



WorldVision

SPRING 2015

Blessings Overflow

The effect of clean water across Africa



World Vision®

President Richard E. Stearns

Editorial Director Jane Sutton-Redner

Managing Editor Nathalie Moberg

Digital Editor Sevil Omer

Senior Editors Elizabeth Hendley,
Kristy J. O'Hara

Contributing Editor Denise Koenig

Photo Editor Jon Warren

Design & Production Journey Group, Inc.

World Vision, a free triannual publication, affirms people responding to God's call to care for the poor by providing information, inspiration, and opportunities for action, linking them with children and families in nearly 100 countries where World Vision ministers. In an effort to be careful stewards of our resources, this publication costs 47 cents a copy to produce.

We welcome your comments or address changes. Contact us at: *World Vision* magazine, P.O. Box 9716, Federal Way, WA 98063-9716. Email us: wvmagazine@worldvision.org. To request to be taken off our mailing list, email us or call toll-free 877.596.0290.

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. NIV®. Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved.

THE POWER OF DOING

Volunteer as a voice for the vulnerable.
Become a Child Ambassador.

Child Ambassadors are those compelled to be a voice for vulnerable children. We are believers, defenders, and champions of children. We are inspired to inspire others for "the least of these."

You can make life-saving connections within your community by joining our spring campaign for sponsorship.

JOIN US wvchildambassadors.org

CHILD AMBASSADORS

World Vision®

Member,
Evangelical Press
Association and
Association Media
& Publishing



A higher standard.
A higher purpose.



bbb.org/charity



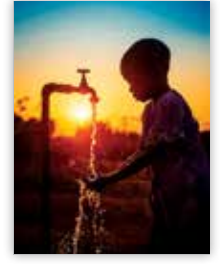
866.332.4453 Copyright © 2015 by World Vision, Inc.

CONTENTS

ON THE COVER

At dawn in southern Zambia, Cesar Mweemba, 7, washes up in clean water.

JON WARREN/WORLD VISION
LETTERING CHRIS BALLASIOTES



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

DEPARTMENTS

04 FROM THE PRESIDENT

What would happen if we traded places with people in poverty?

05 FRONTLINES

Max Lucado's clean water journey; *The Hole in Our Gospel's* impact on one couple; simple ways to help families in poverty; and places where clean water is still scarce.

36 WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

In Cambodia, a former sponsored child's passion to teach began with her sponsor's encouragement.

38 INSPIRATION

A Chicago church finds its fit in serving the world—and runs with it.

39 RETROSPECT

World Vision goes deep in Afghanistan.

ABOVE

Extra Syakambizi, 23, maintains solar panels for the mechanized borehole that serves a village of 885 people with 44 taps.



28

World Vision's water work began 30 years ago and continues to expand.

PAUL BETTINGS/WORLD VISION

FEATURES

12 Stored There by God

In Zambia, God's gift of clean water to rural communities is bringing health, opportunities, faith, and fullness of life. Last year alone, World Vision provided clean water to Zambians in 416 villages. But much remains to be done.

26 Praise and Prayer

Praise God for his overflowing love that is supplying clean water to millions; pray that all communities will soon have clean water.

28 Water Works

What World Vision began in 1985 in Ghana, today is a movement to provide disease-free water worldwide—because every child deserves clean water.

Trading Places

BY RICH STEARNS

We don't fully understand the struggles of another person until we “walk a mile in their shoes.” From Mark Twain's *The Prince and the Pauper* to the movie “Trading Places,” these stories reflect the moral that we never fully appreciate someone's life until we experience it ourselves.

In my travels with World Vision, I have not walked that mile in the shoes of someone in poverty. But I do get to meet people whose lives we struggle to fully fathom. Theirs are faraway stories geographically and culturally—out of sight and far beyond our everyday experience.

But imagine that tomorrow, you awoke to find yourself living in a Syrian refugee camp in Jordan, dealing with the trauma of a lost home, lost job, lost friends, lost family members—and lost life.

Or what if you awoke at 4 a.m. as an African woman, about to begin the first of three five-mile round-trip hikes to the water hole to gather filthy water for your family to drink?

Imagine your 12-year-old daughter awakened today in a Cambodian brothel, facing the specter of five to 10 clients that day; that your 10-year-old son awoke to work a 12-hour day in a brick factory instead of going to school, to help you pay off the loan shark who lent you money for your spouse's medicine.

If any of us walked in those shoes for even 72 hours, we would never be the same. At least I hope we would not.

Psychological research has demonstrated time and again that something in our humanity allows us to objectify people and distance ourselves from them and their pain. A death in our family is a wrenching tragedy. A death somewhere in our community is sad, unfortunate. But a death 10,000 miles away is almost meaningless to us.

Do we believe somehow that God cares less about people who are different than us? Is he less concerned about children based on their zip code or nationality?

World Vision's founder, Bob Pierce, prayed: “Let my heart be



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

Rich Stearns visits a Syrian refugee family living in Za'atari Refugee Camp, Jordan.

“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become right.”

—2 CORINTHIANS 8:9

broken with the things that break the heart of God.” I believe he prayed that so God would give him the capacity to grieve over the death of a “throwaway” child in a faraway place.

Because that kind of compassion doesn't come naturally to most of us, we have to pray unceasingly that God will give us a bit of his love, his heart. Otherwise we turn our backs on the poor and the brokenhearted.

But we do this at our own peril. For Jesus compels us to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, give water to the thirsty, care for the sick, and visit the imprisoned and oppressed. He told us that when we do these things for the least and the lost, it is as if we did them for him. Those who don't will

hear the words: “Depart from me you evildoers.”

Edward Tudor in *The Prince and the Pauper* eventually becomes king after experiencing lashings and imprisonment during his period in poverty. He remembers the injustice he faced as a pauper, and he sets about making things right.

As Christians we understand that once we were far away from God, not because he pushed us away, but because we pushed him away. But instead of putting us out of his sight and his mind, God traded places with us by going to the cross. We were saved by the One who traded places with us, the One who took our sin, our pain, and our sorrow upon himself and died that we might live. Is it too much to ask that we, in turn, demonstrate this same kind of amazing love to someone suffering 10,000 miles away?

He expects this, even commands this of us. Didn't he die for them as well? ●

Rich Stearns is president of World Vision U.S. and a best-selling author. His books include *Unfinished* and *The Hole in Our Gospel*.

FRONTLINES



JOHN KISIMIR/WORLD VISION

DEFYING DROUGHT

Severe drought threatens more than 3 million Somalis and their livestock. But in the town of Dangoroyo, this camel herder and his animals—important sources of livelihood for many Somali nomadic families—are staving off food and water shortages.

Key to survival are World Vision's economic development programs, which benefit the 5,000 residents of Dangoroyo in northeastern Somalia by increasing employment and equipping the community to be more resilient

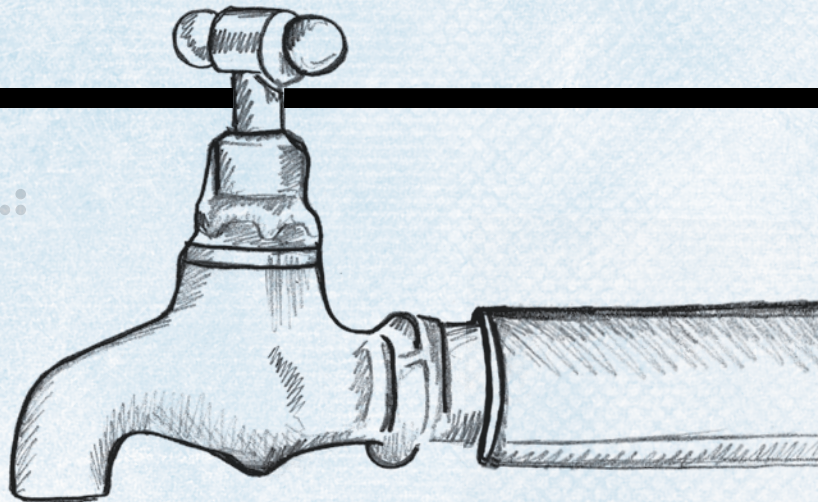
in the face of disaster. From improving roads and building dams to creating water storage facilities and teaching new technical skills, World Vision's combined efforts ensure Dangoroyo is prepared when drought hits.

