asked. "No," the pastor responded. "The boy has done it all."

"The people wondered how such a small boy could make such a prayer," says Keni Keni Alexis, a former community development facilitator in World Vision's Aber

project in north central Uganda.

Thirteen-year-old "Pastor Jolly," as his community calls him, grew up attending church with his mother. When World Vision came to work in Aber in 2008, staff taught Jolly how to share Christ with others. Jolly also joined local church leaders as they learned more about God's Word.

"He speaks God's Word to us without fear," says his mother, Margaret. "He loves people and prays for people. When we are going to sleep, he prays for us. When we are going to eat, he prays. In the morning when we wake up, he prays."

This sponsored child is so committed to ministry that World Vision gave him a bicycle so he could more quickly traverse the community. He hosts radio talk shows, speaks at World Vision retreats for children, and is even called upon to preach in church services.

Jolly hopes to become a bishop and maybe, one day, pope.

"When I am referred to as pastor, I rejoice, because God gave me a position in his kingdom. He knew that I would serve him even while I was still young."

—Simon Peter Esaku



SIMON PETER ESAKU/WORLD VISION



FAITH LIKE a CHILD

DEFENDER of the DROPOUT

"I ONCE WAS VERY SHY," says Manjula Narayan Sharwad from Holtikoti, India. "I preferred to be in the background, watching others."

Yet Manjula came out of her shell when it counted. In 2008, a classmate named Chamabenna dropped out of school to work on a plantation and help support his family. Manjula, a sponsored child since she was 6, had participated in World Vision's local children's club, where she learned about the importance of education for children. The teen and some of the other club members decided to talk with Chamabenna's parents.

"We were glad his parents listened to us even though we were children," she says. "We told them about child rights, especially the right to education, and how Chamabenna can have a better future if he goes back to school."

Working with World Vision staff, Manjula and her peers arranged for livelihood assistance for Chamabenna's family so that he wouldn't have to work.

In the process, the club members learned that some parents simply don't understand the value of education. Changing adults' attitudes was a challenge, but Manjula was pleased by the results. "I find fulfillment in helping send children back to school," she says.

Manjula, now 20, has set her sights on becoming a police officer—a natural extension of her early efforts to protect children's welfare.

—Cecil Laguardia

CLIMBING MOUNTAINS for a CAUSE



ASTRID ZACIPA/WORLD VISION

TO SPONSOR A CHILD,
use the envelope between pages
16 and 17. Watch videos about
these countries and programs at
www.worldvision.org/videos.

IN THE MOUNTAINOUS TERRAIN of Medellín, Colombia's second-largest city, a 12-year-old girl climbs precipitous stairs to reach the children who live at the top.

Alejandra Ceballos, a sponsored child, makes the same climb every week. As she approaches the elevated neighborhood, more than a dozen children emerge from their makeshift homes of wood, waiting to greet her.

Despite living in a desperately poor family marred by alcohol addiction and violence, Alejandra chooses to spend a weekend morning teaching other children how to live in ways that propagate peace.

As a member of World Vision's Peace Builders youth initiative, Alejandra has learned how to nurture peace through cooperation, respect, and strong values. She passes these virtues on to other children through discussions and games. And she encourages her young entourage to speak out for peace. "The most violated rights of children [are] because of war," Alejandra says.

Through more than 50 years of armed conflict, Colombia's children have been vulnerable to recruitment by armed groups, indiscriminate attacks, sexual violence, displacement, and the threat of unexploded ordnance.

Occasionally, Alejandra explains, people are found dead in the streets near her home, so she does not leave her house after 7 p.m. But she knows violence also can reside at home—in her case, a tiny house without running water inhabited by her parents and six children, ages 4 to 17.

The young peace advocate regularly admonishes her parents to stop swearing, smoking, and drinking. Little has changed, but Alejandra isn't discouraged. "I pray at night and ask God to change my parents," she says.

