

# World Vision

AUTUMN 2014

## SECURE IN HIS ARMS

*Grounded in God's  
love, farming  
families thrive*

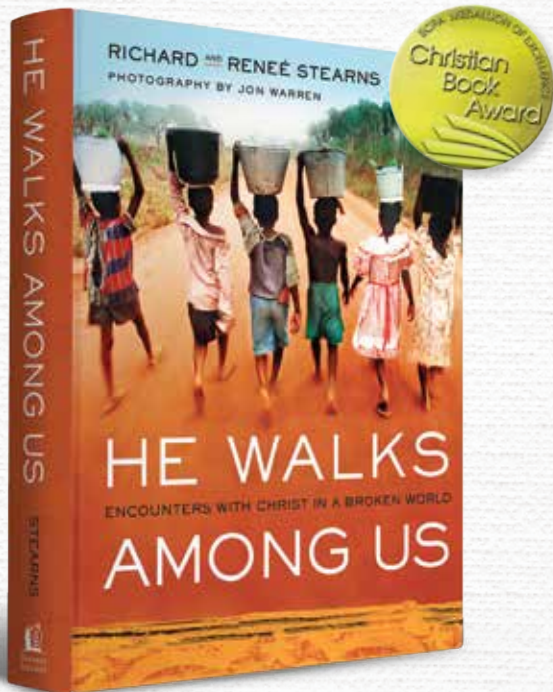
Winner, 2014 Christian Book Award® from the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association



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Nominated for 2014 ECPA Christian Book Award® ("Children" category)



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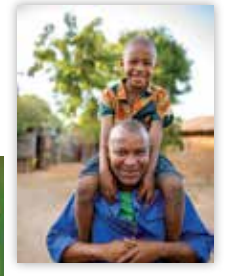
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Mrindwa Manento and his son, Msovu, benefit from an innovative program in Tanzania.

JON WARREN/WORLD VISION



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JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

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TO READ AND SHARE THESE STORIES ONLINE, VISIT [WVMAG.ORG/AUTUMN2014](http://WVMAG.ORG/AUTUMN2014).

# Pursuing the Best

BY RICH STEARNS

Often the most incredible innovations don't require anything new at all. Instead, by putting old things together in a new way, we can create something revolutionary.

For example, cameras and phones have been around for decades. But someone put the two of them together, and now I use my phone to take pictures—especially of my grandchildren—and immediately share them. It's an innovation that allows us to do something people have been doing for a long time, but we do it in a whole new way.

That's what World Vision is doing with a program started three years ago in Tanzania called Securing Africa's Future. This new approach is freeing communities from the grip of poverty faster than anything we have done before.

Securing Africa's Future starts with a biblically empowered worldview that encourages people to view themselves with dignity, possessing God-given abilities. It then combines agricultural training with business development in a unique way that is producing tremendous results. Incomes are doubling and tripling, communities are bonding together to care for each other, and farmers are turning into savvy business owners.

As a result, children are able to go to school. Because parents can adequately provide all of their needs, they are able to look forward to full and healthy lives, rich with opportunity.

In one sense, nothing is new here. World Vision has always done this sort of work. With Securing Africa's Future, however, we are combining these ingredients to produce dramatic effects. I hope that you'll be as excited as I am by this full solution to poverty, which you can learn more about on page 12.

Jesus' ministry and message provide another example of something that had already been around for a long time, yet in innovative ways, Jesus revolutionized the message of the Old Testament.

Jesus said that we are to wholeheartedly love God and to love our neighbors as ourselves—repeating an ancient part of



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

Rich Stearns recently visited Tanzania to learn about the impact of Securing Africa's Future from community member Mrindwa Manento and World Vision staff.

*“See, I am doing a new thing!  
Now it springs up; do you not  
perceive it? I am making a way in  
the wilderness and streams in  
the wasteland.”*

—ISAIAH 43:19

the Jewish law. Launching his ministry, Jesus quoted the centuries-old words of Isaiah when he said he was sent to “proclaim the good news to the poor ... to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor” (Luke 4:18-19).

God had delivered all those messages before through Moses and the prophets.

What was new: God himself came in the person of Jesus Christ to make the announcement once again. With this innovation, Jesus launched a revolution, sending his disciples to go to the broken places in our world and reclaim, reform, and restore them for himself. Nothing

changed, and yet everything did.

God is like that—never changing and yet always new. He is like that in our own lives. After a birth or a death, a disappointment or a celebration, truths that we have known for years can suddenly take on a new life. Passages in the Bible that have long been familiar to us can strike us in a new way.

At World Vision, we have always been motivated by God's call to care for the widows and orphans, to clothe the naked and feed the hungry, and bind the wounds of the hurting. God's call doesn't change. Whatever innovation comes next or whatever changes, we can be assured that—rooted in Scripture and Jesus' calling—we are always pursuing the best ways to follow Jesus.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership in God's work around the world. Your dedication helps provide new vision, opportunity, and hope for millions of families. ●

**FOR MORE FROM RICH** about his latest books, including the updated edition of *The Hole in Our Gospel*, visit [richstearns.org](http://richstearns.org).

# FRONTLINES



DANIEL MUNGWORLD VISION

## PAGE TURNER

**Reading under a spotlight** might not seem like a world-changing act. But for 8-year-old Rekha Bag, studying past sundown is one step toward equality.

Loisingha, India, faces struggles like increasing drought and an education gap between girls and boys. The traditional caste system prevents lower-caste families like Rekha's from drawing water from wells belonging to higher caste families or entering their homes—and discourages girls from attending school.

The second grader and her sisters are defying local practices, and Rekha's dedication to her education is creating a new path for her—and for the next generation. "I want to become a teacher," she says.

So after the sun sets at the end of a long day in class, Rekha studies by the light of the fireplace or under a street lamp behind her house. And with each page she turns, she's breaking barriers for herself and the girls of Loisingha. ●

## FAST FACT

If all students obtained basic reading skills in school, 171 million people could be lifted out of poverty.

Source: UNESCO's 2013/2014 Education For All Global Monitoring Report

## BEST IN CLASS

Find out how countries around the world rank in education achievements.

### — MOST — IMPROVED

#### VIETNAM

Out-of-school populations decreased by 91 percent, dropping from 436,000 to 39,000.

### — MOST — LIKELY TO SUCCEED

#### BRAZIL

Reforms are tackling education inequality between states.

### — MOST — WELL-ROUNDED

#### TANZANIA

Education receives more than 6 percent of the nation's GDP.

### — MOST — OUTSTANDING

#### JORDAN

Teachers serve both Syrian refugee and Jordanian students in overcrowded classrooms.