The rest of the country isn't faring as well. Malnutrition rates are up, lack of rain prevented harvests, and surface water sources disappeared. World Vision is operating emergency feeding centers and scaling up other life-saving programs in affected areas. ●

WORLD WATCH

WHO'S THIRSTY?

From water taps and hand pumps to borehole wells and protected springs, 2.3 billion people around the world gained access to disease-free drinking water sources from 1990 to 2012. Yet 748 million people still lack access to clean water. Here's how that number breaks down worldwide:



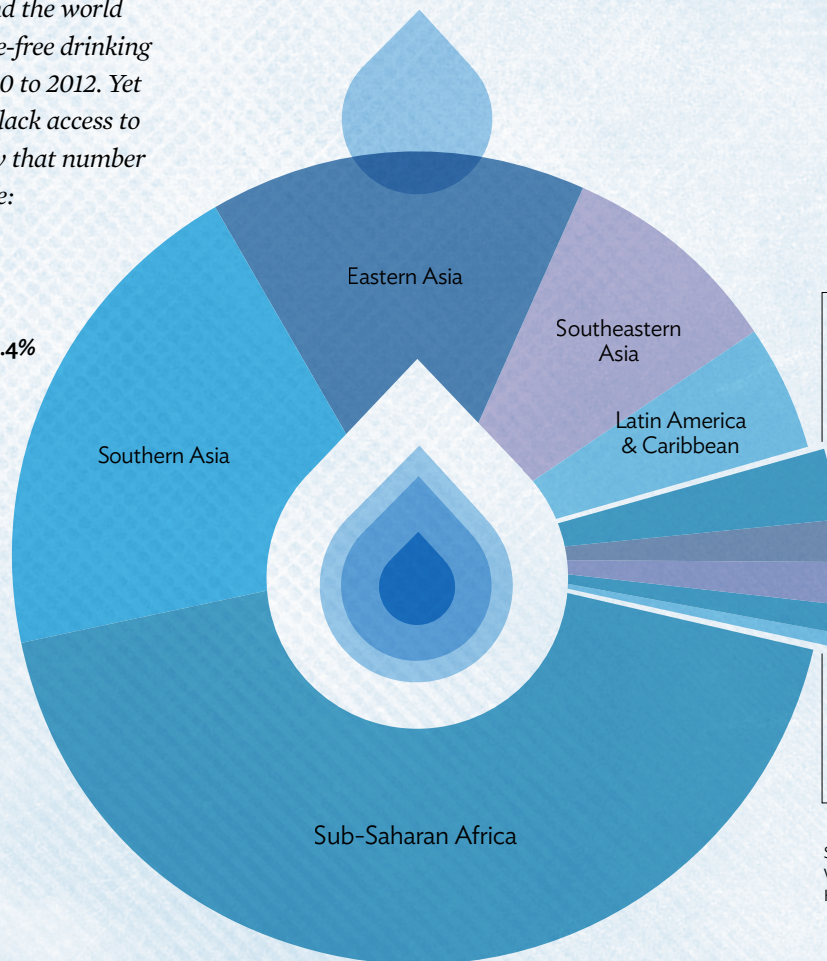
Sub-Saharan Africa | 43.4%
325 million people

Southern Asia | 20%
149 million

Eastern Asia | 15%
114 million

Southeastern Asia | 9%
67 million

Latin America and the Caribbean | 5%
36 million



Western Asia | 2.7%
20 million

Northern Africa | 1.7%
13 million

Caucasus and Central Asia | 1.5%
11 million

Developed regions | 1.2%
9 million

Oceania | .7%
5 million

Source: 2014 Progress on Drinking Water and Sanitation, World Health Organization and UNICEF



DID YOU KNOW?

The ocean holds 97 percent of the Earth's water; the remaining 3 percent is freshwater found in glaciers and ice, in rivers and lakes, and below ground.

Source: U.S. Geological Survey



BRUNO COL/WORLD VISION

SIERRA LEONE | FIGHTING EBOLA

Because a high percentage of patients contract the virus at funerals of friends or family who died of Ebola, World Vision is training teams to provide safe and dignified burials in

Sierra Leone. Further combating the spread of the deadly virus, World Vision partners with Christian and Muslim faith leaders to develop awareness messages for their communities. Working together, pastors

and imams share with their congregations information about Ebola's causes and disease prevention. The first interfaith training reached 6,500 people; World Vision staff plans to expand the training to all 12 of the country's districts.

U.S. | DRINK UP

In December, the Water for the World Act passed in Congress and was signed into law, thanks in part to the efforts of volunteers working with World Vision's advocacy team. This legislation ensures U.S. foreign assistance funds for water, sanitation, and hygiene go to communities with the greatest need and where programs will have most impact. Volunteers worked for 18 months to rally support for the bill's passage.



DANIEL MUNG/WORLD VISION

INDIA



PRAY WITH US

The world is filled with crises and hurting people. Pray with us for these six areas suffering from conflict and humanitarian or health crises:

[South Sudan](#)

[Syria](#)

[Iraq](#)

[West Africa](#)

[Central African Republic](#)

[Israel and Palestine](#)



FIND PRAYER GUIDES
FOR EACH OF THESE AT
WVMAG.ORG/PRAYER.

INDIA | FATAL FLOODS

Four states in northern India are recovering from the worst flooding in the region in 60 years. The disaster killed 200 people and affected more than 5 million in Jammu, Kashmir, Assam, and Bihar states; some areas were under nearly 20 feet of water. World Vision is working closely with the Indian government to meet the needs of affected families. ●



JOHN WARREN/WORLD VISION

In Ethiopia, Max Lucado discovers the reality of many people living in developing countries: dirty, unsafe drinking water.

firsthand how child sponsorship helps provide this life-giving clean water by enabling World Vision to stay in communities for more than a decade and build the partnerships and infrastructure necessary to make water programs sustainable.

“Most of the people in western churches may have wonderful hearts, but we don’t have a clue how to get water to that little kid in Ethiopia,” Max says. “That’s the role of World Vision in the kingdom.”

Following their time in Ethiopia, Max and Denalyn decided to partner with World Vision specifically to provide clean water to millions living in rural communities. Disease-free water, he says, not only brings new life and health to a community. It also demonstrates the love of Jesus—the Source of living water—and creates time and opportunities for conversations about the gospel.

“If your whole day is fetching water, boiling it, and making sure your kids have enough water to get by, then you’re not going to have the luxury or privilege of thinking about spiritual things,” he says.

Max and Denalyn recently demonstrated their commitment to providing clean water for those in greatest need by selling their home and donating part of the proceeds to World Vision’s water work in Ethiopia. Max cited Matthew 25:31-46 as a motivator.

“I wish that text said, ‘I needed a sermon, and you preached one,’ or ‘I needed a book, and you wrote one,’” he says. “But the truth of the matter is the first fruit of the saved is a sense of compassion for those who don’t have anything. All of us can give somebody something to drink. Not everybody can write a book, but everybody can give somebody some food. All of us can do something.” ●

—Kristy J. O’Hara



WATCH MAX TALK ABOUT HIS PASSION FOR BRINGING CLEAN WATER TO THOSE WHO DON’T HAVE IT AT WVMAG.ORG/MAXLUCADO.

WILD ABOUT WATER

Max Lucado: “All of us can do something.”

When popular pastor and author Max Lucado, along with his wife, Denalyn, visited Ethiopia in 2009, he witnessed two vastly different communities. The experience changed his life.

In one community, children and animals drank out of the same muddy pit at the bottom of a ravine. In the other, flourishing farmland stretched into the distance, fed by a concrete canal with clean water flowing freely, providing ample food and drink to families.

“As many times as we tell each other that water is a basic essential to life,” says Max, who grew up in arid West Texas, “I don’t think I realized it until I visited some parts of the world that suffer from the lack of clean drinking water as well as irrigation water for their fields and farms.”

