

WorldVision

SPRING 2011



BRIMMING WITH PROMISE

.....
A FAMILY'S DREAMS FOR CLEAN
WATER WILL COME TRUE.



04 RICH STEARNS MEETS BILLY GRAHAM

05 MICHAEL LANDON JR.'S NEW FILM

Hope Sunday

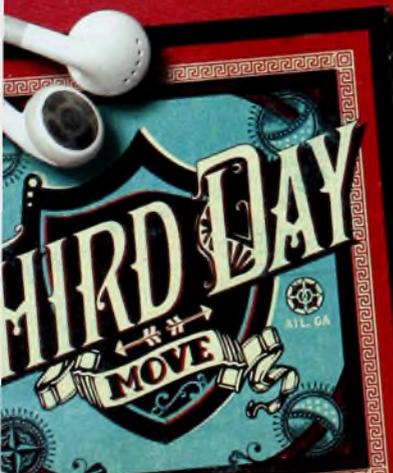
Rally your church to sponsor children

Hosting a Hope Sunday at your church is fun and easy. Sign up today and see how God will use you to help children living in poverty. Just share from your heart why you sponsor a child and you'll inspire others to sponsor a child too!



Go to www.worldvision.org/HopeSunday to order a free Event Kit and receive Third Day's new CD when you enter promo code **201133**.

Third Day and World Vision on tour this spring! For tickets and information visit www.thirdday.com today!



World Vision®

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Senior Editor James Addis

Associate Editor Ryan Smith

Contributing Editor Kari Costanza

Photo Editor Jon Warren

Photo Researcher Abby Metty

Production Manager Karen Latta

Intern Beth Douglass

Design & Production Journey Group, Inc.

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This image captures a rare moment when hardworking Kenyan mother Sabina Riwo sits still.

JON WARREN/WORLD VISION



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JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

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The time-consuming burden of fetching water in a Kenyan valley (above) will soon be lifted, thanks to a new water project nearby (below).



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

FIND THESE STORIES ONLINE
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How passion, persistence, professionalism, and prayer brought water to a valley community in Kenya, changing not just the landscape and lifestyle but the people.

God In Us

BY RICH STEARNS

I will admit it wasn't the most romantic date. But that sunny afternoon in 1974 was definitely memorable for me and Reneé.

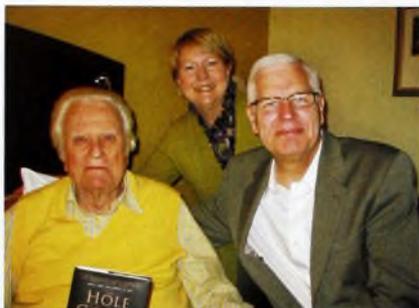
I was just 23 and a brand-new Christian. Reneé and I were in Oceanside, Calif., where she grew up, not far from Camp Pendleton. When we heard that Dr. Billy Graham had agreed to come to the base to speak to the Marines, we couldn't pass it up. What I witnessed that day was one of my first glimpses into the supernatural power of God working through a life surrendered to him.

At Camp Pendleton, we sat in an amphitheater among several hundred people. In the row in front of us were three young Marines, no older than 21 or 22. As the event began with music and testimonies, they joked and snickered. It was obvious that they had been commanded to attend. We were irritated by their rudeness.

Then Billy Graham got up to speak. I cannot remember what he said, but during his message, the three young men gradually began to quiet down. One hung his head, another put his head in his hands, and the other sat stoically. Billy gave his predictable invitation at the end, asking all who were willing to come forward and commit their lives to Christ. Many began to work their way down the bleacher steps.

We saw tears running down the face of one of the Marines in front of us. He stood and left his buddies to go forward. Then the second stood and followed, leaving just one still sitting. More tears appeared on this last young man's face as he wrestled with his decision. Finally, almost at the very end of the call, he too went forward.

Reneé and I were stunned. These three had not come that day thinking their lives would change—no, they came to poke fun and to ridicule. But they had not counted on the power of the gospel message of forgiveness and redemption. In the end, they could not resist it.



COURTESY RICH STEARNS

Rich and Reneé meet with Billy Graham.

“Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.”

—HEBREWS 13:7

Thirty-six years later, Reneé and I had the profound honor to meet with Dr. Graham on the occasion of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association's 60th anniversary last November. At 92, he is frail, mostly deaf, and partly blind, and his thundering voice is now weak and raspy, but he remains a giant of the faith—the man who advised 10 presidents and countless world leaders, the evangelist who preached the good news of Jesus Christ to more people than anyone in history, the towering figure who dominated the latter half of the 20th century as one of the most admired men in the world.

Dr. Graham would say he doesn't deserve such praise or recognition. Unlike most figures of public adulation, he has always asserted that it was God

who was the power behind all of the amazing events and outcomes that characterized his life's work.

And I agree. It was not he who orchestrated those great events; it was not he who led millions to the cross; it was not the 17-year-old farm boy who himself had come forward to answer a similar call in 1934. It was God working through him. It was God. This same God was the power behind Moses' staff, David's sling, and Paul's pen. He is the same God who has also promised to use all who are willing to lay down their lives for him.

Billy Graham dared to take God up on his amazing offer—and then he spent the next six decades spending himself in service to the One who paid such a high ransom for him. My prayer is that God will find a few more men and women with the same willing heart. ●

KEEP UP WITH Rich at www.facebook.com/RichardStearns.WVUS.

FRONTLINES

Compiled by James Addis



ASRANGA WANNAKULASURITA/WORLD VISION

f

GIVE PEACE A CHANCE

Nobody appreciates food more than a hungry child. Nobody appreciates peace more than a child growing up in a war zone. Here in northern Sri Lanka, children return to a World Vision temporary learning shelter to resume lessons and enjoy a free meal at lunchtime. To get there, they walk past heavily shelled houses and cross fields that once roared with the sound of artillery fire and multi-barrel rocket launchers. For more than 25 years, the Sri Lankan government fought rebel Tamil Tigers. These children have known

nothing but war or the flight from war. But today, there is peace. The monsoon rains have turned the blood-stained fields lush and green. All that can be heard is the tweeting of birds. In the lively shelter, colorful children's paintings are pinned to the walls. And perhaps in the innocence of these children, a glimmer of hope emerges that one day, all over the world, swords will be beaten into plowshares, spears into pruning hooks, and people will learn the art of war no more. ●

WORLD WATCH



LISA SALYER/WORLD VISION



HAITI ONE-YEAR UPDATE

A year after one of the worst earthquakes in human history, what's next for Haiti? The Summer issue of *World Vision* magazine will provide an in-depth look at progress following the quake, challenges ahead, and hope for the future.

HAITI | CHOLERA CRISIS

An outbreak of cholera in several regions in Haiti late last year prompted World Vision to conduct extensive health awareness campaigns, chlorinate water sources, disinfect sanitation facilities, and distribute water-treatment tablets and soap. Activities also included the establishment of Cholera Treatment Units in camps for those displaced by the massive earthquake in January 2010.

STAY INFORMED about World Vision's work in Haiti at www.worldvision.org/haitiupdate.



INDONESIA

REUTERS/BAWIHARTA, COURTESY ALERTNET.ORG

INDONESIA | VOLCANO BLOWS

World Vision sent a relief team following the October volcanic eruption of Mount Merapi in Java and distributed 15,000 breathing masks to families in evacuation centers. Less than 24 hours earlier, World Vision responded to a 7.2 earthquake on the island of Mentawai, West Sumatra, which unleashed tsunami waves and killed more than 100 people.

SLUMDOG MILLIONS

Proportion of urban populations living in slums.



- 62%**
1. Sub-Saharan Africa
- 30%**
2. Asia
- 24%**
3. Oceania
- 24%**
4. Latin America and Caribbean
- 13%**
5. Northern Africa

SOURCE: MDG REPORT 2010



WORLD VISION STAFF

PHILIPPINES | TYPHOON TRIAL

Super Typhoon Megi lashed northern provinces in October with driving rain and winds exceeding 140 mph. The typhoon destroyed bridges, blocked roads, and rendered hundreds homeless. World Vision distributed food, bottled water, and clothing to displaced families.

UNITED STATES | SHOE BONANZA

World Vision launched a new partnership with TOMS Shoes to provide thousands of pairs of new shoes to children in developing countries. With



USA

every pair purchased, TOMS gives a new pair of shoes to a child in need. The new shoes will help children walk to school and protect their feet from injury and infection. Since its founding in 2006, TOMS Shoes has given away more than 1 million pairs of new shoes.

ZIMBABWE | WATER WORKS

At least 450,000 households at risk for cholera in Bulawayo will benefit from a World Vision water and sewage project. The project, the first of its kind in Zimbabwe, will rehabilitate sewage and water reticulation systems that are on the verge of collapse in high-density residential areas.

ETHIOPIA | FARM RECOVERY

Torrential rain in August and September sparked flooding in several northern regions, displacing more than 25,000 people and causing extensive damage to crops. In addition to supplying survivors with blankets, sleeping mats, mosquito nets, and medicine, World Vision supplied seeds to more than 65,000 people to help restart agricultural production.