By any calculation, Alejandra is busy. Her days are filled with carrying water to her home, babysitting, doing homework and, with the support of a scholarship, learning to master multiple symphonic instruments.

Yet when Saturday morning dawns, everything else is put aside as Alejandra scales the hillside to share her passion for peace with other children. ●

—Astrid Zacipa



EMPOWERING YOUTH VOICES

A Filipino youth embraces education to lead change.

By John Lennon

MY NAME IS JOHN LENNON, and I'm the youngest of 13 siblings in a poor family in Sarangani, Philippines. My father died when I was a year old.

My mom is our hero—she juggles all the responsibilities to take care of us. However, she couldn't send us all to school because she doesn't earn much from doing laundry jobs.

World Vision came to our community when I was in second grade, and I became a sponsored child. I believe education is the way out of poverty, and because of World Vision, I was inspired to do my best in my academics.

Now I'm 15, I'm an honor student, and I'm happy that my family is proud of me. I'll graduate from high school next year, and I know I'm on my

way to reach my dreams.

I'm amazed how God is molding me. This year, I participated in World Vision's Children's Congress, an annual gathering of Filipino child leaders. We learned about our rights and responsibilities and developed leadership skills and self-confidence.

I became an active leader in our community to set a good example to the young ones. On weekends and in the summer I do a free tutorial with the youth from our village, teaching the kids how to read and write. I have fun being with them and encouraging their creativity through arts.

I pray that I'll become a teacher, because I want to share my enthusiasm for learning among the poor children in our community. My hope is that World Vision will help more youth like me so that a lot of the little ones will experience hope.

God has revealed to me that even if life seems to be difficult sometimes, nothing is impossible with him. Inspired by "Imagine," the popular song by the other John Lennon, I imagine that my mom won't be working hard anymore. I imagine that the poor kids will finish school. I imagine sharing my talents with the little ones by becoming a teacher. ●

A New York teen
finds her calling and faith.

By Vianeli Garcia

SOME PEOPLE WRESTLE their entire lives searching for their purpose in this world. At 19, I have found my calling.

Early in life, I struggled through unimaginable hardships. Living in foster care in New York City's Washington Heights, I found myself focusing only on the negative. I thought, "Why me?"

Often I had no say about what was going on in my life, and I didn't think any good could come out of me.

at 16, I joined World Vision's Youth Empowerment Program (YEP). The program empowers young people from high-risk neighborhoods to see their potential and change themselves and their communities. I was intrigued by the program's motto, to "Be the change you wish to see in the world."

The program includes a "power shuffle" game, where participants start on the same line, then move forward for positive, or backward for negative experiences. At the end of the exercise, I was standing at the back of the room.

This was just a starting point. Through prayer and encouragement, I soon found my purpose and my voice—and committed to using my gifts to help others.

At 10, I traveled with other YEP teens to Washington, D.C., to let our voices be heard about issues needed in our communities. We worked hard to prepare for the opportunity to speak to our senators, asking them for help.

I was transformed spiritually after reading the book by U.S. President Richard Stearns' book, *Be the Change*. I understood more about the power of faith, and I was ready to give my life to Christ.

Today I know that everything I have accomplished is because God is leading my life. Years later, I'm attending college and serving as a YEP leader, teaching other youth to find their purpose, too. My best advice to youth growing up in difficult circumstances is this: Never give up hope. It's so important, know who you are in Christ.

God has radically changed my life. Thanks to His grace, my voice is more courageous and more educated. I am moving forward with great hope. ●

» To learn more about the Youth Empowerment Program, visit www.worldvision.org/YEP.

"This gives us peace of mind."

As Tim and Andrea Russell began the estate planning process, they were struck by the question, "What would happen to your resources and loved ones if tragedy hit and the Lord took you home?" Now they have an estate plan in place that makes their wishes for their own children known and also provides for children in need. "This gives us peace of mind on all levels," says Andrea.