#### NOT JUST PLAYING HOOKY

Countries with more than 1 million children out of school, largely due to poverty:

Nigeria: 10.5 million

Pakistan: 5.4 million

Ethiopia: 1.7 million

India: 1.7 million

Philippines: 1.5 million

Cote d'Ivoire: 1.2 million

Burkina Faso: 1 million

Kenya: 1 million

Source: UNESCO's 2013/2014 Education For All Global Monitoring Report

**JORDAN | REFUGEE RELIEF**

More than three years after the conflict in Syria began, refugees continue to pour into Jordan and other neighboring countries to flee ongoing violence. In the arid desert 60 miles east of Amman, a new city has risen from the rocky soil to accommodate the displaced. Azraq Refugee Camp accepts several hundred Syrian refugees each day and is expected to eventually house more than 130,000 people. World Vision helped build infrastructure in Azraq by providing water, sanitation, and hygiene for 30,000 people in the camp.



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

**CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC | VIOLENCE SURGES**

Since December 2013, thousands have been killed in Central African Republic, and nearly 1 million—almost a quarter of the population—have fled their homes due to widespread sectarian violence. Political control of the country caused the fighting, but the violence is masked as a religious conflict. Many areas remain volatile and inaccessible to humanitarian groups, and the United Nations estimates that 2.5 million people need immediate relief. Working with a local partner organization, World Vision will provide

water and sanitation services to 20,000 people and distribute seeds and agricultural tools so displaced families can raise crops to reduce hunger.

**CHILE | YOUTH RESPONDERS**

A magnitude-8.2 earthquake shook coastal Chile in April, killing six people and causing a 7-foot tsunami. As emergency personnel responded, a network of World Vision-trained youth came to their assistance to provide basic medical aid, counseling for disaster survivors, and emergency communications. Since 2012, more than 12,000 community leaders and youth in 14 Latin American

countries have trained as emergency first responders with World Vision. ●



**EDITORS' PICKS**

Get the best of World Vision magazine with our free monthly digital digest. You'll receive the best stories, photos, and videos from the magazine (both print and digital)—all handpicked by our editors and sent straight to your inbox. **Sign up at [wvmag.org/digest](http://wvmag.org/digest).**

**HUNGER PANGS**

**Around the world, 842 million people regularly went to bed hungry in 2013. That's a big number, but it's down from 868 million in 2012—a difference of about 26 million people, roughly the population of Texas.**

*Countries with the highest proportion of undernourished people:*

1. Burundi\* — 67.3%
2. Eritrea — 61.3%
3. Haiti\* — 49.8%
4. Zambia\* — 43.1%
5. Ethiopia\* — 37.1%
6. Swaziland\* — 35.8%
7. Democratic Republic of the Congo\* — 33%
8. Tanzania\* — 33%
9. Zimbabwe\* — 30.5%
10. Guatemala\* — 30.5%

\*Countries where World Vision is working to eliminate poverty



BRUNO CO./WORLD VISION

Source: U.N. State of Food Insecurity in the World report, 2013



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

Mark and Jennifer Smith celebrate as new wells are drilled in arid Ethiopia.

“I watched them get more and more uncomfortable the more I drank, and I could see it sink in,” Jennifer says. Her message was clear: “If you aren’t comfortable with me drinking dirty water, then you shouldn’t be comfortable with anyone drinking it.”

And so the annual Water4Life Ride was born. Four years later, more than 450 bikers participate, and thousands of kids now have life-long access to clean water. The events have raised more than \$166,000 to date.

Riders include men covered in tattoos and leather and housewives wearing pink tops studded with rhinestones. The Smiths aren’t surprised.

“This is something everyone can connect with,” Mark says.

The couple first got a glimpse into the world’s need for water when they read World Vision U.S. President Rich Stearns’ book *The Hole in Our Gospel*. Jennifer says reading about how 2,000 children die needlessly each day from disease-infested water was a very personal call to action. She thought immediately of her own two children.

“I couldn’t imagine having no choice but to give my babies water that would make them sick,” says Jennifer, who became sick herself after she drank the dirty water that day. (See page 26 to pray for children without access to clean water.)

Their passion has taken the Smiths to rural Africa to see the need for water firsthand. Now they are inspired to live with less so others can have more.

To Mark and Jennifer, one of the greatest rewards is seeing how God uses their talent and position as the owners of one of the most successful Harley stores in the nation.

“God led us to use our business to help children without something as simple as clean water,” Jennifer says. “We encourage others to ‘use what you have’ to make a difference in the lives of the poor and vulnerable in this world.” ●

—Lauren Fisher

# BOUNTIFUL BIKERS

*Hundreds of Texans ride to provide children with clean water.*

**The task sounded impossible.** How could a roomful of die-hard Texan bikers be convinced to support children they would never meet to solve a problem most Americans couldn’t imagine?

For Fort Worth Harley-Davidson store owners Mark and Jennifer Smith, it just took a few sips.

At a meeting to present the couple’s idea for a ride to raise funds for more World Vision-drilled wells in Africa, Jennifer improvised. She carried a clear mug filled with dirty water, sipping as she told those gathered about the need for clean water in developing counties. A few hours earlier, Jennifer had asked Mark to get her dirty water. He and their children added dirt from their backyard to the cup.





## WHY I LOVE BEING A CHILD SPONSOR

**LENORE DIVINEY**  
SNOQUALMIE, WASH.

I've always wanted to sponsor a child, but as a stay-at-home mother of three, it wasn't in the budget. But when I saw a World Vision booth at a local concert, I made a promise to God. I told him I would not purchase a single latte for one year in order to put that coffee money toward sponsoring a child. I love my coffee, but I love God's children more. I made it through the whole year.

I'm thankful I made that choice because our sponsored child, Ronnett, is a welcome addition to our family, and we pray for her nightly with our children. It keeps our eyes open to the bigger picture of living out a life of love and kindness. I feel that God honored my simple, somewhat silly sacrifice. We have even sponsored a second child in India with the same birthdate as our daughter.

Now, every time I sip my favorite latte, I am reminded of all the children receiving God's love through World Vision sponsors—and how a small "giving up" of ourselves can lead to a wonderful "giving in" to our Savior's plan of provision for children in need. ●

*"I love my coffee, but I love God's children more."*

### TELL US YOUR STORY.

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

## ON OUR BOOKSHELF

Check out **World Vision** magazine editors' picks for compelling back-to-school reads. Order these titles using discount code *Autumn2014* at [wvmag.org/books](http://wvmag.org/books).

### **He Walks Among Us**

by Rich and Renée Stearns

winner, Evangelical Christian Publishers Association's 2014 Christian Book Award® in the Inspiration category

### **Man of Vision**

by Marilee Pierce Dunker

### **Unfinished**

by Rich Stearns

### **The Hole in Our Gospel**

updated edition

by Rich Stearns

### **Walking With**

**The Poor**

by Bryant Myers

### **Where the Wind Leads**

by Vinh Chung

LINDESE MINERVA/WORLD VISION



## 50 States of Sponsorship: Get Involved!

**Calling all child sponsors!** World Vision magazine wants to include your sponsorship story in a fun project that will feature sponsors in all 50 states. Tell us how sponsoring a child has touched your life at [wvmag.org/50states](http://wvmag.org/50states).