ETHIOPIA

COURTESY TOMS SHOES



WORST FOR WATER

Countries with the highest percentage of population with no access to clean water.

Somalia	70%
Ethiopia*	62%
Papua New Guinea*	60%
Madagascar	59%
Equatorial Guinea	57%
D.R. Congo*	54%
Mozambique*	53%
Niger*	52%
Afghanistan*	52%
Mauritania*	51%
Sierra Leone*	51%

* Indicates where World Vision is working to alleviate poverty.

SOURCE: WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

SOUTH AFRICA | LAUSANNE CONGRESS

Several World Vision speakers addressed poverty and justice issues at the Third Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization, a gathering of more than 4,000 Christian leaders in Cape Town in October. World Vision U.S. president and author of *The Hole in Our Gospel*, Richard Stearns, who spoke at one of the sessions, said he felt a hunger to move beyond evangelism. "I feel a growing sense of consensus that the church must respond to the world's problems to be relevant and vital," he said.

AKULU KARASANTE/WORLD VISION

ROMANIA | ENOUGH GARBAGE

More than 800 students across Dolj County took part in a campaign to clean up the entire country in a single day. World Vision mobilized the students and supported them with work gloves and trash bags. Altogether 150,000 volunteers collected 187,000 bags of garbage.

WEST BANK | PEACE PRIZE

The annual World Vision International Peacebuilding Award was presented to the Wi'am Palestinian Conflict Resolution Center, which helps settle disputes within the Palestinian community using traditional Arab approaches to conflict resolution. Matthew Scott, World Vision's peacebuilding director, said, "We are humbled that we can help shine a light on their courageous work."



WEST BANK

LISA TABELLA/WORLD VISION

LAOS | HOMES SUBMERGED

More than 250,000 people were affected by flooding in southern provinces, which submerged houses and rice fields. The flooding followed weeks of heavy rains during October. World Vision distributed food, drinking water, and blankets to more than 8,000 people in hard-hit villages. ●

ON THE GROUND

Theodore Sam is a World Vision communications officer in India.



COURTESY THEODORE SAM

Sulochana's mother died of AIDS when Sulochana was just 15. From then on, Sulochana took care of her brother and two sisters. Her mother was a Devadasi, which means "female servant of god." In reality, a Devadasi is a temple prostitute. Staring into Sulochana's eyes, I thought about my own mother, a missionary for more than 35 years. It's strange that Sulochana's mother and my mother were both called "servants of God" and yet one was respected, the other exploited. I strongly believe I have been blessed because my parents were doing God's work. It was not so for Sulochana. But despite all odds, Sulochana stands tall, brave, and confident. What a great inspiration. ●



JOHN WARREN/WORLD VISION

FILMMAKER'S JOURNEY

Michael Landon Jr. makes a life-changing film.

When Michael Landon Jr. decided to follow his father's footsteps into the entertainment business, he had some big shoes to fill. Starring roles in TV series such as "Little House on the Prairie" made the elder Landon a household name. But Michael junior has turned out to be a fitting heir as a writer, producer, and director. He has directed more than 10 films, including "The Velveteen Rabbit," "Saving Sarah Cain," and "Love Comes Softly."

Among his most recent productions is "Jamaa," made for World Vision to present in churches. Michael says he hopes it

will inspire thousands to sponsor children. "In the film business, most of our efforts are for entertainment purposes," he says. "The idea that we will be entertaining and at the same time literally changing lives became a passion."

The film, set in Uganda, tells the dramatized story of two orphans left to fend for themselves following the death of their mother to AIDS-related illness. The children honor their mother by seeking her burial in her hometown of Kasangombe, dragging her body there in a makeshift casket from the capital, Kampala. Once there they seek help from their extended family but are considered a burden by their uncle and are stigmatized by their association with AIDS. The story first appeared in a 2006 article in *World Vision* magazine.

Making the film on location in Uganda posed some challenges, especially the early scenes in the Kampala slums. "You cannot believe that people have to exist in these conditions—the brokenness of people, the dust, the refuse, and the open sewage lines," says Michael. "You finish up your day, go back to your hotel room, and just weep."

He explains that *jamaa* is the Swahili word for "family." "The meaning behind this film is to help people understand that there are others out there that need our help," Michael says. "We need to look at them and consider them as part of our family—to give children a chance at life [they] would otherwise not have." ●

LEARN MORE about hosting the Journey to Jamaa experience at your church at www.worldvision.org/jamaa.

ON THE WEB: See a longer version of this story and watch the "Jamaa" trailer and an interview with Michael Landon Jr. at www.worldvisionmagazine.org.



TOP PICKS FOR KIDS



WHEN DO WE EAT?

A teacher's guide to help children in grades 1-3 understand the causes of world hunger and how they can make a difference.

WORLDVISIONRESOURCES.COM



'T WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE EASTER

VeggieTales' new Easter DVD, released on March 5, provides a lesson in helping others, inspired by World Vision's work around the globe.

BIGIDEA.COM



HEART FOR HEART DOLLS

Playmates Toys' line of multicultural dolls helps young girls understand the value of giving.

A portion of the sales benefits World Vision.

TARGET.COM ●

CHANGE AGENT

NAME Ryan Melcher **HOME** Front Royal, Va.

OCCUPATION Graphic Designer

PROGRAM Children of War/Child Trafficking



COURTESY RYAN MELCHER

THE BUZZ

When Ryan Melcher saw the documentary "Invisible Children" a few years ago, he was shaken to learn of Ugandan children forced to become soldiers and sex slaves for a rebel army. At the time, personal setbacks had caused Ryan to reach the lowest point in his life, but he concluded that his problems were piffling compared to those of children in conflict and sexual slavery. Ryan decided to climb a mountain in every inhabited continent to raise money and awareness for World Vision's programs for human trafficking survivors. He climbed his first mountain for the project, Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, in September 2010. ●

In my opinion, what is being done to these children is the worst thing one human being can do to another human being. It's not only degrading for an instant—it can be degrading for years and years.

—RYAN MELCHER

FOLLOW AND SUPPORT Ryan's fundraising effort at www.firstgiving.com/ryanmelcher01.

LIFE-GIVING LEGACY

Concerned about what will happen to your sponsored child when you are gone? Simple ways you can continue to assist your sponsored child, and many others, beyond your lifetime:

- » Leave a bequest to World Vision in your will or trust.
- » Designate World Vision as a beneficiary of your retirement assets.
- » Make World Vision a beneficiary of your life insurance policy. ●

FOR MORE INFORMATION and sample bequest language, call (800) 426-5753 or e-mail giftplanning@worldvision.org.

VISITORS CENTER

This interactive center at World Vision's Federal Way, Wash., headquarters takes visitors of all ages on a journey through World Vision's early years in Korea to the worldwide ministry today. Compelling displays, stunning photos, and audio and video presentations show how hope is being restored around the globe. The center is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; guided tours are available. For more information, call (888) 852-4453. ●

CAPITOL BRIEF

Developments in Washington, D.C., affecting World Vision's work.

What is it? The Presidential Policy Directive on Global Development, unveiled by President Barack Obama in September 2010.

Why is it important? It's the first directive to recognize international development as a strategic goal of U.S. foreign policy. Meetings of the National Security Council will now routinely include the head of the USAID.

Potential win for the poor: The directive could enhance the U.S. contribution to meeting the MDGs, a set of targets to reduce world poverty. ●

LOVING INSTEAD OF TAKING



LEFT: Charisma's Tiffany Bluhm (right) and volunteer Trisha Roth. BELOW: Charisma's gift bags.



ABBY HETTY/WORLD VISION (2)

World Vision supports a ministry that helps women escape the sex industry.

Shortly after her birth to a teenage prostitute in New Delhi, India, Tiffany Bluhm was abandoned on the doorstep of an orphanage. At the age of 2, she was adopted by an American family and grew up in Chehalis, Wash.

Such a dramatic change in fortunes led Tiffany, now 23, to the conviction that she was rescued to become a rescuer. "Nothing breaks me up more than a woman not knowing her value," she says. "To think that there is some teenage girl or some single mom or some elderly gal not knowing she is a beloved daughter of the King—it just tears me up."

As a pastor at Life Center, a large church in Tacoma, Wash., she began a ministry to strippers, Charisma, and

another to prostitutes, called Esteem. Western Washington is the third-highest region in the nation for prostitution, and the women's needs—disease, depression, and fear—are intense. But after hearing a sermon about the children of Israel conquering the Promised Land, Tiffany was convinced that the Holy Spirit was assuring her that the enormous challenges would be overcome.

Once a month, Tiffany and about 12 female Charisma volunteers board a minibus and head out to some of the strip clubs in the region. They take with them pink bags stuffed with soap and other toiletries supplied by World Vision to hand out, along with information about how the strippers can contact the ministry to get further support. "They are so used to people walking in and taking from them—taking, taking, taking," says Tiffany. "We

are walking in and saying, 'This is a gift in Jesus' name, and we love you.'"

As women contact Charisma and Esteem almost daily seeking help, they are paired with mentors who counsel the girls, share the gospel, connect them with other support services, and help them escape the sex industry.