Max and Denalyn, who sponsor five children with World Vision, also saw

COURTESY EMILY HAGEN



WHY I LOVE BEING A CHILD SPONSOR

EMILY HAGEN
EDEN PRAIRIE, MINN.

I love being a child sponsor because my heart has been opened to a whole new life of love and service.

I sponsor two little girls in Albania. When I was choosing my first child on the World Vision website, I selected “Eastern Europe” quite randomly as well as “age 6.” The third face I saw was the cutest little face I’ve ever seen, and it was love at first sight. I sponsored my precious Fjorida.

I began to feel a love in my heart for the people of Albania. Over the next few months, I felt a strong desire to sponsor a

TELL US YOUR STORY.
Why do you love being a child sponsor?
Tell us at wvmag.org/50states.

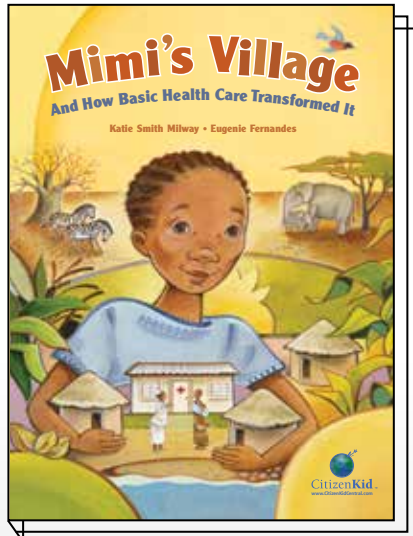
second little girl. When I found Rosarja, I was filled with excited anticipation.

Having sponsored two girls in the same country has been amazing. I’ve started to learn the language, and my love for Albania continues to deepen. Now it is my plan and ambition to move there, so that I can help bring the good news of Jesus Christ to as many children as possible. I want to give hugs and hope and put smiles on faces. I don’t have my own children, so I need hugs and smiles, too. ●



VISIT MIMI’S VILLAGE

A storybook based on life in an African community where World Vision works, *Mimi’s Village* gently introduces young people to the challenges children face growing up in developing countries when water isn’t clean and sickness is rampant. With captivating storytelling by Katie Smith Milway and beautiful art by Eugenie Fernandes, *Mimi’s Village* takes children on a virtual journey from sickness to well-being and celebration. Young readers also learn why basic health is important in every community and what they can do to help African communities prevent disease. To learn more or to purchase *Mimi’s Village*, visit mimisvillage.org. ●



WORLD VISION WANTS YOU

From running a 10K to advocating for families that are poor, get involved with World Vision this spring.

Speak up

Raise your voice to speak out for children all over the world by sending an email to your members of Congress on a number of vital issues. Make a difference with one click at worldvision.org/advocacy.

Give big

Find the perfect gift for Easter, Mother’s Day, graduations, or a birthday in World Vision’s spring Gift Catalog. Watch your mailbox or go online to worldvision.org/giftcatalog.

Be still

A 40-day booklet guides you through reflection and prayer in preparation for the Easter celebration of Christ’s resurrection. Find it at worldvision.org/church.

Lace up

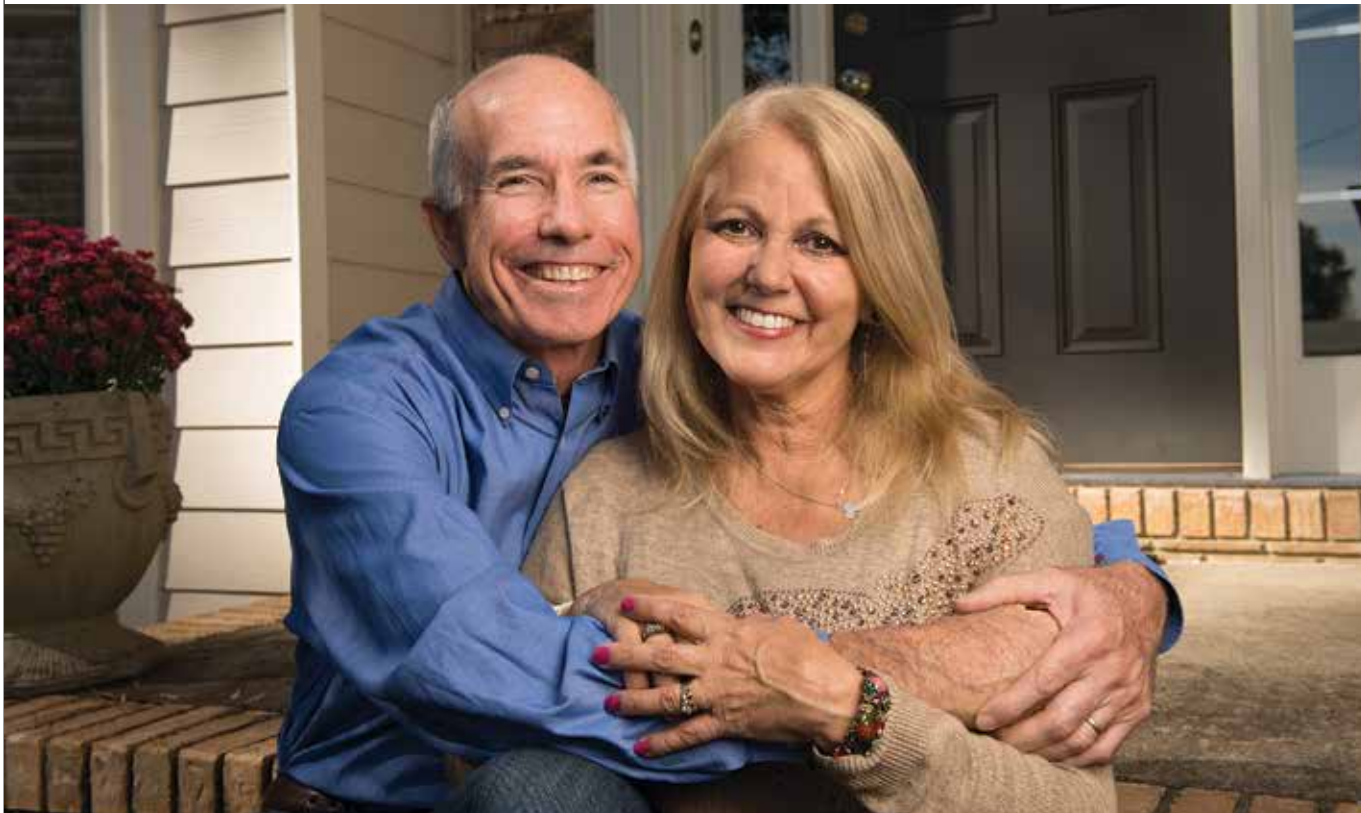
Join others who are passionate about running and raise money for clean water projects with Team World Vision. Find an event near you at teamworldvision.org.

Quick tip:
Print your tax receipt

If you donated to World Vision in 2014—thank you!—find your giving statement and printable tax receipt at myworldvision.org.

ON A MISSION

A Georgia couple follows God's call to serve Muslims.



ROBIN RAYNE NELSON/GENESIS PHOTOS

As Don and Gina Villnow set off on a luxury Caribbean cruise in January 2011, Gina made one trip-ruining mistake.

A friend had recently given Don a copy of World Vision U.S. President Rich Stearns' book *The Hole in Our Gospel*, and Gina thought it might be fun to read together on their voyage.

"It wasn't fun at all because reading it, I just got so convicted of the physical and spiritual needs around the world," she says. "I said, 'I want to get off this ship—I wish I could jump overboard and get off.'"

In February of that year, the couple's Marietta, Georgia, church held its annual missions conference. When the commitment cards were passed out, one of the ministry options was "available for a time of service."

Gina wanted to check the box, but Don

initially resisted. After all, they already financially supported their church and World Vision. Yet they checked the box, sensing that perhaps God was calling them to a new opportunity to serve when they retired in a few years.