## TEACH CHILDREN CREATIVE GENEROSITY



FREE

**World Vision's free Christmas story-based curriculum** makes learning generosity an exciting experience for children ages 5 to 10. Based on opportunities to give through World Vision's Gift Catalog, this four-week curriculum educates and inspires using video, activities, and simple discussions. Putting feet to the lessons, children also can purchase essentials for families in need, such as goats, chickens, school supplies, and medicine. As they learn about God's love for them, they help children around the world, leading young hearts closer to God's love for families who are poor. ●

*"The curriculum pointed to the gospel and helped open the children's eyes to the needs of kids their age around the world, who are in challenging circumstances."*

—Larissa Jay, Grace Christian Church, Tinton Falls, N.J.

**DOWNLOAD** this curriculum for FREE at [worldvision.org/churchgc](http://worldvision.org/churchgc).

# PASSION WITH PURPOSE

*Washington couple sacrifices to help dozens of sponsored children.*



Tracy and Mike Evans keep mementos from all of their sponsored children.

ANDREA PEER/WORLD VISION

**T**racy Evans arrived home elated after volunteering for World Vision at a recent Harlem Globetrotters game, where she helped 25 children receive sponsors. Her husband, Mike, was simply relieved that his wife didn't sponsor another child.

"He used to be fearful because I was apt to come home with another kid," says Tracy, who today has a "family" of 26 sponsored children.

Tracy, a 51-year-old mother of two from Olympia, Washington, didn't write much to the first child she sponsored in 2010 at a Family Christian Store. But when she did, she always received a letter back.

Her passion began to grow as Tracy understood sponsorship is a relationship, not an obligation. "He really does receive our mail; he really does know who we are," she says.

This insight sparked Tracy's urge to

sponsor more children. She soon returned to the Family Christian Store, just to look at the children awaiting sponsors. She sponsored one more—but returned less than two hours later to sponsor another who had touched her heart.

Tracy regularly popped in to the store to look at the children who needed sponsors. She couldn't sponsor all of them, but she often took their prayer cards. Sometimes she'd sponsor another child.

Family Christian Store staff and customers soon saw her love for the children. "Every one of her sponsored children has been shared with us," store manager Julie Hansen says. "She'd bring in letters and pictures."

Sponsorship impacts her family too. Mike may still hold his breath when she goes to the Family Christian Store, but he sees her passion and supports it—even as bills became harder to pay, testing the couple's

faith in God to provide.

But they never wavered. "I'd rather do this than buy clothes or go out to eat. I've learned to trust him," says Tracy, who sponsors because she can't imagine the pain of a mother not able to provide for her child. Her commitment to these children is so great that she and Mike tried selling their house to sponsor more children, but she says it hasn't been God's timing yet.

"We may say [about sponsorship], 'Maybe someday,'" Tracy says. "This is a child—you don't say to your own kids, 'Maybe someday I'll give you food.' They might die."

What started as an obligation has grown into her life's purpose. Tracy can't imagine anything else. "[God] can work in places I can't be. I can have a part in his work in the heart of someone else." ● —Kristy J. O'Hara

## SHARING SPONSORSHIP

Get a close-up view of your sponsored child's life.



Recent innovations allow child sponsors more ways than ever to see into the lives of their sponsored children and communities. Get connected and experience their world—sign in to [myworldvision.org](http://myworldvision.org) to:

**View** photos of your sponsored child.

**Watch** a video to discover what life is like in your child's community—and the difference you are making (now available for most communities).

**Send** an email to your child with an option to attach photos.

**Read** the latest sponsorship news and tips.

## WITNESS TO A VISION: LOCAL HERO

**Thirty years ago**, Girma Wondafresh made a bold move. He was a local official in Antsokia Valley, Ethiopia, an area firmly in the grip of famine in 1984. Hundreds of people had died, including his own baby son, from a cholera outbreak spreading through the weakened population. Help would not come unless someone went after it, he realized.

On foot and by bus, Girma trekked 220 miles from Antsokia to Addis Ababa, the capital. There he connected with World Vision relief workers, who told him that they could only provide aid if he built an airfield for planes to land. So Girma did. Back in Antsokia, he marshaled thousands of half-starved people to manually transform a barren field into an airstrip. They finished just as World Vision's plane appeared in the sky.

Thanks to Girma, now 75, famine stays safely in the history books for today's children of Antsokia Valley. World Vision sponsorship has helped transform the region, and children

know only abundance in food, clean water, schools, markets, and churches. Hunger is a cautionary tale. "If I have extra food that I don't want to eat, my mum tells me that in 1984 there wasn't any food for us to eat, so we must save this," says Bereket, 11. "So I do." ●

**READ MORE** about Ethiopia 30 years later at [wvmag.org/Ethiopia](http://wvmag.org/Ethiopia).



ALEXANDER WHITTLE/WORLD VISION

## CHANGE AGENT



COURTESY FERRETTI FAMILY

**NAME** Ferretti Family

**HOME** New York City

**PROGRAM** World Vision Micro

**THE BUZZ** When it comes to creative fundraising, the Ferretti family has discovered a sizzling commodity. Eight years ago, they made three bottles of hot sauce from a kit their sons, Andrew and Luke, received as a gift. The next year, they grew enough hot peppers to make 12 bottles. The tiny business continued to grow, and the family produced more than 1,000 bottles last year.