Today, churches all over the country contact Tiffany for advice about setting up similar ministries. It reminds her of the message about the Promised Land. She senses the Lord reminding her: *Tiffany, the Promised Land wasn't a city, it was a nation.* ●

LEARN MORE about how World Vision helps equip ministries in the U.S. at worldvisionusprograms.org.

WHY I LOVE BEING A CHILD SPONSOR

ANGELA BARKER, ELON, N.C.

While attending a Casting Crowns concert, a group from my church felt compelled to sponsor a child. I was voted to get the child packet to take back to the group. I couldn't pronounce the child's name, so I gave him the nickname "Elvis" due to the spelling. Everyone thought that was a cool name. Then someone looked closer and discovered that the child was in fact a girl, so she was deemed "Eve." Later, I felt the Lord speaking to me about personal sponsorship. My son, Jacob, had always wanted a brother since he is an only child, but I am unable to have more children due to cancer. I went back to the World Vision table and asked the lady to help me find a boy the same age as my son. She looked feverishly through all the folders. She picked up a folder and said, "What a delightful child, and you just have to love his name." I took the folder from her. His name was Elvis. How much more



COURTESY ANGELA BARKER

validation did I need to know this was our child to sponsor and care for? Our God is truly amazing. ●

TELL US YOUR STORY

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

PURE GENIUS

During trips to Africa and Asia, British scientist Dr. Philip Souter was appalled to see people drinking water from polluted sources. He wondered if city water-treatment processes might be adapted in impoverished villages. He envisioned a sachet of cleaning agents that could be tipped into a bucket of filthy water, making it safe to

drink. Philip persuaded his employer, Procter & Gamble, to let him explore it. The result is PUR (pronounced "pure"). A single packet costing 3.5 cents can be stirred into a bucket of dirty water, causing contaminants to clump together and then be removed by straining. Tests show PUR can remove more than 98 percent of harmful metals, bacteria, parasites, viruses, and worms. World Vision used PUR during recent cholera epidemics in Haiti and Zimbabwe, enabling hundreds of thousands of people to get safe drinking water. ●



READ MORE about PUR at worldvisionmagazine.org.

FIND ONLINE

This month, at worldvisionmagazine.org, read stories of people making a difference for the world's children, including:



COURTESY GERALD KNIPFEL

Liquid Refreshment

After learning about the desperate need for clean water around the world, retired teacher Gerald Knipfel, 75, from Bristol, Ind., decided he must act. Not content just to donate

money to World Vision for a new well, he traveled to Niger to help choose the village location for it. The journey involved flying in a small plane through a violent storm and enduring rough roads and temperatures above 100 degrees.

Eye-Opening Experience

Every year, thousands of young Americans participate in World Vision's 30 Hour Famine, where they fast for 30 hours to raise money to help the poor



TIFFANY BRYANT/WORLD VISION

and hungry. High school senior Katie Quinn, from Medfield, Mass., got to see how some of the money she raised was used in Bolivia.

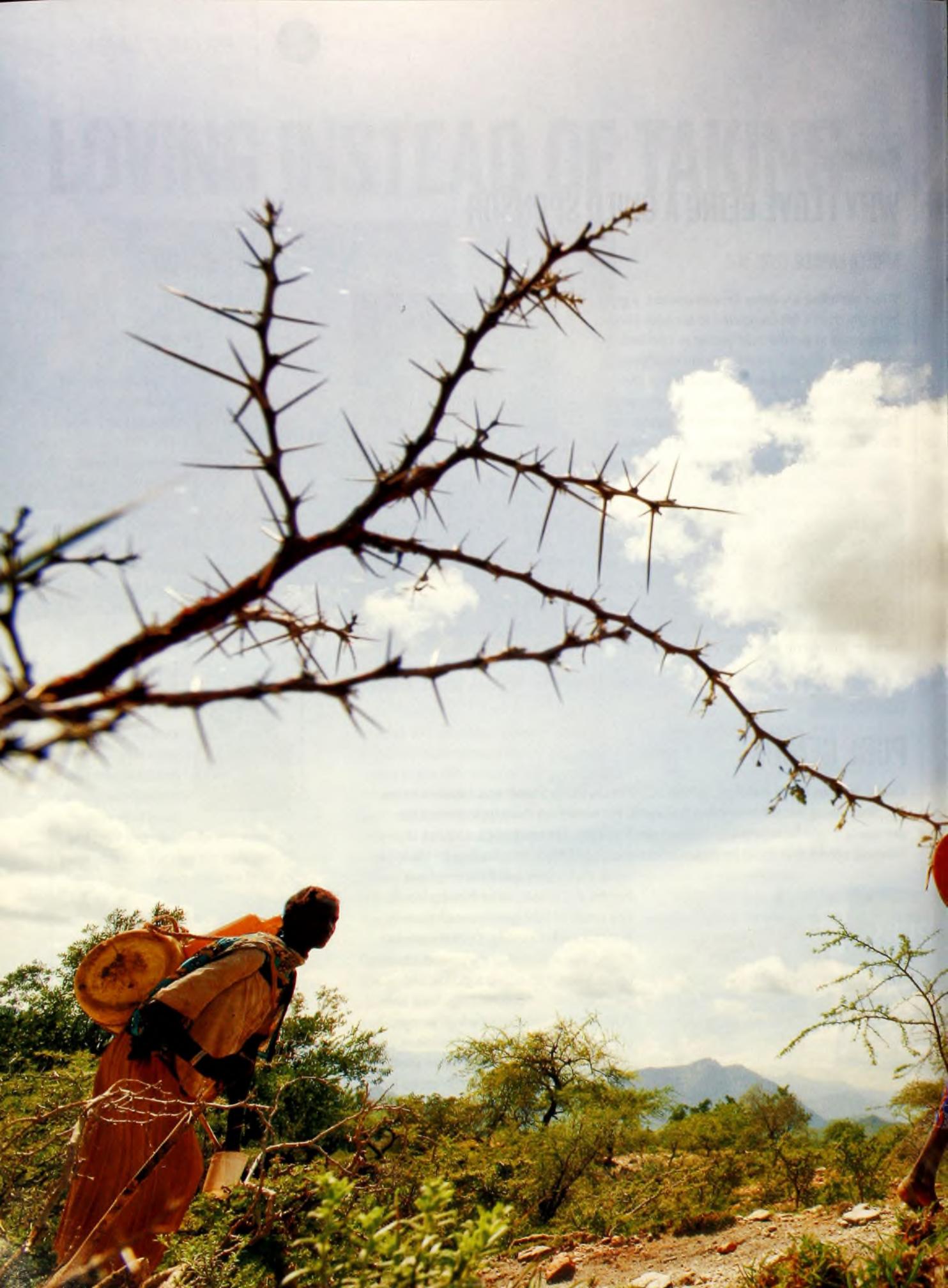
A Beautiful Challenge

Amputee Paul Martin believes that being faced with a major personal challenge is one of the most beautiful things that can happen in your



ANDREA PEER/WORLD VISION

life. That's why he joined Team World Vision to participate in the Comrades Marathon—a grueling 56-mile race in South Africa, where he was cheered on by his sponsored child. ●





IN SABINA'S SHOES

BY KARI COSTANZA | PHOTOS BY JON WARREN

IN KENYA'S NORTHERN RIFT VALLEY, SABINA RIWO HAS GONE TO THE RIVER TO FETCH WATER NEARLY EVERY DAY SINCE SHE WAS 7. THE TWICE-DAILY TRIP COMES AT A HIGH COST FOR THE 23-YEAR-OLD MOTHER OF THREE. KARI COSTANZA STAYED WITH SABINA FOR 24 HOURS, RECORDING EVERY MOMENT OF HER DAY AND NOTING THE USE OF WATER AND TIME. IN DOING SO, KARI LEARNED THAT IN KENYA, WATER DEFINES A WOMAN.

Just as she has done twice every day since she was a little girl, Sabina negotiates the thorny, dry path carrying 70 pounds of water on her back.

3 P.M.

WHEN I ARRIVE AT SABINA'S HOME in Chepkobegh (pronounced Chepkobay), introductions are quick. Sabina is busy. It is lunchtime, and she has roasted maize over coals for her husband, Jacob, their three young daughters, and Philip, a nephew who lives with the family. As Sabina scuttles about the family's perfectly swept, immaculately kept grounds, I peek into her water container. The plastic jug is almost empty, the bottom covered in sand.

I ask if she boils her water. "We know we should do it, but we don't," she says. "With all the work to do, there is no time to boil it, so we just drink it the way it is." Over the next 24 hours, I will see that's true. But it's a big chance to take—nine people in the area have recently died of cholera.

Jacob, 35, is a Pokot farmer who raises livestock. He drinks a cup of the dirty brown water, and then another. The water jug is empty. It is time to get more.

Damaris, 5, the couple's oldest girl, eyes me with interest. I ask if she knows about the United States. She tells me yes—the bags of food aid that come to this area are stamped "USA."

3:50 P.M.

We leave to get water. Sabina stops at her friend Christina's house to deposit her 7-month-old baby, Dorcas, with Christina's daughter, Mary, 12. It is too hard to carry both a baby and water on her back. We begin to walk through terrain that looks and feels like Arizona. The wind is hot. The ground is dry and thorny, but it sparkles with quartz and mica in the afternoon sun.