Soon, however, a pastor challenged them to participate in a short-term trip to Iraq. "We should have never read that book," Gina recalls saying at the time. But they went and, as they served, they clearly heard God call them to full-time missions in their retirement.

Just months later, Don opted for early retirement. The couple received missions training, put their house on the market, and were out of their home within 30 days—on their way to serve the Muslim community in Italy.

"When we said, 'Lord, we're available,'

the Lord opened doors for us," Don says. "We didn't push any doors open—we were very careful not to push doors."

For two-and-a-half years, they showed God's love to Muslims, some of whom were Syrian refugees. They taught English and crafts, opened their home in hospitality to others, and distributed Bibles. "We try to make sure each encounter we have is a positive reflection on who we are as children of God," Don says.

God called Don and Gina back to the U.S. last fall, at least for a season. They remain active in other mission work and encourage others to consider overseas missions as well. Gina says, "I love to challenge other couples that are in their retiring years to stay open to God and be able to go and work and serve in the name of Jesus." ● —Kristy J. O'Hara

Don't forget to fill out our survey between pages 4 and 5. Answer a few questions, tear off the card, and mail postage-free!



INSPIRATION FOR YOUR JOURNEY

World Vision magazine takes you to the far corners of the globe through imagery and storytelling, sharing how God is working in the world to lift up those who live in poverty. We know you care about these children and families, so we're giving you more—stories of hope and transformation you won't find anywhere else.



x 3 WORLD VISION MAGAZINES IN YOUR MAILBOX

x 3 DIGITAL EDITIONS IN YOUR INBOX

Plus photo slideshows, videos, prayer resources, humanitarian emergency news, behind-the-scenes photo blogs, and devotional columns

GET IT ALL! SIGN UP TO RECEIVE A MONTHLY EMAIL FROM WORLD VISION MAGAZINE. GO TO WVMAG.ORG/SUBSCRIBE.

READER FEEDBACK

Great work, World Vision magazine! Keep on telling the stories that need to be told! Thank you for keeping me excited about what World Vision is doing. —Bryan K.

I received your Winter 2014 magazine this week, with "Bright Smiles, Big Dreams" on the front cover. The magazine has such great articles that I believe could challenge many people. —Name withheld

Jon Warren is one of the best photographers. Love what his eye sees through the lens to capture the lives of who World Vision serves. —Carol P.

Got the Autumn issue in the mail today—another wonderfully inspiring magazine. I've already read half of it!! —Mona H.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

EDITOR@WORLDVISION.ORG WORLDVISIONMAGAZINE @WORLDVISIONMAG

Stored Time



Clean water means more time for fun for teenagers like Everlyn Hampanda, in pink.

me by GOD

IN ZAMBIA, CLEAN WATER UNLOCKS OPPORTUNITY,
BETTER HEALTH, FAITH, AND FULLNESS OF LIFE.

BY KARI COSTANZA | PHOTOS BY JON WARREN



T

THE DOG MUST HAVE BEEN THIRSTY. Who knows why? Maybe he'd been chasing down an interesting critter. Maybe he'd been playing with the other village dogs. Even winter afternoons are warm in southern Zambia, and dogs get thirsty. Whatever the reason, the dog went to the water hole. No one saw what happened next.

Three weeks later, when dog fur began to float to the surface, villagers took a long stick and poked around. The dog had gotten snarled up in the tree roots, drowned, and decayed. When pulled out, he was white, as if he'd been skinned.

It took days for Bulanda's villagers to muster the will to draw from the hole, the only water nearby. "The sight of that water takes my thirst away," says Bazaar Buumba, 57, whose wife and daughter fetch water from the dirty pit. "I have it brought in a cup and pretend it is from somewhere else."

No amount of pretending changes the predicament of millions of people in the developing world. In Zambia alone, about 4.1 million people have no choice but to live with contaminated water.

Fortunately, Bulanda village falls within the footprint of World Vision in Zambia, which is committed to bringing clean water to a half million people. In 2014 alone, World Vision provided clean water to everyone in 416 Zambian villages and will reach more than 1,000 villages within the next few years. That means that all year round, each person in a family will have access to 5 gallons of water per day within a 30-minute walk of their home. And because Zambia is a predominantly Christian country, staff are also able to help community members understand the connection between this work and Jesus Christ, the Source of living water.

The plan is to make water available nearby, ensure it is safe and clean, and encourage a new mindset about hygiene so that communities will take ownership of their borehole wells. For Bulanda village, that time cannot come too soon.

—continued on page 17



At the dirty water hole in Bulanda, Enness Mweemba, 47, teaches her daughter, Claris, 6, to collect water. "She's a girl," says Enness, 47. "I have to teach her to fetch water."

“The sight of that water
takes my thirst away.”

— BAZAAR BUUMBA, 57





Nivesh Buumba, 11, transports water, which she does multiple times a day. "I fetch water until the sun sets," she says.



"When you come to school dirty, people laugh at you," says Nivesh, who loves school.

—continued from page 14

ACHING NECKS AND HEARTS

In Simwami, another village in southern Zambia, Nivesh Buumba is afraid to collect water, a task the slender 11-year-old undertakes at least three times a day. “There are people who will kill you if they find you alone,” she says. “I’m thinking about this the whole time.” Her widowed mother, Meloda Simuzingili, 46, says Nivesh’s worries are warranted. She has heard of women being attacked at isolated rivers and streams.

Because there is no borehole well here, mothers and children have to get drinking water from small streams shared with pigs, goats, and cattle. They can’t gather enough for bathing or washing clothes.

It is remarkable to see the slight girl in cheap sandals—her only pair of shoes—treading nimbly up and down the hills of Simwami, the water from the bucket on her head sending rivulets trickling down her cheeks like tears. But Nivesh has no choice. Across Africa, carrying water is a girl’s job.

The bucket Nivesh carries is heavy. “It feels like my neck is sinking into my body,” she says. The four-hour task means that even if she leaves early in the morning, she’s late for school and doesn’t go. Her solution: “Sometimes I just fetch water all day so I can go to school the next day.”

Her mother, Meloda, has been raising five children on her own since her husband died from a stroke in 2006. She voices what many widows only think: “If I die today, how will my children survive?” She says, “Every day when I bow down to pray, I ask God to help me raise my children. If I can’t do it alone, please bring someone alongside to help me.”

The family attends Pilgrim Wesleyan Church, but they only go if they’ve been able to bathe, which is seldom. “I can’t go to church smelling dirty,” says Meloda. “I just think about how dirty I am. Sometimes I don’t allow my children to go to church, because they are so dirty.”

“I love going to church,” says Nivesh. “I miss singing. I sing in the choir.” She quietly sings her favorite song: “Give them strength for their souls. Though there is so much struggle being a Christian, there is hope on that cross.”

“What I miss most is worshipping with others,” says Meloda. “I miss the Bible.”

Meloda’s and Nivesh’s desires are simple. Meloda wants to ensure her children go to school and spend more time in church. Nivesh wants to feel safe while she gathers water. She wants to go to school so she can become a nurse someday. “If I was a nurse,” she says, “my dad would still be here.”

SOFTWARE AND HARDWARE

In the developing world, more than half of the deaths of children younger than 5 are related to illnesses caused by unsafe water and poor sanitation and hygiene. No one knows that better than Emmanuel Opong, a Ghanaian who runs World Vision’s water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programs in southern Africa. Years ago, his sister, Anna, died of a waterborne disease when she was only 6 months old.

Like Nivesh, Emmanuel once dreamed of becoming a nurse, and as he pursued that career, he learned about the connection between Anna’s death and lack of clean water.

His family tragedy motivated him to devote his life to bringing clean water to rural communities. What happened to Anna is still prevalent today—one child younger than 5 dies of diarrheal disease every minute.