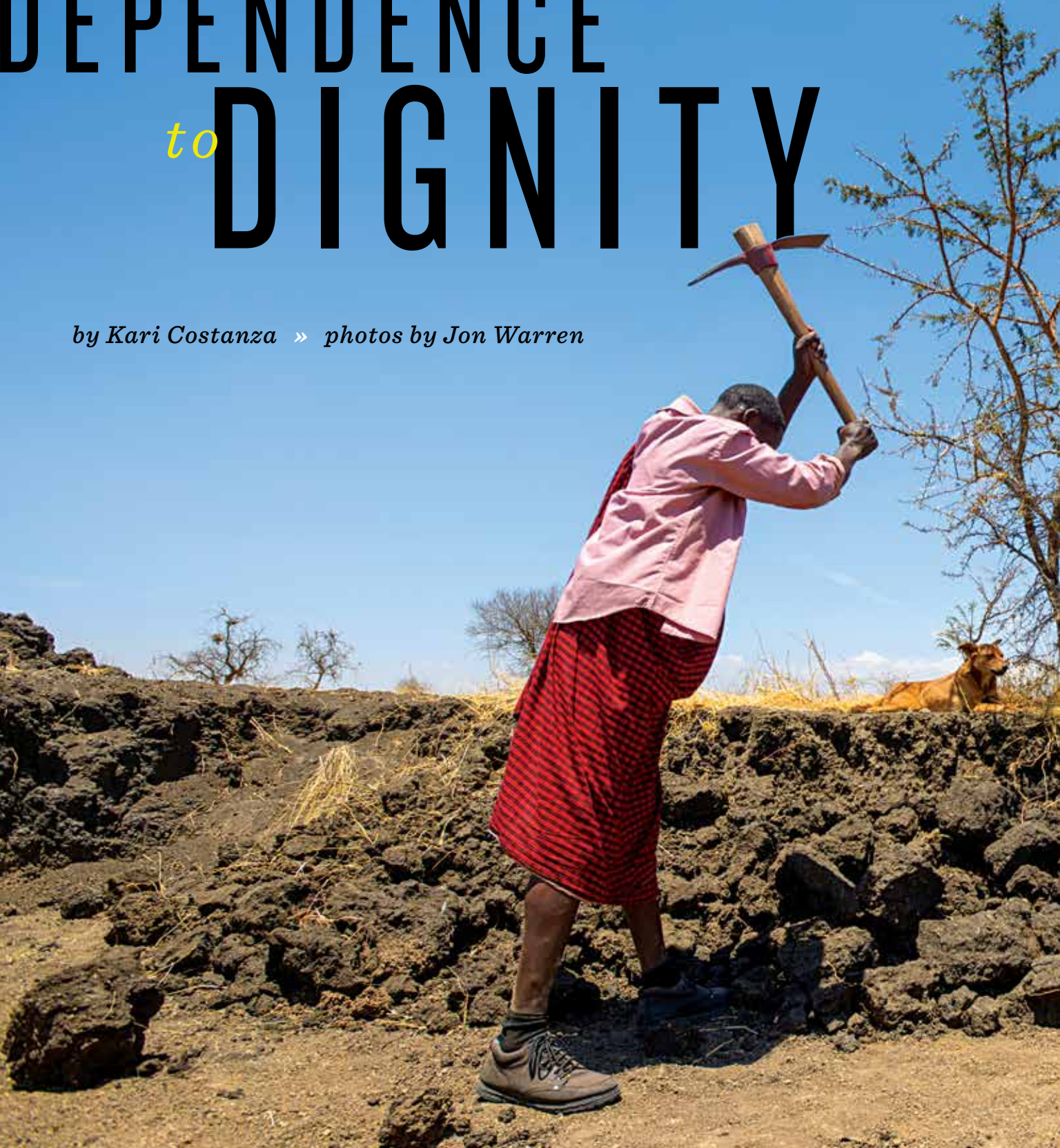
Bob was elated as his homemade sauce grew in popularity, but he had no intention of keeping the profits. He and his wife, Laurie, sponsor two children through World Vision, so they decided to use the funds to also support budding entrepreneurs in developing countries.

World Vision Micro ([wvmicro.org](http://wvmicro.org)) provides start-up funds to people in impoverished communities who have business ideas but no access to loans to follow through on their dreams. As borrowers repay their loans, the funds are recycled to help other business owners.

Bob's family, which has supported eight entrepreneurs, prefers to find people with agriculture or pepper-growing ideas. "My wife and I have been blessed in our life, and we find the greatest joy when we have the opportunity to do something good for others," Bob says. "In a small way, this is our faith in action." ●

*from*  
DEPENDENCE  
*to*  
DIGNITY

*by Kari Costanza » photos by Jon Warren*





**In northern Tanzania** lives a village of farmers and livestock breeders who used to keep one eye on their grazing animals and the other skyward—watching for rain. Today, they are focusing downward, feet planted firmly on rich soil, reworking their lives shovel by shovel.

# START WITH AN UNPREDICTABLE CLIMATE.

Add a portion of destructive cultural values. Stir in some fear. The result: a recipe for ruin. “Tanzanians are a people with harmful belief systems,” says Tim Andrews, World Vision’s national director in Tanzania, “a culture steeped in a socialist past, a fatalistic outlook, ancestor worship, fear of witchcraft, and corruption.” The consequences are soul crushing, he says. Poverty robs people of their worth. And then you have the rain—too much, too little, or at the wrong time. But with help from an innovative program called Securing Africa’s Future, World Vision has figured out how to reverse the course, leading entire communities of hardworking, God-gifted people from dependence to dignity.

World Vision’s Elibariki Mary and farmer Nagenjwa Naffai examine one of the ingredients to Securing Africa’s Future’s success: SARO 5 rice.





With a new life as a father and a farmer, Mrindwa Manento contemplates the land he now works to protect.



## A RICE FIELD EPIPHANY

Doing things differently is the hallmark of Securing Africa's Future, developed by Tim and a host of visionary teammates. A 25-year veteran of World Vision, Tim, 55, has been national director of the organization's office in Tanzania for four years. In his first five months on the job, he was determined to visit every project in the country, spending a total of just two hours at his desk in that time.

It was in 2010, while standing in a rice paddy in Makindube village with a farmer, that Tim had an epiphany. The farmer's harvest was good, but she was dejected. "She'd lost 40 percent of her harvest due to poor storage, was offered only low prices by middlemen, and couldn't afford school fees for her children," says Tim. "Worst of all, they were malnourished. She couldn't afford protein for their diet. She knew that rice traders would take advantage of her as a solo farmer once again."

Makindube has a large irrigation system and fairly predictable weather. Farming should be profitable. "I'm standing in the Garden of Eden," Tim thought, "and the devil is still in control." To wrest control from the devil would take a strategy based on experience, innovation, and prayer.

"I prayed with and listened to a multitude of wise counselors," says Tim. "World Vision global, regional, and local leaders, external consultants, and—profoundly so—the community members themselves." Securing Africa's Future was born. (See graphic on pages 16-17)

"By far, the most important thing we do is facilitate a mindset shift from dependency to a biblically empowered worldview," says Tim. "A biblically empowered worldview understands that God is sovereign, not the state, not the non-governmental organizations, not the spirits, not fate, not even fear itself. Individuals matter."

—continued on page 18

# SECURING AFRICA'S FUTURE: HOW IT WORKS

*Innovative approaches equip smallholder farmers to achieve dramatic results.*

## MANAGING CREATION'S NATURAL RESOURCES

Farmers work together to manage community natural resources like forests, pastures, and watersheds. These provide not only needed fuel and food, but also the water, bees, and birds the farm needs to increase crops, pollination, and insect control.

## CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE

Farmers recognize that God is empowering them to transform their communities, so they learn to be good stewards of their land by rotating crops, actively managing soil fertility, vigorously harvesting water, avoiding toxic chemicals, and more.

## DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Farmers employ early warning systems to anticipate and respond to potential threats such as flood, drought, food shortages, fluctuating prices, pests, and disease.





TO HELP MORE FARMERS SECURE  
THEIR FAMILIES' FUTURE,  
USE THE ATTACHED ENVELOPE.

## INCREASED PROFITS

As farmers learn to enrich soil, improve plant quality, ensure access to water, and manage microloans, they reduce loss, increase harvests, have better access to markets, and grow income.

## SAVINGS GROUPS

Savings provide families with a cushion against emergencies and a means to meet household needs or grow a business. Group members regularly deposit money in a shared savings box, take out and repay loans as needed, and contribute to a fund that helps community members in need.



## TEAMWORK

Farmers organize into producer groups, working together to connect with suppliers, buyers, transportation, technology, cooperative storage, and more.