Our translator, Priscillah Lotukomoi, who has worked with World Vision for a decade, is also Pokot, and she helps me understand the context of the area. She calls a dried-up river "a cholera pond." We pass another cholera pond on our walk to the river. It is surrounded by animal hoof prints, and just a few feet away are dishes and a water container.

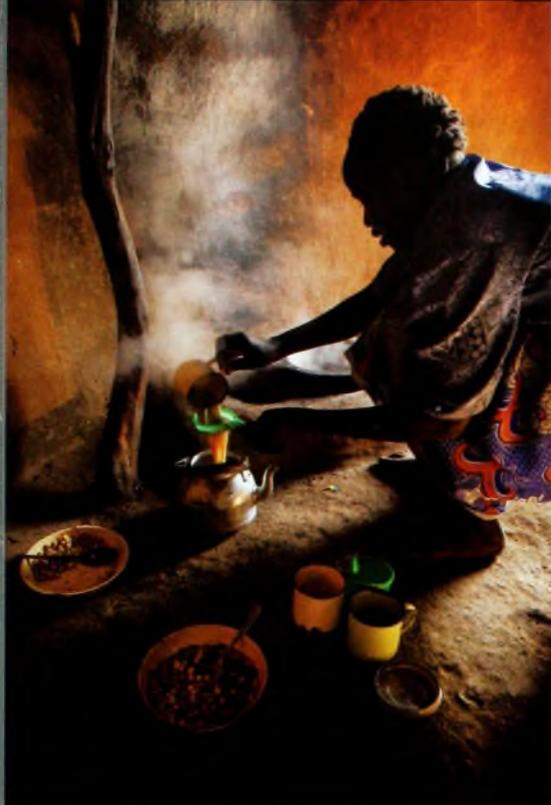
4:45 P.M.

We reach the river. The quiet crunch of our feet over rocky ground is drowned out by new sounds—the rush of water and a cacophony of creatures as hundreds of cows, sheep, and goats mill about, mooing and bleating. Sabina and Christina

—continued on page 17

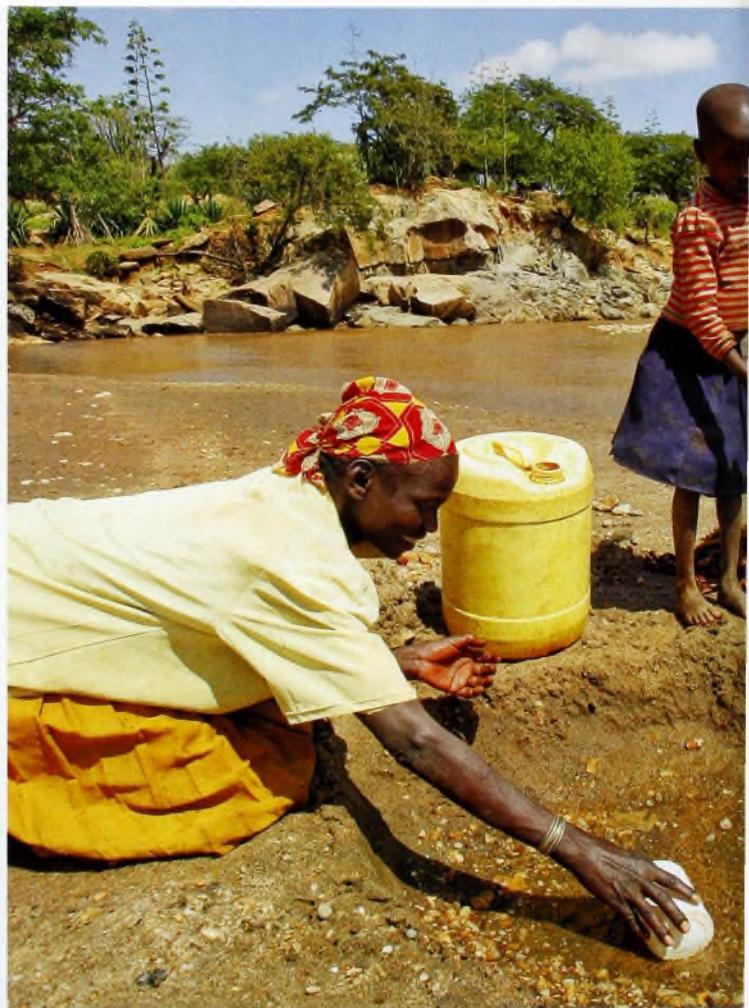


As Sabina scuttles about the family's perfectly swept, immaculately kept grounds, I peek into her water container. The plastic jug is almost empty.



COUNTERCLOCKWISE FROM LEFT:
Meals, housekeeping, and caring for
children (Winnie, 2, and Dorcas, 7
months) are reasons why Sabina yearns
for clean, convenient water—the kind
she's seen only in the hills of Lelan.





**Sabina weighs about
100 pounds. The
water on her back
weighs 70 pounds.**

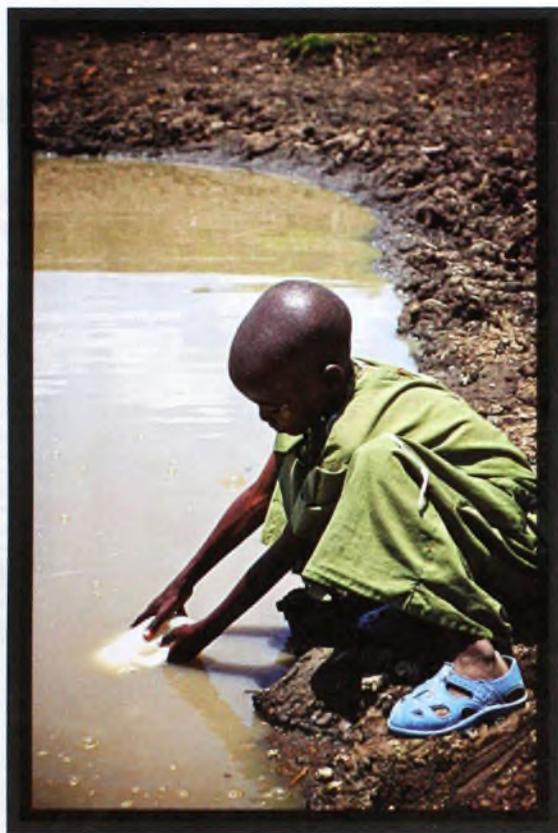
first scrub their water jugs to get the dirt out. Then they scoop out a new hole near the river. It is important to dig a new hole; cows, goats, and sheep drink from the river throughout the day. There are goat droppings and cow pies everywhere. At night, gazelle, dik-dik antelope, and wild dogs come to get water.

Girls are washing in the river before they get water for their families. They bathe downstream, and the men bathe



FACING PAGE: Sabina and her neighbors scoop water from a hole near the river. LEFT: The women rope heavy barrels onto their backs for the hour-long walk home.

World Vision



ROBERT CORONADO/WORLD VISION

JUSTIN UDONGASI/WORLD VISION

COLLEEN KAUMBA/WORLD VISION

DON'T LET HER TAKE THE CHANCE OF DRINKING DIRTY WATER

orn bushes. Priscillah tells me that fetching water every season is even more challenging. Community members have to dig down as far as 30 feet to get water. It takes an hour to get to the hole and hand jugs up to the women. The dry season can take seven hours to get water. Only one woman can go instead of the usual two, so the women carry double the load—doubling their load. “The dry season is a time of great need,” says Priscillah.

Christina stops for a quick rest in the shade. Christina picked a tree from which she picked leaves last month to eat. Now the leaves are too hard to eat, she says. She looks at the earth. “Sometimes you can find rubies, and you can find gold,” she says. But Priscillah says that kobegeh, rubies and gold do not make people rich. “You can find a ruby for a bag of flour,” she says. “They’ll take [\$1.25] for gold.”

At Sabina's home, Sabina takes her crying baby. Sabina's daughter, Mary. Dorcas nurses hungrily. Sabina picks vegetables for cooking. Sabina prepares the meal, I talk with Jacob. Sabina's handsome man with a smile that could sell toothpaste. Sabina's eyes are the eyes of a dreamer. He says he has seven goats and five sheep, and a chicken. He also has three cows, but drought forced him to move them to his sister's farm in Pokot, near Uganda. It took three days to walk there because he knew the cows wouldn't have survived here. Sabina talks, Sabina multi-tasks, boiling her dishware with hot water she will use to cook her vegetables—pumpkin leaves. She uses three cups to cook a porridge-like porridge made from maize flour.

While cooking. There is no such thing as fast food in a woman's life. She can't microwave last night's leftovers. Sabina washes the pumpkin leaves in one cup of water, singing to the baby to calm her crying. She puts the baby on a mat, she grabs an axe to chop more wood. The sun has disappeared from the sky. With no electricity but for the fire Jacob has made outside the hut.



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Sabina weighs about 100 pounds. The water on her back weighs 70 pounds.



first scrub their water jugs to get the dirt out. Then they scoop out a new hole near the river. It is important to dig a new hole; cows, goats, and sheep drink from the river throughout the day. There are goat droppings and cow pies everywhere. At night, gazelle, dik-dik antelope, and wild dogs come to get water.