With bachelor’s and master’s degrees in health and adult education and a doctorate in psychology, Emmanuel was tapped in 1997 to run World Vision’s West Africa rural water project, drilling 1,000 wells in Ghana, Mali, and Niger. The psychology degree helped him understand what’s behind a successful, lasting water project: The community has to own it. Local leaders and families have to change their mindset about water and sanitation, prepare for a clean water source, and dedicate funds and volunteers for maintenance. Today in Ghana, eight out of 10 World Vision-drilled wells are still functioning, even those that are more than two decades old. (See page 32 for more about the sustainability of World Vision’s wells.)

The community-based work of preparing people to change their mindset and behavior is the “software” of World Vision’s water work. The “hardware”

is the technical part—digging wells and building water systems. Both are essential.

When Emmanuel came to Zambia in 2010 to begin the country’s massive water project, he started with World Vision’s Christian Commitments team, laying the groundwork for the “software” so crucial to this work. Emmanuel’s vision was supported by an American donor, Terry Knutson. Terry and Emmanuel were of the same mind: In Zambia, water would provide an ideal way for World Vision staff to share their faith. The two men knew that receiving clean water would not only bring good health, but would also open up a conversation about the character of Christ. “It is Jesus who enables us to strike water,” says Emmanuel. “That water is stored there by God.”



**“Sometimes
I just fetch
water all day
so I can go
to school the
next day.”**

— N I V E S H , 1 1

“I am not excited about seeing
a borehole. I am excited about
seeing a happy child.”

— EMMANUEL OPONG, WORLD VISION STAFF



“When he is with children, he is like a child,” says a local pastor in southern Zambia about Emmanuel Opong, World Vision’s water expert who loves God, clean water—and happy children like Everlyn Hampande at the pump.

Right: “Life itself is meaningless if you don’t have impact,” says Isaac Samunete, 30, testing water for impurities in Hamaundu, in southern Zambia.



Biblical values permeate World Vision’s water work in Zambia, a Christian nation by constitutional decree. “What would water be without Christ?” asks Emmanuel. “If we have clean water and miss the opportunity to hear that Jesus is the Source of living water, what do we have? Then the Holy Spirit makes himself known. In him, you can have life-flowing water throughout.”

As the Zambia water project got under way, community members tasked with promoting better hygiene practices learned about sanitation and theology at the same time. Everness Hamatowe, 50, a hygiene promoter in World Vision’s Hamaundu development area in southern Zambia, explains, “People need to understand the spiritual side of things. Otherwise people take it lightly. Some reject it. But we don’t relent. Most people come around. Even those who don’t believe share the goodness of the work, and they benefit.”

Everness’ task is important because digging wells is only part of the solution to the problems that come with lack of clean water—in particular, disease. Villagers also need to embrace sanitation and hygiene. World Vision refers to its water, sanitation, and hygiene work with the acronym WASH, but it’s the last two elements—sanitation and hygiene—that actually come first.

“[People] have to be ready as a community to get a borehole,” says Isaac Samunete, 30, World Vision’s WASH coordinator in Hamaundu. Armed with a degree in environmental health from Zambia’s University of Lusaka, Isaac began working with World Vision in 2009.

It takes time to prepare the community, to help form new habits that will allow them to enjoy the benefits of clean water for years to come. “If we hurry, there is no sustainability,” Isaac says. “When Dr. Opong [first came to Zambia] we

discovered that 90 percent of the [existing] boreholes were not working. We needed people to understand—these pumps are yours. You own them.” And that makes all the difference.

When it is time for a community in Zambia to begin the process of getting clean water, Emmanuel and WASH coordinators like Isaac tell village leaders that family involvement is essential. Eniah Hampane, 42, a mother of seven, remembers the community meeting with World Vision. “We were told that everyone should have five things—a toilet, a rubbish pit, a hand-washing station, a bathing shower, and a dish rack. We never had such things before.” (See page 24 to learn more about these five necessities.) Families must score well on a report card before World Vision provides a borehole well.

Then there’s the “hardware.” The community has to prepare a path for the big drilling rigs to travel, smoothing out rocky surfaces and cutting back brush. Currently, four teams of drillers are working to locate water across Zambia. Before they drill, they gather villagers for a time of prayer. Each step of the process is infused with God’s love.

Partnerships at every level are critical to World Vision’s success as the largest nongovernmental provider of water in the developing world—partnerships with the government, local leaders, the Ministry of Health, and with experts at centers of higher learning, such as Messiah College in Pennsylvania and the University of North Carolina’s Water Institute.

Child sponsorship, says Emmanuel, provides the perfect foundation for World Vision’s water work. When hygiene and sanitation are promoted and wells are drilled in stable communities where World Vision is addressing poverty on several levels, those communities can take ownership of the projects and ensure they are sustainable.

What motivates Emmanuel to continue his work, aside from his faith in God, is “for a child to smile. For a child not to die of diarrhea. To see a child walk without fear. To beam with joy.” He says, “I am not excited about seeing a borehole. I am excited about seeing a happy child.”

CLEAN WATER, HAPPY CHILDREN

One such happy child is Eniah’s daughter, Everlyn, 13. The sponsored girl lives in Hamaundu. World Vision installed new latrines at Everlyn’s school, built a health center, and drilled a borehole well in 2012.

Everlyn began to study the theology of water, using *Jesus: The Source of Living Water*, a devotional World Vision developed with Zambia’s evangelical churches. Her teacher, Pastor Bless Chilala, 47, has watched her mature. “She’s really impressive,” he says.

Everlyn is at the top of her class and bound for university. She credits her success to clean water and “the goodness I’ve seen in sponsorship.” Of her sponsor she says, “It makes me happy to think of someone who doesn’t know me but who thinks about me in a place I’ve never been.”

Before, Everlyn had to transport water five times a day. “My legs would ache,” she says. “We never used to bathe at home. Without World Vision, I cannot imagine the suffering. All the developments we have seen would not be here.”

Because of the new well, Everlyn’s mother Eniah got back four hours each day that she used to spend transporting water. “Now it takes minutes to get to the borehole,” she says. “I can quickly draw water. I come home, wash clothes, and then it is off to the garden to pick some vegetables.” In her garden she grows fresh produce that adds nutrition to her family’s diet, improving their health—already much better since diarrhea is no longer an issue. Eniah also makes fritters to sell for income.

Everlyn has opportunities that her sister, who left school after getting pregnant, did not. She can study and play with her friends because water is so close. And she now sees something that rarely happened before.

“In the past, girls fetched water. Now boys are accepting to do so,” says Winnie Mutaka, the secretary of the group that manages a nearby well. “In the future, they may be equal. They may both fetch water. It makes me happy as a mother and a woman that the girls are no longer seen as a tool to get water.”

Clean water has changed Everlyn’s life. She must study hard to keep up her first rank in class—there are more children to compete against now. When World Vision brings clean water to communities, school attendance goes up, especially for girls, and that brings up grades.

Everlyn’s father, Benny, says, “Now we can go to church proudly. I couldn’t go to church dirty.”

In fact, as a result of the water, there are so many people attending church that people have to sit on the floor. Hamaundu pastors have seen a direct correlation between