—continued from page 15

## EMPOWERING GOD'S PEOPLE

**H**elping people believe they matter is one of the primary components of Securing Africa's Future. For Mrindwa Manento, 46, World Vision's training on empowerment and spiritual transformation changed his life. "We have dependency syndrome," he says. "We depend on Europeans and Americans."

After independence from Britain in 1961, Tanzania became a socialist nation. The government forced farmers to move into Soviet-style farming collectives, fostering bitterness, low morale, and, ultimately, failure.

Through Securing Africa's Future, Mrindwa learned that each person has value where they are. "God loves us," he says. "He gave us our legs, our land, our minerals, and our wildlife. Because of the training, I am organizing myself to use my brain to help myself and help the community."

Participating in a World Vision course called Celebrating Families, a faith-based curriculum for parents, Mrindwa found peace as a father. "Celebrating Families transformed my life," he says. "I was, before, like a lion. My wife would run. My children would hide. Now I am a friend to my family."

Once community members learn that they have the power to make lasting change, Securing Africa's Future organizes farmers into groups, often people from the same villages—neighbors who have known each other for years.

Instead of working on their own, they now work together to access better seeds and fertilizers and move their products to market. Today, farmers are learning to plant properly instead of relying on traditional methods that didn't always work.

Tim and his team reached out to partners to support the farmers. Farm Concern International, an organization that supports farmers in Africa, helped organize farmers into groups. VisionFund, World Vision's microfinance agency, provided credit for farmers to buy better seeds, including SARO 5, a rice variety with a higher yield that smells and tastes better than its competitors' rice. World Vision also contracted with MicroEnsure, an organization specializing in providing insurance to small farms in case bad weather destroyed their crops.

Like the woman Tim met in the field in 2010, other Makindube farmers struggled to profit from their hard labor. Greedy brokers would take advantage of farmers



# “GOD LOVES US. HE GAVE US OUR LEGS, OUR LAND, OUR MINERALS, AND OUR WILDLIFE.”

—*Mrindwa Manento*

who had no way to store their harvest, so they had to sell their rice at a low price.

Now farmers are protected from those brokers. Their small farmer collectives feed into bigger groups called commercial villages, which act as a legislature for the cooperatives. The commercial village ensures that growers have access to storage systems for their products. When farmers are able to store their rice, maize, or other crops, they can decide when they want to sell it, instead of having to sell it all at one time at a lower price.

“Our target is to eliminate 100 percent of those greedy middlemen,” says Makalius Charles, who runs Securing Africa’s Future in Makindube. Makalius says they’ve shut down about 80 percent of the problem.

Farmers now plant the same amount of seed but get bigger harvests. They meet regularly to discuss marketing, pricing, farming techniques, and technology. Makindube has 179 such groups, with 6,700 members. And as a rising tide lifts all boats, more than 4,000 local farmers who aren’t involved directly in Securing Africa’s Future also benefit.

“Many more buyers came to the community than previous years,” Tim says, adding that higher demand helped increase all farmers’ income.

## PROTECTING EACH OTHER

**W**orld Vision encourages each group to save money, providing these small, powerhouse farming teams with savings opportunities they never had before. Members purchase shares with their earnings, borrowing against them when they have medical bills or need to buy school supplies for their children—decisions that are family-focused.

Before a group member can buy a share, he or she must contribute 500 Tanzanian shillings, or 30 cents, to a social fund. It all adds up. When a group member has an emergency, a sick child, or an unexpected need, they can draw from the social fund at no interest.

The savings groups offer another benefit: growth in financial literacy. As group members develop financial acumen, they can take advantage of low-interest loans from VisionFund of Tanzania.

These improvements are good for

Counting their blessings and their savings—an all-female savings group banks weekly under a tree in Makindube.



## MAPPING THE FUTURE

**Securing Africa’s Future** is rolling out in 62 World Vision projects in Tanzania, with the intent to expand across East, West, and Southern Africa.

In Tanzania, the program is moving west, where the weather is hot and dry. In Maasai communities, villagers are digging water pans to capture precious rainfall. They are learning to raise poultry, with Tyson Foods Inc., providing the expertise.



In the Babati area of northeast Tanzania, where Mbuyuni village is located, staff have already conducted biblically empowered worldview training with more than 100 people—a wide-ranging group including farmers, beekeepers, fish farmers, entrepreneurs, savings group members, and those who raise cattle, goats, poultry, and pigs.

In Babati, staff use the latest technology to survey the area. They employ Android tablets to get instant data for a baseline survey and use GPS coordinates to create project maps. This resource settles boundary disputes in an area known for open grazing of livestock.



Dry, windy Mbuyuni village lacks the water supply of Makindube, but farmers are creating water pans to combat nature.

people and good for the environment. Mrindwa chairs a natural resources committee in Makindube. In his lifetime, he has seen environmental change. “This was a forest,” he says, pointing at the nearby hills, “but now the forest is far away. There used to be lions and leopards here. They left.”

People in the village cut trees nearby to make charcoal for fuel, until Mrindwa’s group declared a cutting-free zone and levied fines on abusers. Community members planted ficus trees to preserve the land from wind and water erosion and installed energy-efficient stoves that use coconut husks for fuel instead of charcoal.

Organic farming is a key ingredient in the farmers’ success. Growers are cultivating virgin land and learning to make their own compost from natural materials. Some are now harvesting four times the rice they produced previously. Soon, these organic vegetables will be shipped to foreign markets.

“Tanzania offers unique opportunities for small-scale farmers to compete in today’s global markets with high quality, organically grown food,” says Larry Jacobs, who directs another Securing Africa’s Future innovation, the Great African Food Co. The state-of-the-art plant in north-east Tanzania cools and packs vegetables to ship abroad.

Securing Africa’s Future is a success in Makindube. In the first year, the program raised the income of 5,095 farmers from \$7.8 million to \$18.9 million. Tim Andrews says that in the future, this extra income could truly change the landscape.

“What if we could support these communities to develop mechanisms so they could tax themselves on 10 to 20 percent of their incremental income?” he asks. “Can you imagine? On \$11 million, that’s \$1 million or \$2 million a year. With that sort of tax base, there is no reason at all why those villages couldn’t have the best schools, healthcare, and road systems in the country.”

There have been bumps along the way. The year after Makindube’s watershed success, the area experienced both drought and floods. At the same time, the government decided to import rice that competed with farmers in Makindube. Despite the setbacks, enthusiasm for Securing Africa’s Future in Makindube is over the moon. The farmers now know what success looks like, what it takes to get there, and that they are in control.

## THE NEXT MAKINDUBE

Could Securing Africa’s Future be effective in a place without a ready supply of water, where culture traditionally devalues women and farmers count on luck for a good harvest? The World Vision team went to Mbuyuni village—seven hours by car



THE FARMERS  
NOW KNOW  
WHAT SUCCESS  
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WHAT IT TAKES  
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from Makindube—in northern Tanzania to find out.