Girls are washing in the river before they get water for their families. They bathe downstream, and the men bathe



FACING PAGE: Sabina and her neighbors scoop water from a hole near the river. LEFT: The women rope heavy barrels onto their backs for the hour-long walk home.



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Sabina weighs about 100 pounds. The water on her back weighs 70 pounds.

WORLD

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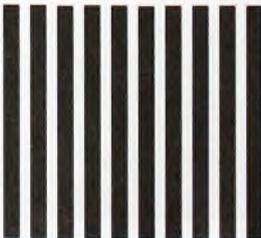
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first scrub their water jugs to get the dirt out. Then they scoop out a new hole near the river. It is important to dig a new hole; cows, goats, and sheep drink from the river throughout the day. There are goat droppings and cow pies everywhere. At night, gazelle, dik-dik antelope, and wild dogs come to get water.

Girls are washing in the river before they get water for their families. They bathe downstream, and the men bathe upstream. The girls bathe in groups. It's safer this way.

5 P.M.

After 20 laborious minutes of scooping sand and pouring water into their jugs, the women are finished. Christina takes a long drink from the cup she's used to fill her buckets. Sabina washes herself in the river, modestly pulling up her skirt to wash her feet and ankles. Then she loads the water jug on her back by lying down on a thin rope attached to the jug, strapping it to her shoulders, and standing up. Sabina weighs about 100 pounds. The water on her back weighs 70 pounds.

We head back to Sabina's home, up the path of sparkling



FACING PAGE: Sabina and her neighbors scoop water from a hole near the river. LEFT: The women rope heavy barrels onto their backs for the hour-long walk home.

rocks and thorn bushes. Priscillah tells me that fetching water during the dry season is even more challenging. Community members may have to dig down as far as 30 feet to get water. Men climb into the hole and hand jugs up to the women. The waits are long. It can take seven hours to get water. Only one trip can be made instead of the usual two, so the women carry more buckets—doubling their load. “The dry season is a time of miscarriages,” says Priscillah.

5:20 P.M.

The women stop for a quick rest in the shade. Christina points out a tree from which she picked leaves last month to feed her family. Now the leaves are too hard to eat, she says. She surveys the earth. “Sometimes you can find rubies, and sometimes you can find gold,” she says. But Priscillah says that in Chepkobegh, rubies and gold do not make people rich. “They’ll trade a ruby for a bag of flour,” she says. “They’ll take 100 shillings [\$1.25] for gold.”

6 P.M.

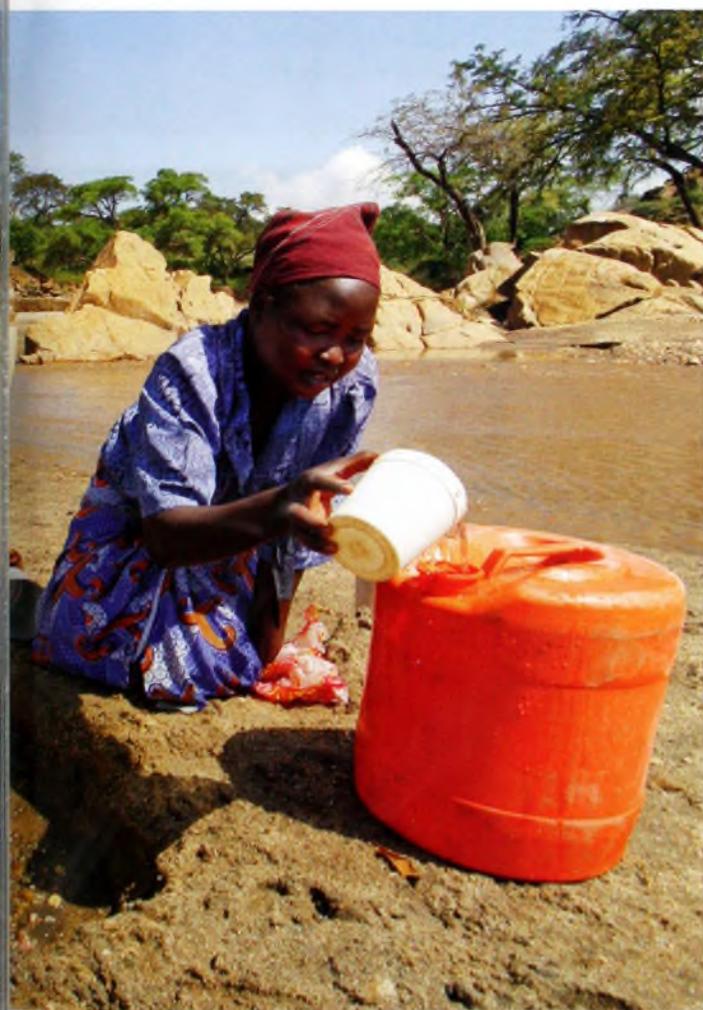
We arrive at Sabina's home. Sabina takes her crying baby from Christina's daughter, Mary. Dorcas nurses hungrily. Afterward, Sabina picks vegetables for cooking.

While she prepares the meal, I talk with Jacob. Sabina's husband is a tall, handsome man with a smile that could sell toothpaste and the eyes of a dreamer. He says he has seven goats and seven kids, five sheep, and a chicken. He also has three cows, but last year's drought forced him to move them to his sister's home in North Pokot, near Uganda. It took three days to walk there, but he knew the cows wouldn't have survived here.

While he talks, Sabina multi-tasks, boiling her dishware in the same hot water she will use to cook her vegetables—cowpeas and pumpkin leaves. She uses three cups to cook *ugali*, a dough-like porridge made from maize flour.

7 P.M.

Sabina is still cooking. There is no such thing as fast food in a Pokot woman's life. She can't microwave last night's leftovers or call for pizza. Sabina washes the pumpkin leaves in one-and-a-half cups of water, singing to the baby to calm her crying. Then, setting the baby on a mat, she grabs an axe to chop more firewood. The sun has disappeared from the sky. With no electricity, it is dark but for the fire Jacob has made outside the hut.



FACING PAGE: Using a few gallons of water sparingly, Sabina washes the children in the same water used to wash their clothes.

She also chops and hauls firewood. Finally, a night's rest.



7:50 P.M.

Sabina finally feeds her children the cooked vegetables and *ugali*. Jacob pours a cup of tea and tells me his story. As a boy, he loved school. But when he was in second grade, everything changed.

"There was a great famine. My father was dead," he says. "My uncle said, 'We must take the animals to Uganda.' " Jacob cared for the cows there for two years and came back to Kenya for third and fourth grades. But then another famine hit, and Jacob went back to Uganda until 1993. "I never went to school after that."

School is a sensitive subject for Jacob. "I was first in the class. If it were not for the cows, I could have been somebody. My children must go to school."

Sabina finishes sweeping the kitchen, washes the children's plates, and then pours water from a tea kettle over Jacob's outstretched hands so he can wash before he eats.

8:30 P.M.

Sabina eats a quick dinner and takes the children into the sleeping hut. Jacob follows. Soon it is quiet. The silence makes me happy. Sabina is finally resting. I did not see her sit down all day.

5:45 A.M. THE NEXT MORNING

Sabina comes out of the hut and begins to sweep and sing, her only light from the stars above. She washes her hands and legs with the water that's left. Then she starts boiling water for tea. At 6:30, the family begins to emerge from the hut. First is Damaris, who sits next to the smoky oven in the cooking hut, then Jacob. Sabina milks the goats right into the tin cups she'll use to serve the family tea.

7 A.M.

The small water container is empty and there are just 13 pounds of water left in the 57-pound bucket. With practiced prudence, Sabina washes the four children, using the same bowl of soapy water to clean their clothes and scrub their little bodies. Then she feeds the children their breakfast, last night's *ugali* mixed with tea and goat's milk. Jacob goes off to the garden to brush his teeth with a stick.