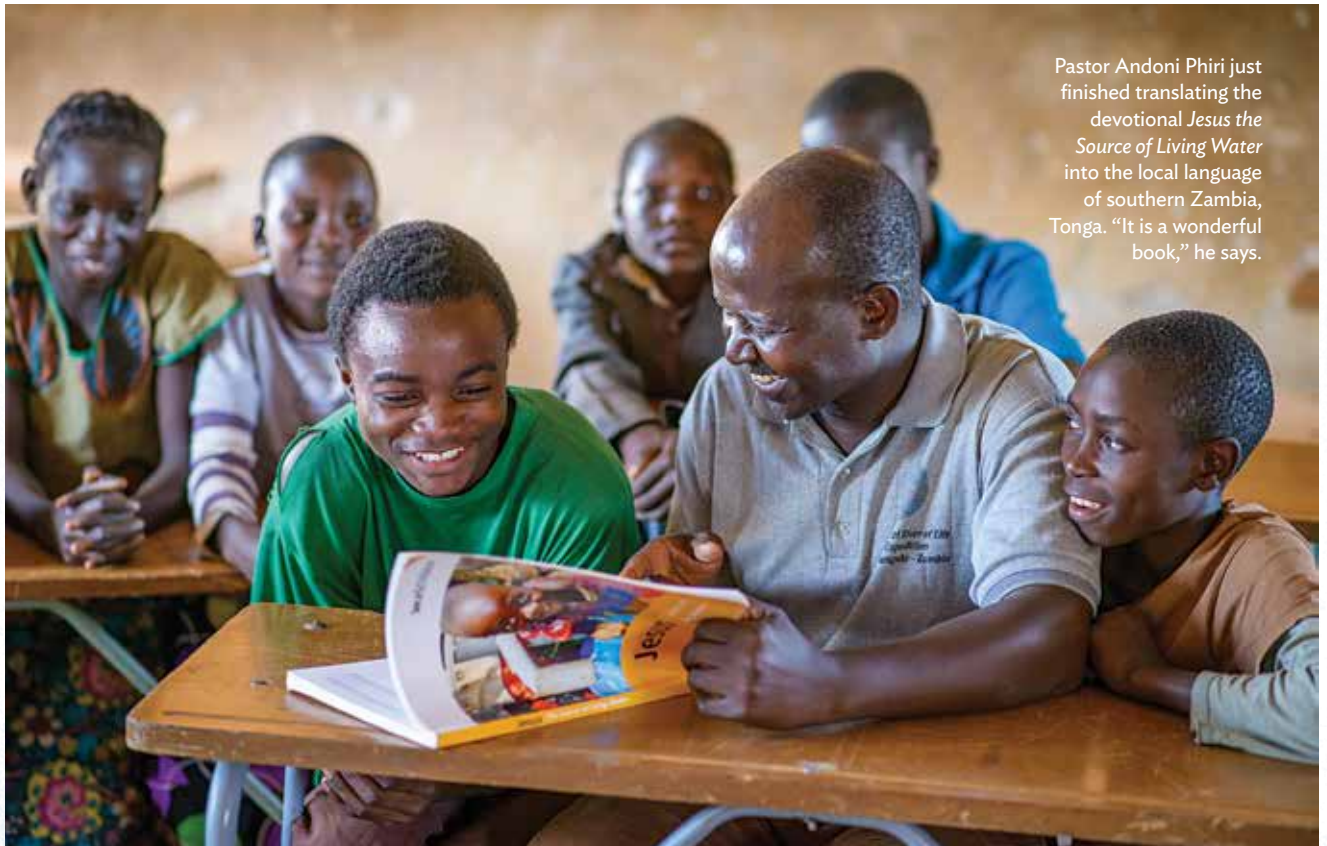


“Without World Vision, I cannot imagine the suffering. All the developments we have seen would not be here.”

— EVERLYN, 13



Sponsored child Everlyn, who used to gather water five times a day, now has time to play with her many friends during a break at school, where she is at the top of her class.



Pastor Andoni Phiri just finished translating the devotional *Jesus the Source of Living Water* into the local language of southern Zambia, Tonga. "It is a wonderful book," he says.



Left: “Now we can go to church proudly,” says Everlyn’s father, Benny Hampande, 45. As a result of clean water, he and his fellow parishioners are building a new church.

the advent of clean water and church attendance.

So every Tuesday, Benny and two dozen men make bricks to construct a larger church.

Giggling and smiling, surrounded by friends, Everlyn watches her father work on the new church in the warm winter sun. It’s a favorite pastime, as is singing, playing volleyball, and caring for her three dogs, especially Benjy.

“I like Benjy best,” she says. “He follows me wherever I go. He follows me when I get water. He follows me when I go to school. He even follows me when I go to church. I love him.”

But the sensible teen sends her favorite dog home when he tries to go to church with her. Because of clean water—living water stored there by God—there’s not enough room even for people. ●

—*Mutinta Chiseko, Collins Kaumba, and Davison Phiri of World Vision in Zambia contributed to this story.*

NEW BLESSINGS IN BULANDA

On Oct. 22, 2014, Bulanda village christened a new World Vision borehole well, replacing the dirty water source where the dog had died. First, dozens of families gathered at Bazaar Buumba’s home. “We have been getting water from dirty holes in the earth since 1963,” said Bazaar, addressing his fellow villagers. “Today, we have clean water.” With that, the families walked together to the well. There were speeches of gratitude for the water underground and prayers of thanks lifted skyward. As older children pumped water for the first time, the younger ones scampered into the well’s cement footing, hands stretching out to catch the first splashes of cool, clean, lifesaving water.

Nivesh and her family are still waiting for a well. The rocky terrain makes it difficult for the heavy drilling rigs to make their way to Simwami village. They’ve already had to turn back once. But World Vision will keep trying.



“[People] have to be ready as a community to get a borehole.”

— ISAAC SAMUNETE, 30, WORLD VISION’S
WASH COORDINATOR IN HAMAUNDU

In this village in southern Zambia there are “no dams, no streams, and no rivers,” says the chief. After not finding water, World Vision drillers pray with the villagers to find water.





Dorcas Hamasamu, 9, scrubs pots clean with a bit of sand and soap before placing them to dry in the sun on the family dish rack, one of the key sanitation and hygiene practices villagers learn.

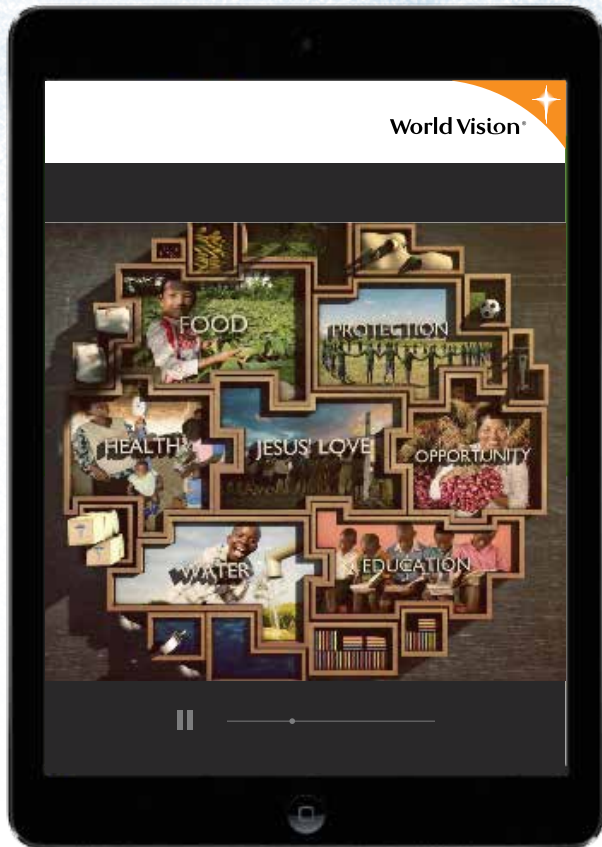
GOOD HYGIENE: The Five Keys

Sanitation and hygiene are critical parts of a new water system. When families learn to use proven sanitation practices, water-related illness decreases significantly. Here's what World Vision requires of each family in a community before providing a new well:

- 1 TOILET**
Replaces people relieving themselves in the bush and isolates human waste.
- 2 GARBAGE PIT**
Replaces the practice of scattering garbage around a community.
- 3 HAND-WASHING STATION**
Replaces handwashing at distant water sources where germs can be passed around. Placed near toilets, the station ensures people wash their hands more often.
- 4 BATHING SHOWER**
Replaces washing in community water sources, and prevents passing germs to other bathers.
- 5 RAISED DISH RACK**
Replaces the practice of drying dishes on the ground. The rack keeps the dishes out of animals' reach, and the sun sanitizes them.



World Vision hygiene promoters teach villagers to make what they call a tippy tap, an ingenious hand-washing station built with easy to find materials.



WATER: *One Piece of the Puzzle*

As transformative as clean water is, it does not solve all of a community's challenges. Poverty is complex. Imagine it like a puzzle, with just one piece—clean water—in place, but others, such as food, health, and education, missing. A puzzle can't be solved without all the pieces.