Tim and Andrea Russell,
World Vision donors since 2000

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A Filipino youth education to le

By John Len

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By Vianeli Garcia

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But this was just a starting point. Through hard work and encouragement, I soon found my strength and my voice—and committed to using these assets to help others.

In 2010, I traveled with other YEP teens to Washington, D.C., to let our voices be heard about change needed in our communities. We worked hard to prepare for the opportunity to speak directly to our senators, asking them for help.

I also was transformed spiritually after reading World Vision U.S. President Rich Stearns' book, *The Hole in Our Gospel*. I understood more about Christian faith, and I was ready to give my life completely to Christ. Today I know that everything I've accomplished is because God is leading my life.

Four years later, I'm attending college and serving as a YEP leader, teaching other youth to find their voices, too. My best advice to youth growing up in difficult circumstances is this: Never give up hope and, most important, know who you are in Christ.

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PRAYING DREAMS INTO REALITY

What does “life to the full” mean to a child?

World Vision invited children in Uganda, the Philippines, Cambodia, Albania, and Nicaragua to describe the life they aspire to live. Their answers are simple but poignant. *Please join us in praying for the precious children we serve together.*

“I have come
that they
may have life,
and have it
to the full.”
-JOHN 10:10



[DREAM]

EDUCATION:

"If I finish school, then I can find a good job... to help my parents."

[REALITY]

Because more than 300 million children ages 5 to 14 are forced to work worldwide, many cannot attend school.

Pray parents embrace the lifelong value of education and find ways to support their families so children don't have to work.

[DREAM]

CAPE FOR CREATION:

"When there are many trees planted."

[REALITY]

Survival practices in many rural communities around the world damage the environment. Trees are wiped out for firewood, land is cleared for unsustainable farming, and fish stocks dwindle in relation to demand.

Pray that reforestation efforts continue to grow, deserts are reclaimed, and environmental resources are protected.

[DREAM]

PRESENCE OF PEACE:

"We don't have conflict. No violence, no fight."

[REALITY]

Armed conflict in 2012 displaced a record 28.8 million people worldwide.

Pray for God's steadfast love to overcome strife, bringing peace among all nations.

[DREAM]

STRONG RELATIONSHIPS: "The family is together."

[REALITY]

Death often separates family members, taking children younger than 5 at a rate of nearly 19,000 children per day.

Pray for the international will to reduce child deaths caused by lack of clean water, food, and healthcare.





XAVIER SKU/WORLD VISION

AIMING HIGHER

A FORMER SPONSORED CHILD HOPES TO SHARE SUCCESS WITH OTHER CHILDREN IN POVERTY.

BY XAVIER SKU AND KRISTY J. O'HARA

Growing up in a poor part of Dhaka, Bangladesh, Razia Akter's (above, far right) greatest wish was to escape the harsh reality of her family's poverty. She dreamed of becoming a NASA astronaut and traveling to the moon. An avid reader, she yearned to explore places she read about, like the Great Pyramids of Egypt.

But it was child sponsorship and education that launched her out of desperate circumstances. And she landed not on the moon but in a bank—still light years from where she started.

In her childhood, Razia saw her father struggle to make enough money to provide food for the family and rent for the

small tin shed room they called home. To augment his meager income as a driver, Razia's mother cleaned houses.

"The area where we lived almost looked like a slum," says Razia, now 28. "The living environment was just chaotic and horrible. It is quite hard, to a growing child, to live normally in such a condition."

Reading was an escape from her family's difficult life. She enjoyed learning, and it showed at school.

"I always used to secure first place in my class," she says. "That gave me boundless joy and happiness, as well as to my family members, at least for some moments."

Those moments of joy began to mount after World Vision

enrolled Razia as a sponsored child when she was 7 years old.

"It was my turning point for a change in my life," she recalls. "Being a sponsored girl, I got special care."

Razia soon had access to healthcare, educational support, and more. She received letters from her sponsor, which she still has today.

In one letter, her sponsor wrote, "All of our family members love you so much. Never stop going to school and having dreams because it is certain if you keep trying, some day you will get good results."