8 A.M.

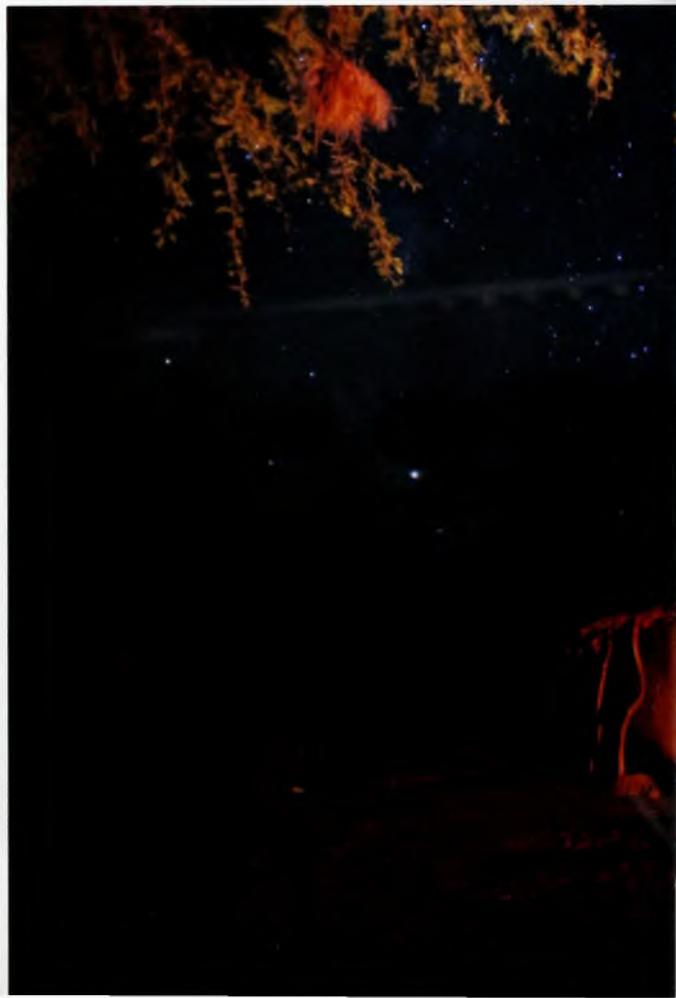
I check the water jug. It is empty. Sabina straps on her orange jug, grabs the smaller yellow jerry can, and departs to get water. Along the way, she tells me about her childhood. Getting water for her family is an early memory. "I also cared for the animals," she says. "This [and fetching water every day] denied me the chance to go to school."

Lack of education still stings. "I have seen people who go to school do well and get jobs, and I feel bad that I could not go to school."

In Pokot culture, fetching water is a daughter's responsibility. "I am the first daughter, so I had to assist the family in getting water," Sabina says.

9:40 A.M.

We begin the hour-long walk back home. I feel guilty not carrying any water. Every woman I've spoken to tells me how much it hurts. I know the only way I can comprehend the feeling will be to carry water myself, which I will do several days later. It is then that I will discover how painful it is, how the thin ropes cut into a woman's shoulders and how any slight incline on the path looms like Mt. Everest when you are carrying 70 pounds of water. I will have to scale a chest-high wooden gate that Sabina had to surmount through three pregnancies—including the days she gave birth.





Sabina is finally resting. I did not see her sit down all day.

10:40 A.M.

Arriving home, Sabina picks up the baby, and Winnie grabs her mother's skirt, whimpering. The children miss her when she's gone. She sits, for the first time that day, to breastfeed Dorcas. Then she hands the baby to Damaris and goes back to work, sharpening her machete. She walks off to fetch firewood, returning a few minutes later with a load of wood strapped to her back.

Sabina's stove needs to be rebuilt every time she uses it, using dirt from the garden. She packs the dirt around the sides of the stove; it will harden as the stove warms. Then she starts to cook and uses most of a small jerry can to clean the dishes.

12 P.M.

Sabina moves between washing clothes outside and the cooking hut, ensuring the *ugali* isn't burning. After she dresses the girls, they play happily in the yard with a grasshopper.

1:25 P.M.

Sabina sings, her voice high and strong as she moves to and fro: "If we follow the words in the Bible, we will receive eternal life." Sabina is a song leader for her church, and she says sing-

"Faith gives me hope for the future and gives me encouragement to help my family."

ing strengthens her faith. "Faith gives me hope for the future and gives me encouragement to help my family," she says.

Jacob arrives with the goats, and Sabina gives them water. She feeds corn to the chicken, wringing off the kernels with a sharp twist. The goats try to eat the chicken's corn and she shoos them away. Jacob watches and smiles.

2 P.M.

In the past 23 hours, Sabina has rested for only 12 minutes, except for when she was sleeping. Before she departs again to gather water, I ask her to sit so that we can talk.

She reveals a life-altering experience. Three years ago,



Neighbor Christina, holding Dorcas, and Philip and Sabina admire the family's first portrait, displayed proudly by Jacob.



WATER, WOMEN, AND TRADITION

she visited relatives in a place called Lelan, not far from Chepkobegh, which has a plentiful water supply. To Sabina, it felt like another world. People had water taps in their yards and could simply turn a handle to get water whenever they needed it. She walked from yard to yard, amazed. "I never knew there were places that weren't like [here]," she says. "Once I was there, I didn't want to come back."

Sabina's confession is remarkable for a woman so completely committed to her family. Seeing others with access to water made her start asking questions: Why was her life different and much more difficult than her relatives' in Lelan? Our 24 hours together end with this question.

POSTSCRIPT

Sabina will have clean, accessible water. Since 2006, World Vision has been working to pipe water to the 68,000 people in Sabina's region (read about the making of this extensive water project in "Muruny Miracle," page 22). Soon, the benefits will reach Sabina and Jacob.

Sabina and Jacob learned about the water project at church. The pastor asked them to pray for success of the project, and they have. Jacob said that families were also asked to contribute the equivalent of \$6—a fortune to Jacob and Sabina, but they did so gladly.

"I was so happy, because water is so scarce," he says. "Water will make our lives better. It will relieve my wife from the distance of walking, especially when she's pregnant. We will be able to bathe at home instead of going to the river."

Jacob mentions the health benefits. "The water we drink is from the river and full of disease. Once the [clean] water is there, typhoid will be reduced. My children won't get sick. Damaris has had typhoid three times; Winnie, once."

Water will also benefit the community, Jacob says. "The economy will improve. We face so much starvation, and water will help us grow crops to sell."

Sabina focuses on changes in her life—and her daughters'. "One thing I will [be able] to do is save time, the time I used to get water. I'll be able to prepare a kitchen garden. We'll have vegetables to eat. And I will no longer have the back pains I have now due to carrying the water. The girls will have the chance to go to school and do their homework. And most of all, the girls' lives will change in terms of getting married. Most of the girls are married off because the families need someone to get water for the family."

After spending a day with Sabina, I now understand what clean water means to Pokot women: disease-free water for drinking, cooking, and cleaning; private bathing and better sanitation; and plenty of extra time for family. Clean water will bring the life Sabina thirsts for—within her reach. ●



ON THE WEB

Read and share this story, watch a video of Kari Costanza carrying water, and find out how you can help provide clean water at worldvisionmagazine.org.

The time-consuming search for clean water has fed harmful traditional practices among the Pokot. Girls as young as 12 are forced into marriage, in part for water-gathering duty. "Men wait for girls at water points," says World Vision's Priscillah Lotukomoi. "They pick them up and put them over their shoulders. They make them their wives." The abducted girls leave their water containers by the riverside, and when their mothers find them, they know it is too late—their daughters are gone.

World Vision has worked to stop the practice of forced marriage among the Pokot, establishing rescue centers for girls who manage to escape. Staff also addressed a related issue: female circumcision, also known as female genital mutilation or FGM, which is done to prepare a girl for marriage.

Priscillah describes this Pokot tradition as a music-filled celebration that culminates with a painful, life-changing cut. "Many people come. It is done outside. Old women do it. There is no anesthesia. [The girl] is not supposed to show pain. If you cry, it brings shame to the family. Fathers come with spears. They spear the crying girls instead of letting them live with the shame of showing emotion." Later, the procedure can cause complications during childbirth—already difficult for girls as young as 15.

In 1996, World Vision staff saw that girls were dropping out of school. "We asked communities why," says Priscillah. "They said, '[The girls] have to get married. They have to be circumcised.'" World Vision brought in medical professionals to talk about the dangers of FGM and the benefits of education for girls.

In time, the girls were able to speak for themselves. "In 2003, we invited government leaders and the village chiefs to listen," says Priscillah. "After that, the community, local leaders, and government officials led by the district commissioner said, 'No more FGM.'"

World Vision also worked with the women who conducted the FGM ceremonies, convincing 15 to leave the practice. Now, the women encourage teen girls to become role models by getting an education and serving their villages.

Not long ago, nearly every girl in this area of Kenya was circumcised. A 2008 evaluation showed a decline of 75 percent. "Now girls are in secondary school," says Priscillah. ●



Lelan's landscape was changed by a man, David King'oo (FACING PAGE), and a plan—a gravity-fed water scheme.



MURUNY MIRACLE

BY KARI COSTANZA | PHOTOS BY JON WARREN

ONCE UPON A TIME, THERE WAS A PLACE CALLED LELAN, IN KENYA'S NORTHERN RIFT VALLEY. LELAN WAS GREEN, HILLY, AND WET WITH RAIN. THE MURUNY RIVER SUPPLIED PLENTIFUL WATER FOR THE PEOPLE OF LELAN. BUT THE VALLEY BELOW WAS PARCHED AND DRY, AND GETTING WATER WAS A DAILY NIGHTMARE, CONSUMING BOTH TIME AND DREAMS. THEN, A MIRACLE HAPPENED. >>>>>>

This is the story of how passion, persistence, professionalism, and prayer changed a landscape and its people. It all started in 1996, when World Vision began a long-term development project for the Pokot people—farmers and livestock herders in the Chepareria valley of northwestern Kenya.

Initially, World Vision asked the community what they wanted for their children. The resounding answer was education. “Children would learn under trees,” says Priscillah Lotukomoi, World Vision’s sponsorship coordinator. Girls dropped out as early marriage was a common practice.