Aloisi Lomayani, 46, has always lived in Mbuyuni. It's where he met his wife, Naini, 34. The couple has six children, a cat, and two dogs named Simba and Kali. *Simba* means lion in Swahili, while *Kali* means fierce—ferocious names for two happy, tail-wagging mutts.

The family lives on 200 acres in a house made of cow dung. But in this last farming season, they planted only 50 acres and harvested a mere six bags of beans and grain. It was just too dry.

“We had given up. We were living in a hopeless situation,” says Aloisi. “Our crops, our cows, our goats are our bank. With good harvests, we have money to send our children to school. Without our crops, our cows, and our goats, we cannot send them to school. Weather is constantly on my mind.”

When it rains, the family springs into action. “We run to the farm. We start planting. It doesn't matter if it isn't completely prepared. We just start putting in seeds,” says Naini. “Even Esther goes. She mostly just gives us instructions, though.” Esther is only 4.

“The rains used to come from the end of October through January,” says Aloisi. “Now, everything has changed. Changes in climate not only cause problems for farmers, but for cattle keepers. If there is no rain, we have no crops and nothing to feed our animals.”

#### THE ROAD TO YATTA

**I**n August 2013, World Vision invited 51 Mbuyuni villagers to travel by bus eight hours north to Yatta, Kenya, for training. Only four of the villagers had ever been out of the country. As they left Mbuyuni, they burst into song.

“When we were driving, we passed an area with big trees,” says Martha Melame, 33. The bus became abuzz with dialogue: “If we had those big trees, we would have cut them down for charcoal.” There was livestock—but it wasn't roaming freely. “We saw cows in a pen,” she says. “They weren't eating the neighbor's grass. They looked





good, compared to our cows.”

Chickens in Yatta were kept in chicken coops—a novel idea. “We don’t keep our chickens in a coop, and the eagles take them away,” Martha says.

Then they saw the water pans. About five years ago, Bishop Titus Masika of the Anglican Church of Kenya convinced the people of Yatta that if they dug water pans, they could capture rain and create a consistent water supply for their crops. Tim had heard about the Bishop’s work.

“Yatta just blows your socks off,” says Tim. “This was a community that could not afford to buy a matchbox. People would wake up in the morning, look for where the smoke was rising, and walk to borrow a bit of coal from whoever had fire.”

Martha Melame, 33, a Mbuyuni farmer, now has a big dream for her children: to take them to a Tanzanian game park to see wildlife.

Today, Yatta’s dry land is fruitful, but Bishop Masika’s initiative transformed more than the land. He also began challenging old mindsets and encouraging people to believe they had potential.

The Mbuyuni farmers returned from Yatta with a new vision, and they began digging up a storm—120 water pans are underway. As in Makindube, they are forming small, powerful groups—27 so far—that will help them grow and sell their vegetables, save for their children’s future, and support one another. Their work has inspired their neighbors to dig their own pans. One mother of seven even began digging a water pan with her bare hands.

Similar scenes of transformation will play out all over Tanzania and across Africa as World Vision rolls out Securing Africa’s Future in rural contexts in Africa to help families cope with poverty, drought, and external shocks.

Aloisi and his family are constructing a giant water pan—perhaps the biggest in the area.

“My children will have a better life,” says Aloisi, “They will not have a life by *bahatisha*,” the Swahili word for luck.

“My father loves this project,” says daughter Jenipha, 15. “The extra money we get will be used to buy more seeds and to pay for our education. My father won’t have to sell a cow now.”

For Aloisi’s wife, Naini, good crops will no longer come through luck. “Now I am assured that if I plant, even with no rain, I will water my beans until they come up,” she says. “This is the first time I’ve felt this in all of my life.” Now empowered, Naini heads one of the community’s savings groups.

Aloisi, a committed Roman Catholic, is reverent when speaking about the turn of events in Mbuyuni. “Myself and the community received this training as salvation,” he says.

“I PRAY FOR THE DAY. FOR THE BLESSINGS OF THE LORD. TO LEAD ME. TO GUIDE ME. TO PROTECT ME.”

—Frida Peter

## FRIDA TRANSFORMED

**A**loisi's neighbor, Frida Peter, 34, trained in Yatta as well. Once that bus pulled back into Mbuyuni village, she quickly convinced her husband that digging a water pan was a worthwhile project.

"Who will help us?" he asked her. "Is there assistance we can be given?" Frida responded: "No. It is you. You will be taught to do it. If possible, you'll get some tools. It is time to quit being dependent. It is time to just do it." Frida's husband started digging.

Frida then took on the chicken problem, reaching out to her neighbors. "I told them, 'Why do you keep your chickens roaming around? If we put them together and take care of them, we can grow even more.'" She gathered a group of six women and two men and they built a chicken coop—everyone bringing what they had. The coop is a patchwork of chicken wires and mismatched wood, but it is solid and will hold plenty of hens. Now the group is saving money to

Frida Peter, in red, with daughter, Belinda, left, is advised on farming and finances by World Vision's Pamela Shao, center, who manages Securing Africa's Future in Mbuyuni.

buy chickens.

In Yatta, Frida learned one-acre farming techniques—dividing land into one-acre plots and farming crops for use at home and for profit. Each crop ripens at a different time, so farmers always have a harvest. She'll grow onions, tomatoes, sweet potatoes, maize, and lablab beans to sell. Soon the family will harvest vegetables they've never eaten. "I want to try something called salad," says daughter, Belinda, 12.

Frida is driven, but she begins every day in the quiet of the morning in prayer. "I pray for the day," she says. "For the blessings of the Lord. To lead me. To guide me. To protect me."

Because of Securing Africa's Future, people like Frida know that even in a place with little rain, a culture of dependence, and social mores that hold back progress, anything is possible through planning, persistence, and prayer—when you know you are God's beloved. ●

—*Mercy Kimaro, Lena Renju, and Pamela Shao of World Vision in Tanzania contributed to this story.*



SEE MORE PHOTOS OF WORLD VISION'S WORK IN MAKINDUBE AND MBUYUNI AT [WVMAG.ORG/AUTUMN2014](http://WVMAG.ORG/AUTUMN2014)





# TAPPING TECHNOLOGY

*Common tech tools bring new opportunity to isolated communities worldwide.*

BY CHRIS HUBER » ILLUSTRATIONS BY ASHLEY WALTON

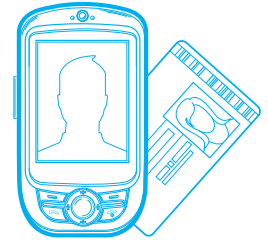
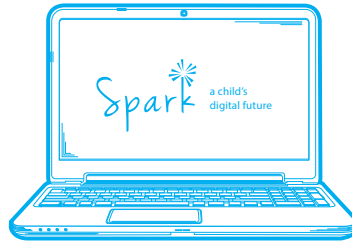
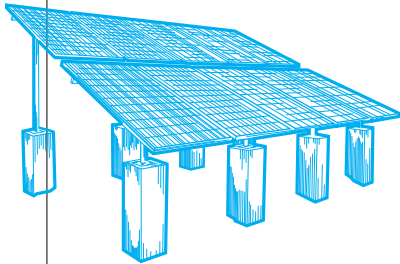
Solar panels, mobile phone apps, and Internet connectivity are commonplace in the United States, but these technological advances are revolutionizing remote communities around the globe. Here's a look at four technologies World Vision uses to bring new opportunity and hope to families in extreme poverty. >>