World Vision aims to solve the "puzzle of poverty" through a broad range of interventions that help families bring together all the pieces: clean water, nutritious food, good health, schooling for children, a secure income, safety, and the knowledge of God's love.

The result is lasting change, thriving communities, and the chance for children to reach their full potential—life in all its fullness, which Jesus came to give all people.

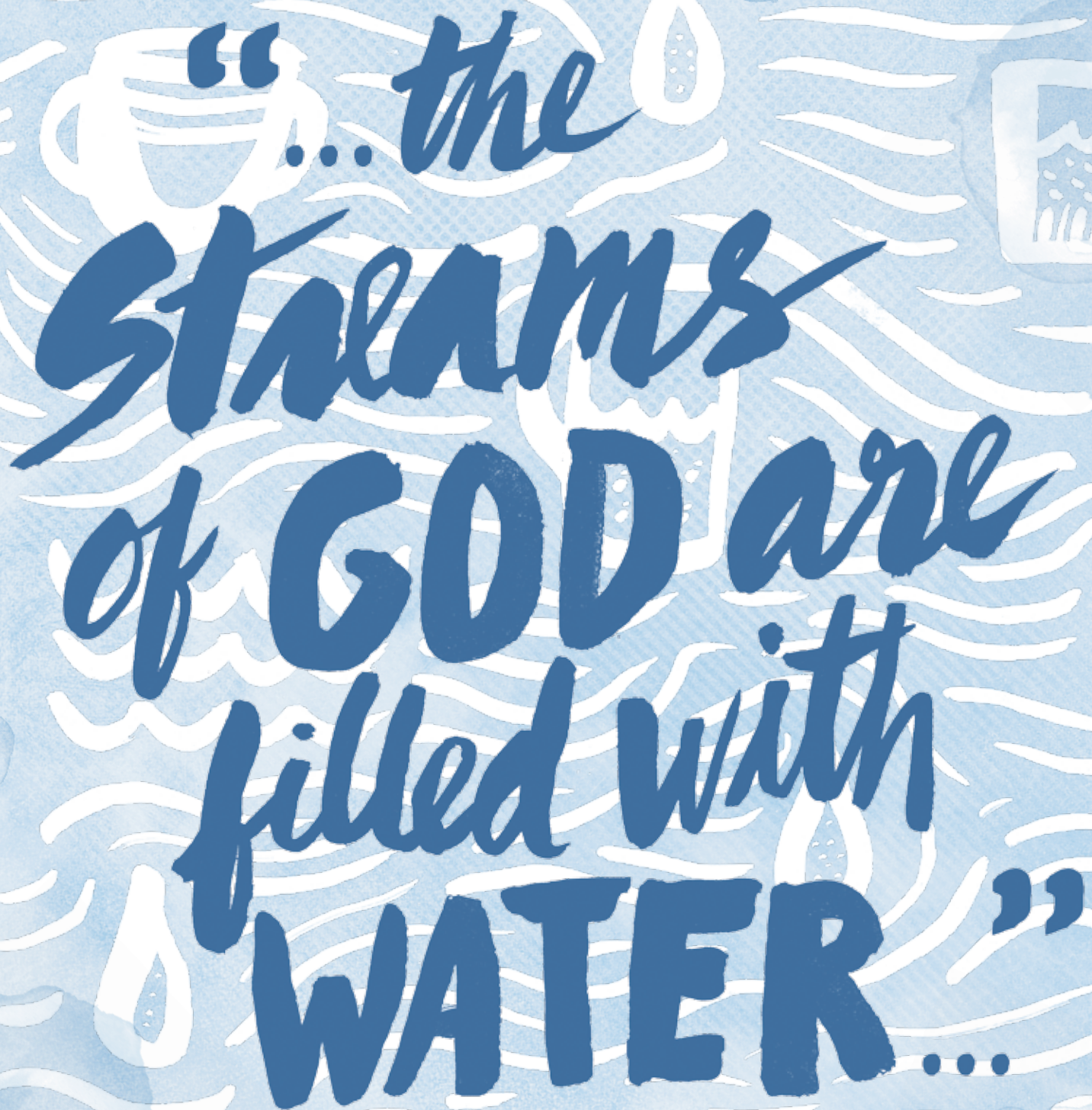
World Vision's water, sanitation, and hygiene programs bear witness to Jesus Christ—the Source of living water. In Zambia, a Christian nation, Bible study and open faith discussion are common. In countries where public expression of faith is more restricted, works and faith are demonstrated sensitively as staff witness through building relationships, demonstrating good character, and expressing Christ-like unconditional love. In all World Vision does, the deepest desire is that all who are served will come to know the love of Christ.



WATCH THE VIDEO EXPLAINING THE "PUZZLE OF POVERTY" AT WVMAG.ORG/PUZZLE.

Eunice Hantemba, 31, waters her new garden, which is located next to a well. Easy access to clean water means her daughter Ruth, 4, is no longer sick with diarrhea, and the 10-member family can grow enough produce to eat and sell.





“...the
streams
of GOD are
filled with
WATER...”

Psalm 65:9

BY
DENISE C.
KOENIG



PRAISE:

We are grateful to you, Lord, for being our Source of living water—the One who satisfies our deepest soul’s desire with the joy of salvation.

PRAY:

We ask that you would open people’s eyes to recognize you as the only Source of living water for their parched souls. Let them be refreshed in your love when they enjoy clean water to drink. *Amen.*

PRAISE:

We are grateful to you, Lord Jesus, for all who partner with World Vision in bringing disease-free water to rural communities.

PRAY:

We ask you to send more willing partners until the work is done. We dream of a future in which no child dies of diarrhea, no mother spends hours transporting water, no school lacks proper toilets and sanitation, and no one drinks dirty, unsafe water. *Amen.*

PRAISE:

We are grateful to you, Holy Spirit, for the gifts of patience and fortitude that you give to people in communities preparing themselves for a well.

PRAY:

We ask that you move hearts that are discouraged to press on in doing what is necessary to bring water to their community. Bless their training and strengthen their resolve so that they may fully enjoy the benefits of clean water—essentials like education, gardens of fresh produce, and good health. *Amen.*

PRAISE:

We are grateful to you, Heavenly Father, for the technology, tools, and expertise that allow water to be found in communities that have suffered for so long.

PRAY:

We ask you to help World Vision and its partners discover more ways to provide clean water at the lowest possible cost. Give experts innovative ideas to make their plans successful and efficient. *Amen.*



PRAISE:

We are grateful to you, God Almighty, for passionate donors who understand and care about the needs of people in developing rural communities worldwide. These gifts enable life-giving water projects that demonstrate your steadfast love.

PRAY:

We ask you to ignite passion in many people’s hearts to help bring clean water to those who desperately need it. Remind those of us who have safe water to always give generously and freely to help make this blessing available to others that we often take for granted. *Amen.* ●



JOIN OUR HOPE PRAYER TEAM AND RECEIVE A MONTHLY EMAIL GUIDE TO PRAYING FOR WORLD VISION’S WORK AROUND THE GLOBE. SIGN UP AT WVMAG.ORG/PRAY.

The image features two women in silhouette, walking from left to right. Each woman is carrying a large, dark bucket balanced on her head. The background is a warm, golden-orange sky, likely at sunset or sunrise, with some faint clouds. The overall mood is serene and evocative. The text 'Water of Woots' is overlaid in a white, brush-stroke style font, centered over the women's figures.

Water of Woots

For countless years, people across Africa have embarked on daily treks over long distances only to bring home dirty water that makes them sick. World Vision and its partners are on an unprecedented mission to change this—for good.

BY NATHALIE MOBERG | PHOTOS BY JON WARREN





A drilling crew member smiles after water is tapped in Ghana's Tampiong community.

Digging for Buried Treasure

In a bold response to deadly drought spreading across Africa in the early 1980s, World Vision and its partners set their sights on providing clean water to parched communities. What began in Ghana in 1985 today is a movement to provide clean water worldwide—because every child deserves disease-free water.

NO ONE COULD BLAME the leaders of northern Ghana's arid Savelugu community for wondering if they would ever receive the precious gift of clean water.