Through sponsorship, World Vision helped parents understand that early marriage robbed girls of their promise. Funded by child sponsors, today there are 72 primary schools and nine secondary schools in the area—up from 12 primary schools and only two secondary schools in 1996. Literacy has doubled, and now many boys and girls graduate from high school. Some even go on to college.

By 2007, life was better for the Pokot people, but a World Vision assessment showed that one thing still stood in the way of community transformation: lack of water. “[With] no water in the schools and none in the community, it really jeopardized our efforts,” says Priscillah. Other agencies had tried water projects that failed, “so people were apathetic,” says David King’oo, a World Vision water engineer from Machakos, near Nairobi.

World Vision set out to address how to get water from the Muruny River in Lelan to the valley below. David knew that finding solutions would be difficult—maybe impossible—so





“[The project] has strengthened unity in the community with government officials and other stakeholders. Muruny Water Project has built relationships.”

—Moses Chepkonga

the first thing he did was pray.

Then he asked the community to help build a road. It took 12 days. The road would get teams within a half-mile of the place where they would create an intake point—a concrete dam that would direct the Muruny River into a massive system of pipes carrying water to the valley.

The work began in September 2007. Long days turned into nights, and David would sleep near the intake point. Sometimes, says Moses Chepkonga, who directs World Vision’s work in the area, David would spend “sleepless nights sitting at the table, designing water plans.”

David wasn’t the only person working at full capacity. Teams of men and women carried hundreds of thousands of pounds of concrete and pipe all over Lelan. Each 880-pound, galvanized iron pipe took 10 people to haul. The concrete workers planted what David refers to as “a forest of steel” into the intake to make it secure.

It took an entire year to complete an underground section of pipe a mere two miles long. “The terrain is so bad. It was just terrible,” says David, overlooking the green hill. “But we had to make sure the pipes wouldn’t slide away.” Workers carried and sunk 300 pipes into the earth in what David calls “the hardest part of the project.” In all, 264,000 pounds of pipe run through the two-mile section alone—weighing as much as two steam locomotives.

But nature was not kind. Workers had to wade into the cold river to build the intake dam. To warm the workers between brief stints in the water, “we built a big bonfire,” says David.

Other times, heavy rains would cause the river to swell and turn on the workers. “We would lay concrete, and after 10 minutes, water would come, and everything would be swept away,” says David. “Many times I used to run to the bush to pray and to cry, especially when the water would come and strip away what we had done. Those were bad moments for me, but now I have forgotten all that. I rejoice in the Lord, for it was done.”

Cold water, heavy pipes, and poor roads were not the greatest challenge David faced. Local people asked him to make an animal sacrifice to their gods to ensure the project’s success. This was something the passionate but gentle David King’oo could not do. Instead, he prayed. As he prayed, the project advanced. As the project advanced, the people quieted. David says it happened because World Vision staff never swayed from their Christian beliefs and did everything in love. The project, he says, “planted the word of God. People have realized that with God, things can work.”

Men and women who worked on the project watched God work through David. Shadrach Pkukat, 38, is on the line repair team, a group of 12 men and women on call 24/7 to fix broken pipes. “David said God is able when we said this couldn’t happen,” Shadrach says. “He doesn’t get tired. He is a tough old man.”

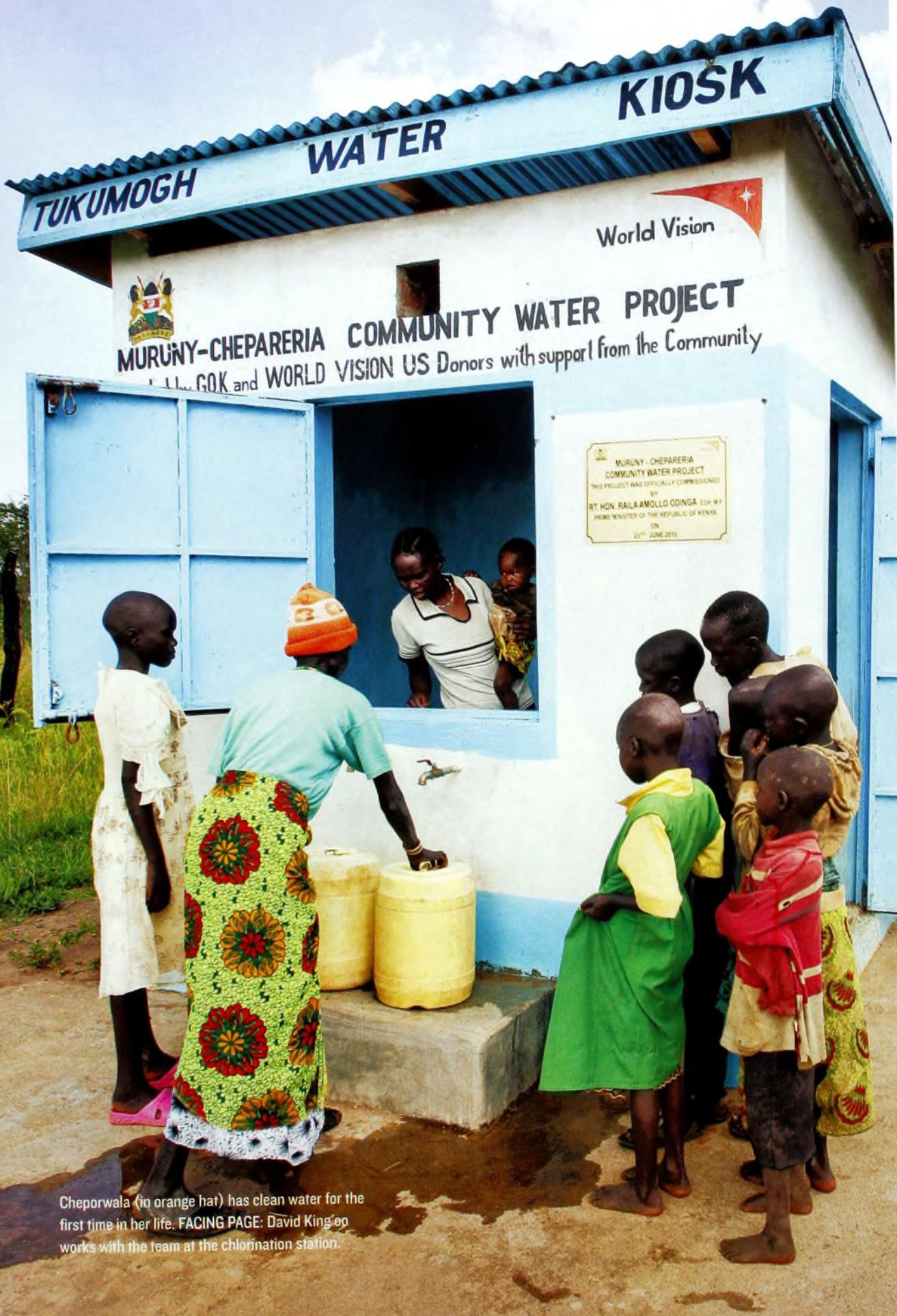
The combination of faith and perseverance was necessary for success. When the project is completed within a year, 50 miles of pipe will run from Lelan to the valley, and 68,000 people will walk less than a kilometer (.62 of a mile) for water. Some used to walk for miles several times a day to get water from dirty water sources—breeding grounds for typhoid and cholera. Today, waterborne diseases are declining, says Moses. “The number of people visiting health centers because of typhoid, cholera, and diarrhea has gone down.”

And new cooperation has emerged. “It’s a project that has brought unity,” says Moses. “It has strengthened unity in the community with government officials and other stakeholders. Muruny Water Project has built relationships,” he says.

—continued on page 27



Fifty miles of pipe run from
Lélan to the valley, an
effort that required great
community participation.



Cheporwala (in orange hat) has clean water for the first time in her life. **FACING PAGE:** David King'oo works with the team at the chlorination station.

World Vision involved the church early on. “The church leaders have played their very key role,” says Moses. “Through the prayers, we got strength and energy. When we heard churches were praying for this project, we were energized.”

The project’s costs exceeded funding from child sponsorship, so the team reached out to private donors who gave more than \$1 million. “We wouldn’t have been able to do much without the support that came from the donors from the U.S.,” says Moses.

Through the work on the water system, World Vision demonstrated that women could take leadership roles—a first for this community. Selina Sipoti, 40, a mother of four, is one of several women on the line patrol, working alongside men every day. “I couldn’t imagine doing this five years ago,” she says. Watching how World Vision invited women to participate in every aspect of the water project, Selina decided, “I want to beat the odds and be a woman with a man’s job.”

Women comprise a third of the members of the Water Users Association—the governing board that will take over the project from World Vision. “Women have now been accepted within the community as providers of good leadership, even apart from the water project,” says Moses. “The water project has broken the past history.”

The project also brought unity between the hill people of Lelan who had water and the people of the valley who did not. Daniel Siwanyang, 31, from Lelan, began laying pipes when the project began. “Working on the Muruny Water Project changed my life. I didn’t believe we could get water. Having worked on this project for four years, it is my great joy that these communities will get water,” says Daniel, who lives near the intake dam. His family already has water and will not benefit from the project.