DAVID DUCHEMIN/WORLD VISION





**MORE INNOVATION:** LEARN HOW THAI STUDENTS WON A ROYAL AWARD AT [WVMAG.ORG/AUTUMN2014](http://WVMAG.ORG/AUTUMN2014).



{ 1 }

## SIPHONING THE SUN'S POWER

### SOLAR ENERGY

**IMPROVES** lives globally by powering water pumps in post-Typhoon Haiyan Philippines, illuminating isolated maternity clinics in India, and warding off lions that roam in rural African villages. In the last three years, World Vision also outfitted 75 deep-water sources in Kenya with solar panels, bringing water to the surface faster and more efficiently than other pumps. Each water source serves about 2,700 people. The panels eliminate the need for fuel. They also lower operating costs, allowing communities to pay off the pumps in five years through minimal user fees. That's almost twice as quickly as with a diesel pump. "The greatest benefit is the good hygiene, thus elimination of waterborne diseases," says Francis Huhu, World Vision's drilling manager in Kenya. "Children have uninterrupted school attendance, thus a better future for them."

{ 2 }

## BRIDGING GAPS WITH APPS

### AN ARRAY OF MOBILE

apps is changing the way rural communities do business and provide healthcare. World Vision introduced a mobile banking app to help farmers and entrepreneurs in Cambodia and Tanzania save time, money, and energy using phone transactions—rather than walking long distances to the nearest bank. World Vision saves substantial resources administering microloans electronically, too. Meanwhile, the mHealth system uses an app to equip caregivers in three countries who are assisting sick people, pregnant women, and children. The app provides key health and nutrition messages, and can assess and refer life-threatening cases to the clinic. More than 1,750 trained community health workers are using mHealth to help about 70,000 people—and thousands more will be trained. *See more about mHealth's impact on page 30.*

{ 3 }

## SPARKING THE FUTURE

### IN THE MOST RURAL

communities in Kenya and Tanzania, even textbooks are scarce, and so most students have never seen a computer. World Vision has teamed up with Microsoft, Intel, and local governments to provide low-cost computer labs equipped with secure power and Internet connections, extra-durable computers, and locally relevant digital education materials. The program, Spark A Child's Digital Future, provides resources to help thousands of students learn technology, connect with the world, and develop marketable skills for their future. Eager students also can engage with interactive lessons and activities. "We're finding that genuine hope has been infused. There's a lot more engagement in the schools," says Lou August, a World Vision senior technology adviser. Teachers also are improving their technology skills, and community members have access to the lab after school.

{ 4 }

## STREAMLINING EMERGENCY FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS

**NEW SOFTWARE** is revolutionizing how disaster survivors receive food, cash, and relief supplies in their time of greatest need. In the past, those in need of emergency resources stood in long lines, and distributions were susceptible to error and fraud. Now families receive help faster and with more dignity. With World Vision's Last Mile Mobile Solution software, aid workers quickly register beneficiaries and record their names, pictures, locations, and eligibility for assistance—all on a smartphone. Information is transferred to a computer for verification and tracking. The same process that used to take four minutes now takes four seconds, shortening lines and getting essentials to families faster. Each person also receives a unique ID card, for quick service in the future. So far, nearly a dozen other organizations have adopted the Last Mile Mobile Solution system. ●

# “REJOICE ALWAYS, PRAY CONTINUALLY”

**Praying for those** in dire poverty isn't always easy. In fact, just knowing how to pray may seem overwhelming. Inspired by 1 Thess. 5:16-18, here's an easy way to pray through your day. As you do the following daily tasks, reflect on the realities for children around the world and lift them up to God.



## TURN ON A FAUCET

Worldwide, unsafe water and poor sanitation and hygiene cause one in five deaths among children younger than 14.

**Pray for children who only have contaminated water to drink.**



## GET READY FOR WORK

Among children ages 5 to 11, 73 million work. These young laborers are especially vulnerable to abuse in the workplace—and have little or no opportunity for education.

**Pray for children who are forced to work for family income.**



## TAKE KIDS TO SCHOOL

Fifty-seven million children ages 5 to 11 do not attend primary school, and half of these will never attend school. As a result, 775 million adults worldwide are illiterate.

**Pray that children who aren't in school can access education.**



## EAT LUNCH

Every 10 seconds, a child younger than 5 dies from lack of nutritious food. Every school day, 66 million children in developing countries go to class hungry.

**Pray for children who do not have enough to eat.**

ORLANDO DUCAY, JR./WORLD VISION





TEACH YOUR KIDS TO PRAY  
FOR CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY.  
VISIT [WVMAG.ORG/AUTUMN2014](http://WVMAG.ORG/AUTUMN2014)



## WALK UP STAIRS

Ninety-three million children are disabled and living in poverty. Many of these children are not in school, and have little access to medical services.

**Pray that children who are disabled have access to the resources and education they need to reach their full potential.**



## TAKE OUT THE TRASH

Millions of children live in slums, dumps, and other unhealthy environments around the globe. They are exposed to contaminated food and water, indoor smoke, toxins, and life-threatening diseases.

**Pray for the international will to protect all children from environmental pollution and provide them with decent housing.**



## READ THE BIBLE

In 71 nations, the majority of people follow a religion other than Christianity. This includes the most heavily populated countries of China and India.

**Pray that children in all of the world's 197 countries will have opportunities to know Christ.**



## GO TO BED

More than 11 million people were refugees in 2013, and that number grows daily as more families flee violence in Syria, South Sudan, and other nations in conflict.

**Pray for children who aren't sleeping in their own beds—those who are displaced, refugees, or otherwise homeless.**



**HOPE PRAYER TEAM** ▶ RECEIVE A MONTHLY EMAIL WITH SUGGESTIONS ABOUT HOW TO PRAY FOR WORLD VISION'S WORK AROUND THE WORLD. SIGN UP AT [WVMAG.ORG/PRAY](http://WVMAG.ORG/PRAY)



# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



COLLINS KAUMBA/WORLD VISION

## RETURN ON INVESTMENT

SUCCESS FOR AN ACCOUNTANT IN ZAMBIA BEGAN WITH SPONSORSHIP

BY COLLINS KAUMBA

Yule Mwewa's list of accomplishments could make any Ivy League graduate envious. Valedictorian. Successful entrepreneur and business owner. Certified accountant. Board member of a major nongovernmental organization.

But none of those would have been possible for the 33-year-old Zambian without another distinction: "All this is because I was once a sponsored child," says Yule.

The sixth of eight children growing up in Kawimbe, a rural town in northern Zambia, Yule was one of the first children sponsored when World Vision started working in his village. The support was timely, as "survival was extremely hard," says Yule. "[My

parents] could not even afford to provide basic meals for us."