Razia listened to those words. When she graduated from high school, neighbors were flabbergasted.

"Many of our neighbors asked me how my daughter had made it," says Razia's mother, Ojufa Begum. "Their question was very genuine because the reality of such children like my daughter, who are born poor, is normally they drop out from school."

Defying the odds, Razia pushed forward. She graduated from the University of Dhaka, earned an MBA, and landed a job in a private bank as a junior officer—a prestigious position in a desirable industry. She's also involved in cultural activities, anchors a children's cultural TV program, and recites poems at local events.

More importantly, she's a role model for her siblings, who both became good students. Her younger brother, 24, is finishing his bachelor's degree, and her younger sister, 16, is just beginning to plan her educational path.

"If I would have given up my education, my younger brother and sister could not get any direction from anyone in my family," Razia says. "If I was unsuccessful, their history could have been written another way."

While others may be satisfied with a good job and a better life, Razia still aspires to more.

"I want to work for the development of the disadvantaged and the deprived community because I know the techniques of winning in life struggles," she says.

Already, Razia is giving back and helping others. While in her third year of

"I WANT TO WORK FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DISADVANTAGED AND THE DEPRIVED COMMUNITY BECAUSE I KNOW THE TECHNIQUES OF WINNING IN LIFE STRUGGLES."

—RAZIA AKTER

undergraduate studies, she decided she didn't need World Vision's support any longer.

"She requested for us to stop helping her financially, to give that support to poor students," says Aninda Rema, manager of World Vision's Kamalapur project. "We were amazed. She is compassionate for the disadvantaged children."

Now Razia plans to pursue higher education in public health, development studies, or environmental sciences. She recently earned a three-year scholarship to study in Australia, after which she will move back to Bangladesh.

She's grateful for the opportunities that she has had and recognizes how different her life could have been without an education.

"I could have been engaged in child labor or married early if I stopped schooling," Razia says. "I am thankful to World Vision as well as to my sponsor for doing this for me." ●

TO SPONSOR A CHILD see the envelope between pages 16 and 17, or go to www.worldvision.org/ReadandRespond.

World Vision®

WHO WE ARE | World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to 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, healthcare, 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. ●

The Voice of an Angel

BY RENEÉ STEARNS

An excerpt from Rich and Reneé Stearns' new devotional book, *He Walks Among Us: Encounters with Christ in a Broken World*.

When I joined a sorority in college, I was assigned a “big sister.” One of Peggy’s responsibilities was to share an inspirational saying that would remind me what was important about being a sorority sister. So at my initiation ceremony, she presented me with a piece of paper on which Colossians 3:1–4 was inscribed.

Other new members received excerpts from presidential speeches, witty remarks from celebrities, or inspirational thoughts from the likes of Eleanor Roosevelt, but I received life-giving wisdom from the apostle Paul, the essence of which was: Don’t let the values and messages of this present world define you; don’t allow the culture in which you’re immersed to distract you. No matter what is happening around you, keep your eyes on Jesus. Orient your heart and mind toward him who died for you. So many times during the course of my college career, I was grateful that I had committed these verses to memory.

Quiquijana, a Quechua village high in the Andes Mountains of Peru, is a long way from my old sorority house. But it was there that I met a little girl who, for me, captured the essence of Paul’s message to the Colossians. Part of the welcoming committee, 7-year-old Luz Marina brought me flowers and held my hand. But as others toured the village, we stopped so that she could sing a song.

A fire in her home had left her face badly disfigured, she walked with a limp, and she couldn’t raise her arm above her head because of scar tissue. But when she opened her mouth to sing, Luz Marina was transformed; her physical limitations seemed to disappear. She was no longer a burn victim, a scarred child with a limp. As if she simply put aside the injuries that could otherwise have defined her, her mind and her heart seemed to transcend her small, broken body as she sang.



JOHN WARREN/WORLD VISION

Rich and Reneé visit with students in Kisongo, Tanzania.

“Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.”

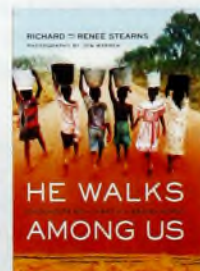
—COLOSSIANS 3:2-3

Each one of us is uniquely made by God, but circumstances sometimes conspire to make us feel less than what God intended. It is then that we most need Paul’s reminder to keep our hearts and minds focused on the truth that is key to our identity: As followers of Christ, we have been raised with him, and as we turn our hearts and minds heavenward, those earthly things that seek to define us—the situation we find ourselves in, the values and opinions of others—lose their power.

In 1922, Helen Lemmel wrote one of my favorite hymns. The chorus begins, Turn your eyes upon Jesus, / Look full in His wonderful face. / And the things of earth will grow strangely dim, / In the light of His glory and grace. If only for a moment, singing enabled Luz Marina to rise above her

circumstances. How much more should the knowledge that our lives are “hidden with Christ in God” enable us to rise above our circumstances and let God’s love define us. ●

Reneé Stearns, an attorney, speaker, and mother of five, lives in the Seattle area. With her husband, Rich, Reneé has traveled the world and met mothers, fathers, and children with incredible stories of faith and joy. Rich and Reneé share many of these stories in their 90-day devotional book featuring spiritual lessons about true identity in Christ, unshakable hope, and remaining faithful in the face of obstacles. Each entry is enhanced with stunning photography by award-winning World Vision photographer Jon Warren.



HE WALKS AMONG US is available from Thomas Nelson publishers in October 2013. To learn more about the devotional book, as well as the Stearns' upcoming children's Bible storybook, *God's Love For You: Sharing His Heart with Children Around the World*, visit www.richstearns.org.

RETROSPECT

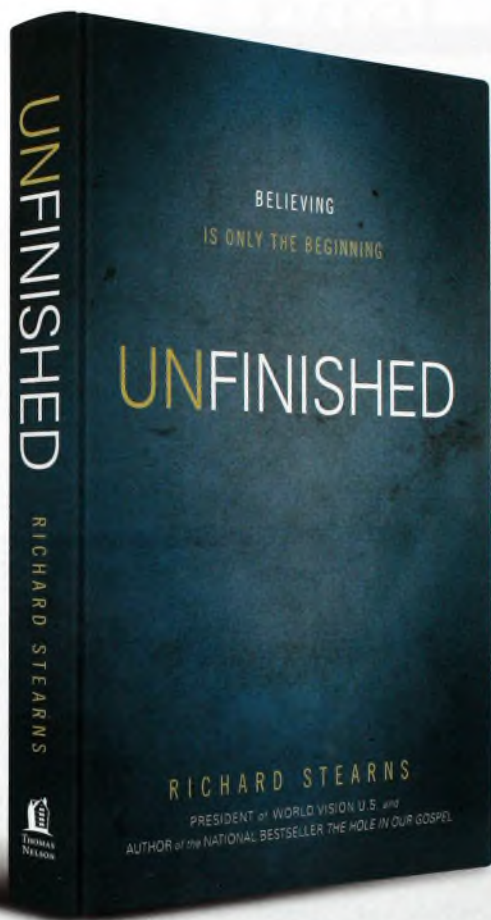


CRISTLYN JOY A. FELISUDA/WORLD VISION

PHILIPPINES

As a rainbow of colored paper planes soar into the sky, so do the dreams of Filipino children. Typhoon Bopha ravaged the Philippines last December, damaging many schools that now serve as makeshift shelters for homeless families. World Vision quickly established Child-Friendly Spaces to give affected children places to learn and heal. The young people wrote their prayers and hopes for the new year on bright pieces of paper, folded the sheets into airplanes, and launched them high into the sky. ●

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Rich Stearns, best-selling author of *The Hole in Our Gospel*, 2010 ECPA Christian Book of the Year Award Winner

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