Cheporwala Kadeke, who lives in the valley below, is experiencing the joy of clean water. The mother of three lives near one of the water kiosks. She used to worry about abduction when her daughter Nancy, 6, would go to fetch water. “When it’s late I [would] sometimes go to find her.”

Today, Cheporwala is free of fear. And her children, including sponsored child Toroitich, 12, are free of waterborne disease. “While getting water from the river, they used to get sick all the time,” she says. “They used to get typhoid. We used to spend a lot of money on medication.”

Good hygiene breeds good health. “The children can take full baths,” says Cheporwala. “They used to wash from their knees down, their faces, and their hands. Now they can wash everything, every day, and wash their uniforms.”

Cheporwala thinks her water use has doubled since the water kiosk opened. “Before, we drank very little,” she says. “I would tell my children to be sparing with water. Now, they drink as much as they want.”

She gives credit to God. “I can’t remember how many years we prayed, but I know it’s been a long time,” she says. “We trust in God. God answers prayers. We believed when we asked God to give us water, he would. Now I thank God and everyone who supported this project.”

Now that the water is flowing, the community is ready to take ownership. They tell Moses: “If you want to leave this area, we will confidently say, ‘Please go and help other needy people.’”

It is a fairytale ending to the story that began in 1996. People who lived in dire need for generations can soon invite World Vision to leave. With clean water just a short walk away, Pokot families are living their happily ever after. ●

**“We trust in God.
God answers prayers.
We believed when
we asked God to
give us water, he
would. Now I thank
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project.”**

—Cheporwala Kadeke



ON THE WEB Read and share this story and find out how you can help provide clean water worldvisionmagazine.org.



The hardships Rea Domogho faced while growing up have given her a sense of gratitude.

LANELYN CARILLO/WORLD VISION

LEARNING FROM POVERTY

A FORMER SPONSORED CHILD NOW TEACHES THE RICH.

BY LANELYN CARILLO AND JAMES ADDIS

Former sponsored child Rea Domogho can't wait to go to school this year. But now she's not there to study, she's there to teach. Rea, 22, teaches physics and mathematics at Bethany Child Development Center—a private school for children of the affluent and famous in Zamboanga, a city in the Philippines.

Rea says there is a sharp contrast between her own background and that of her students. One student has a daily allowance of 500 pesos (about \$11). To Rea, it's an astounding sum. "I remember the hardships I went through during my school days, when I had to sell food and work to earn money to support my study. These students, they have everything."

When Rea was growing up, her father, Noel, was a sawmill operator who earned less than \$3 a day. He often went months without getting regular work. To make ends meet, he and Rita,

Rea's mother, would do menial jobs to provide for their family's needs and support the education of their three children. Rita washed laundry for well-to-do neighbors and sold homemade rice cakes.

It helped that at the age of 4, Rea became a sponsored child. "I was always excited every time school started, because World Vision gave me lots of new things," she says. "I had new notebooks, new pens, new bags, a new uniform, and new shoes."

All the same, Rea did not simply rely on the goodwill of others; she raised extra cash for school projects and bus fare by selling her mother's rice cakes to classmates. Alas, it proved an unreliable source of income. "I did not earn every day because some of my classmates would promise to pay me the next day, but they did not. I was also shy to ask them to pay," Rea admits.

But when times were tough, Rea drew encouragement from

"LOOKING BACK, I FEEL SO BLESSED. GOD HAS PROVIDED ME WITH MANY OPPORTUNITIES."

her sponsor, an Australian named Sandra Waterton, who sent regular letters, especially at Christmas and on Rea's birthday. Sandra urged Rea to study hard and believe in her dreams.

It was a message Rea took to heart. Her dream was to become a teacher, and upon graduating high school, she went to college, working at a fast-food restaurant to pay the bills. The punishing schedule drove Rea to the point of exhaustion. "I got so thin at that time, like a skeleton," she says.

Fearing her health would fail completely, Rea applied for a scholarship from the Department of Science and Technology. Passing the scholarship exam meant her tuition fees were completely paid, and, with some assistance from World Vision, Rea was able to stop working and focus exclusively on her studies.

Even so, life did not suddenly become

easy. Every semester, Rea had to achieve marks above 85 percent in all her subjects and was required to major in physics—one of her weaker subjects. "It was not really my favorite subject, but since it was offered, I grabbed the opportunity. Later, I began to like it," she says.

After graduation, Rea started her current position at Bethany and has been on staff there for two years. The thrill of teaching has not worn off, and each year she looks forward to reconnecting with her students. Nevertheless, she sometimes feels that their privileged background can be a stumbling block for them. "These students, they have everything, but I pity them. Their money cannot buy them a family's love," she says. "When they cut classes, throw tantrums, or disrespectfully answer back at me, I try to understand them."

Rea says the hardships she faced while growing up have given her a deep sense of gratitude to those who supported her along the way. "Looking back, I feel so blessed. God has provided me with many opportunities."

Nobody could be prouder of her daughter's success than her mother, Rita. "We are happy that God has blessed us with people who helped us during those tough times," she says. "World Vision is one of them. That support has contributed so much to what and where Rea is now." ●



LANE/PH. CARILLO/WORLD VISION (2)

ABOUT WORLD VISION

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

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

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

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

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

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

Surrendering Status

BY PAUL BORTHWICK

In my culture, we pride ourselves on the idea that everyone is equal. Consequently, we have difficulty appreciating the magnitude of Jesus' action of "making himself nothing" or "emptying himself" of divine privilege to come as a servant.

But a little while ago, I discovered a wonderful picture of "emptying" or laying aside privilege. I was in India introducing a course entitled "Culture, Ethnicity, and Diversity" to a class of Nepali Christian leaders. Tanka Subedi was one of several World Vision staff in the class. He is a community development worker promoting health and hygiene in Nepali villages. One day, he wore a jersey featuring the image of a toilet. It celebrated the success of a sanitation project in one particular village. The caption read: "We are proud of having toilets in our homes."

I asked Tanka to tell me more, and he graphically described the toileting habits of the village before the project, and he went on to explain how the project had dramatically decreased the incidence of diseases like hepatitis and intestinal worms, especially among children. He exclaimed, "And now you can go to this village and actually sit on the grass without being concerned."

Two days later, I was summarizing a point about identity to the class, and I said, "When we are 'in Christ,' there is no longer high-caste Brahmin or low-caste Dalit, superior tribe or inferior tribe, Jew or Gentile, poor or rich. In Christ, we are all equal members of the same family."

I illustrated with a story. In his book *Conversion*, E. Stanley Jones—a spiritual confidant of Mahatma Gandhi—tells of his experiences as an evangelist in a Christian community in India. Everyone, including the sweeper, enjoyed one day off each week. The sweeper's work included cleaning the latrines, because this was before the days of flush toilets. Typically, only the "untouch-



COURTESY PAUL BORTHWICK

"Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant ..."

PHILIPPIANS 2: 5-7

ables" would touch a job like that.

"But," writes Jones, "we each volunteered. One day, I said to a Brahmin convert who was hesitating to volunteer, 'Brother C., when are you going to volunteer for latrine duty?' He shook his head slowly and said, 'Brother Stanley, I'm converted, but I'm not converted that far.'" In other words, I'm now a follower of Christ, but I'm not ready to empty myself of the privilege and status I've become accustomed to as a Brahmin.

After my story, someone immediately spoke up, "Did you know that Tanka is Brahmin?"

Afterward, I talked with Tanka about the irony of being born a high-caste Hindu and now serving the poor in sanitation work. He told me that in ninth grade, he met a young Christian woman. "Her behavior challenged me to rethink my beliefs," he said. "It was obvious that she was a humble, caring, straightforward person."

Tanka continued: "I never met anyone before like her. And I began to think, What is in her life that is inspiring her to take care of everybody, regardless of religion, caste, age, and economic background? It was then that I decided to change my faith from Hindu to Christian."

Today, Tanka is not only serving the poor by overseeing the building of pit toilets, but he is even proud to advertise the fact by wearing his toilet-milestone jersey. I believe he is becoming fully converted into the likeness of Christ. Whenever I read that passage in Philippians about Jesus emptying himself of privilege, I will think of Tanka and his team. ●

Paul Borthwick serves on the staff of Development Associates International (www.daintl.org), which mentors Christian leaders around the world. He also teaches missions at Gordon College in Wenham, Mass., and is the author of *How to be a World-Class Christian* and *A Mind for Missions*.

RETROSPECT



JOSH WALKER/WORLD VISION

UGANDA

IF THEY KEEP QUIET, the stones will cry out. Children at Glory Church celebrate Palm Sunday with song and dance. Here in Kasongombe, churches' celebration of the triumphal entry of the King who brings new life is reinforced by life-saving work of another kind. In an area where more than half the population is affected by AIDS, the church stands as a bulwark against the disease. World Vision supports church teams to conduct AIDS-prevention education and care for the sick and for orphaned children. The teams are equipped to provide counseling, food, shelter, and access to medicine. AIDS prevalence is declining, and the stigma associated with the disease is disappearing. In Kasongombe, the church shines a light in every dark corner. ●

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