His sponsor, Kay Mason from Hot Springs Village, Arkansas, supported Yule through primary and secondary school with uniforms and school fees. Her sponsorship was the spark he needed to excel.

"World Vision's sponsorship motivated me to work even harder," says Yule—and his hard work produced results. Yule graduated from high school at the top of his class, ensuring automatic admittance to the University of Zambia.

But that didn't mean he could afford tuition. Refusing to give up, he started a small business to earn money for college and

*“World Vision’s sponsorship program touches children’s lives to the detail. The sponsor out there may not know to what extent, but when you look at the details, children’s lives are changing.”*

—YULE MWEWA

instead enrolled in an accounting program at Chingola School of Accountancy in 2002.

Three years later, Yule’s parents desperately needed financial help to send his younger siblings to school. Armed with a new accounting degree, he headed to Lusaka, Zambia’s capital city.

“By God’s grace, I got my first job with an audit firm,” he says. Soon he was able to help his family with school expenses. Two years later, Yule became the accountant for World Vision’s Mwinilunga development project.

“Sponsorship served as a catalyst for my career,” he says, “and with the experience I got as an auditor from my first job, I felt that I needed to serve at World Vision and contribute to its success.”

Today, Yule’s position as a finance and administration manager in the government’s science and technology ministry enables him to provide for his wife of nine years, Mirriam, and their two children, Emmanuel, 7, and Natasha, 3.

Yule’s other distinctions far outweigh his professional accomplishments. As a husband, father, brother, and son, he sees

himself as the cornerstone for his family. He built new houses for his parents and family members, financed his siblings’ educations, and runs several small businesses that generate extra income to help others.

“God’s grace is so sufficient in my life. I believe that I am a channel of blessing to others. What I have received, freely I should give,” says Yule. “I have chosen to share what I have with others, just as my sponsor demonstrated to me through World Vision.”

Though he takes pride in what he has attained, Yule is quick to point to God’s goodness as the source of his accomplishments. And his sponsor, Kay, says she “is pleased that Yule gives most of the credit for his success to God and that he has been active for God throughout [his life].”

Heavily involved in his church’s ministries, Yule is a spiritual leader and serves on the church board. He’s even pursuing a theology degree, not to become a pastor but “to know God more.”

The final merit on a long list of accomplishments is Yule’s role as a board member for World Vision in Zambia.

Serving the organization that served him when he desperately needed help has given Yule a unique perspective on sponsorship.

“The impact is enormous,” he says.

“World Vision’s sponsorship program touches children’s lives to the detail. The sponsor out there may not know to what extent, but when you look at the details, children’s lives are changing.”

Without World Vision or Kay, Yule acknowledges he wouldn’t have been able to reach his full potential.

“Sometimes when you give, you do not know to what extent your contribution is going to impact lives. Just imagine for my life if World Vision did not give me the springboard—what would have happened?”

Yule is thankful that he will never know. ●

**TO SPONSOR A CHILD** fill out the form between pages 16 and 17 and enclose in attached envelope, or go to [wvmag.org/sponsor](http://wvmag.org/sponsor).

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 [worldvision.org](http://worldvision.org). ●

# God Expects Nothing Less

BY CORY TRENDA

It's riveting to meet a child who is probably alive today because of a decision you helped make half a world away.

On a recent visit to Zambia, I met Oswald, an 11-year-old boy who may have been saved from death because of an innovative program called mHealth (for "mobile health"). This cellphone-based program allowed Betsy, a volunteer community caregiver, to assess that Oswald had a dangerous case of malaria, which convinced his mother to walk the four hours needed to get him to the nearest clinic.

Because Oswald was pre-screened, he received priority treatment and the drugs he needed quickly. When we met him, he was fully recovered—and he wants to be a doctor.

Several members of World Vision's Innovation Fund grant committee were with me on the trip to Zambia. They had decided about a year earlier to provide funding for this pilot project and now could see the impact of their decision on one child's life. Today, World Vision's mHealth is being expanded to assist some 5,000 volunteer caregivers in three countries, with eight more countries to benefit soon.

This amazing "multiplier effect" shouldn't be surprising. Jesus tells the parable of the sower, who scatters his seed on the ground as best he knows how. Some seed never germinates, some quickly dies, but some seed strikes pay dirt and produces 30-, 60- or even 100-fold.

That's the idea behind World Vision's Innovation Fund. Some of the grants our donor-led grant committee approved will fail. But some of them will, with God's help, amaze us with their impact, as we're already seeing with the mHealth program.

Another grant has helped to develop a hand-auger method of drilling wells, which reduced the cost of providing clean water 10-fold and created well-drilling businesses. This innovation brings a well within reach for some very poor communities. A third grant has reduced the per-transaction cost of repaying microloans from 96 cents to 2 cents. That's a 48-fold improvement.

World Vision is a fantastic place to innovate. When we get it right, it can affect hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of people.



COURTESY CORY TRENDA

Oswald and his mother, Betty, with World Vision Innovation Fund co-chairs Craig and April Chapman in Zambia.

*"Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times."*

— MARK 4:8

Case in point: I was involved in the first savings group pilot we launched with a few hundred participants. This is a wonderful method for helping the very poor—those who could not access bank services—to safely save and lend their money. Fast-forward about eight years, and today World Vision counts more than 680,000 members of savings groups in 30 countries and growing.

I visited one savings group the same week we met Oswald. Each member was saving \$2 each week and lending money to the members in amounts from \$5 to \$15 for school fees, business start-ups, and other critical needs. They even have a "social fund" set aside, which helped a

member whose home burned down. This group of 20 women saved \$1,200 by the end of the first year. Each member earned 20 percent interest, unimaginable to them previously.

Jesus also told the parable of the talents and the steward who played it safe, thinking this strategy would please his master. Yet how does the master respond? By taking away the little bit he had been stewarding and giving it to the ones who made the best returns. The challenge I hear from Jesus is to be a bold "kingdom investor," and it is thrilling to take risks on behalf of our poorest global neighbors.

If taking measured risks through innovation can save more lives, God expects nothing less of us. ●



**Cory Trenda** serves as a World Vision area director and the Innovation Fund team leader. He is based in Southern California and is the author of *Reflections From Afar: Unexpected Blessings For Those Who "Have" From Those Who Don't*, available online at [worldvisionresources.org](http://worldvisionresources.org).

# RETROSPECT



ABBY STALS BRO滕/WORLD VISION

## PERU

In the Andes Mountains of southwestern Peru, so high that lowlanders would have trouble catching a breath, boys and girls dance and play in a swirl of vivid colors. The children are setting a strong foundation for their future as they participate in World Vision's preschool in Tocas Quesera, close to the district capital of Ayacucho. In this remote region, World Vision provides preschools for children ages 2 to 5 to prepare them for success in elementary school. Though the children speak Quechua, a native language, they will begin learning Spanish in kindergarten. But here and around the world, games and dances are the universal children's language. ●

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