Multiple searches for underground water sources had failed, and hydrologists eventually concluded what no one wanted to hear: There was no water to be tapped beneath the community's parched landscape.

Despite the dire conclusion, in early 1999, clean water erupted from the ground. The "no water" myth gave way to what the local people called "God's miracle." They celebrated as World Vision drilled two wells that brought water spurting from the earth at an abundant 79 gallons per minute.

Alhaji Abduai Haruna, the district executive, said with amazement, "What is your secret, World Vision?"

The "secret" is a triad of clean water solutions that begins with faith in God, the Giver of water. "The 'secret sauce' is that our staff love the poor," says Greg Allgood, World Vision U.S. vice president of water development. "The reason we do this is that we follow the teachings of Jesus, who loves the poor and teaches us to give water to the thirsty."

In addition, long-term partnerships between World Vision and thousands of

748 million people still have only dirty water to drink.

(WHO and UNICEF, 2014)

corporations, foundations, and individual donors are in place to provide God's gift of clean water to rural communities. Finally, World Vision's presence in a community for up to 18 years allows time not only for successful well drilling, but also time for community members to learn water

system management, including maintenance and repairs.

When these three practices came together in Savelugu, life was transformed. Gone are the days when mothers like Haijia Adamu Disco, who lost four sons to waterborne diseases, live in fear that more of her children would die. Today, Haijia calls World Vision *duma zaa deba*—the people who help the world.

Like Haijia, millions of parents in Ghana and beyond no longer dread that their children will die from drinking dirty water. Before, waterborne pathogens or parasites like guinea worm were ingested as larvae and grew in the human host until they were several feet long. The worm exited the body by breaking through the arms or legs in a slow and excruciating process. Infected adults couldn't work, and sick children dropped out of school.

But as more wells were drilled, guinea worm no longer



Rose Akyemah and other Asikam village volunteers repair one of three well pumps World Vision installed in 1991.

threatened families. Dr. Joe Riverson, World Vision's national director in Ghana in the early 1990s, recalls the immediate difference the new wells made across Ghana.

"The clean water contributed to increased productivity of farmers, who were mostly affected with guinea worm during the farming season," he says. "It also improved the well-being of children, who were enabled to attend school. Water also allowed World Vision to authentically demonstrate God's love for them."

Guinea worm is now eradicated in Ghana. As more wells were drilled, the long-term partnership among World Vision, the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, and private donors continued to reduce more waterborne diseases—trachoma, typhoid, cholera, and more. In Ghana alone, deaths among children younger than 5 dropped from 120 deaths per 1,000 in 1990 to 69 deaths per 1,000 in 2009.

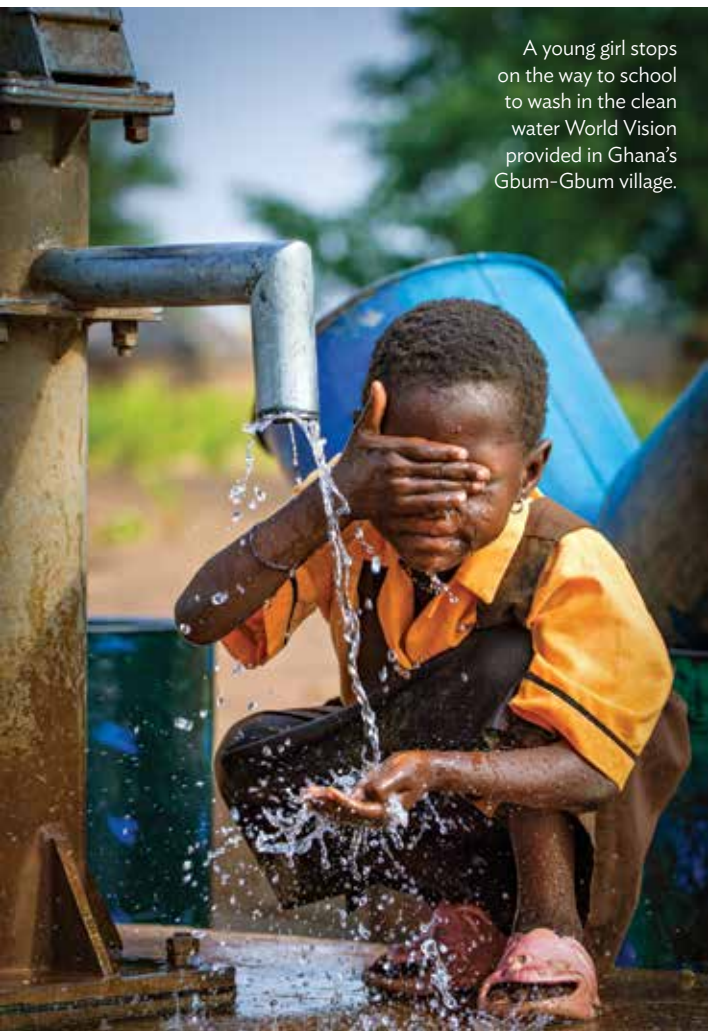
World Vision's work of supplying clean water across Africa began in Ghana in 1985, largely in response to the deep drought and famine that spread across sub-Saharan Africa in the early 1980s. Teaming up with USAID, World Vision initially set its sights on providing clean water in Ghana alone. That vision gradually expanded, until today, World Vision is the world's largest provider of clean water in rural communities.

Emmanuel Opong began working for World Vision the same year drilling began in Ghana. A rural Ghana native, Emmanuel knows firsthand what life was like as a boy growing up without clean water.

Every 30 seconds, World Vision reaches a new person with clean water.

In the past four years, World Vision has cut the cost of providing clean water in Africa in half, from \$102 to \$48 per beneficiary.

A young girl stops on the way to school to wash in the clean water World Vision provided in Ghana's Gbum-Gbum village.





As clean water erupts from the ground, Tampiong's community members celebrate the advent of a new life together.

"It's stressful, time-consuming, and dangerous," he says. "We had to go down into a very deep well that needed three to four of us at the same time. One would scoop the water into a bucket and lift it to the next person. Some of my friends fell into the well and died."

Thirty years after he began working for World Vision in Ghana, Emmanuel's passion for clean water continues as he ensures communities throughout Southern Africa receive the life-saving gift of fresh water.

The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation joined World Vision in 1990 to expand drilling into Mali and Niger, replicating the success achieved in Ghana. Since 2006, inspired to move beyond the arid countries of West Africa, World Vision and its partners are providing clean water in rural Ethiopia, Honduras, India, Mozambique, Rwanda, and Zambia.

Millions globally have not only clean

water, but the basic sanitation and hygiene education that further reduces the spread of disease: effective handwashing, safe food storage and garbage disposal, toilet construction, and more. When clean water is combined with knowledge, deadly waterborne diseases nearly disappear.

Despite significant gains, World Vision and its water partners are far from done.

"We believe that every child deserves clean water, and we'll not rest until this is achieved," Greg says. "We believe we can solve the global water crisis within our lifetimes. This is not just a hope, but something we are working to make happen."

In Ghana's Savelugu community—and in thousands of communities around the globe—that commitment overflows into the lives of millions, spilling over into God's miracle of new health, opportunity, and hope. ●

Wells that Keep Working

Even though research shows that Africa is full of broken wells, a recent independent study found that nearly 80 percent of World Vision wells continue to provide clean water for decades. The study was conducted in Ghana by the University of North Carolina Water Institute and Water and Sanitation for Africa, revealing that wells continue to function best when they are maintained and repaired. World Vision not only provides the well, but also trains a community to maintain and repair it. A community water committee also oversees the well, and a small fee is collected from community members to cover the cost of maintenance and repairs.

Nearly 1,600 children die every day from diarrhea caused by unsafe water.

(UNICEF, 2013)

More Than One Solution

Because each developing community is unique, World Vision works with community members to identify the most appropriate clean water source for local families. Options include:



Heavy-duty rigs used for drilling deep wells



Smaller, trailer-mounted rigs used to drill shallower wells at half the cost



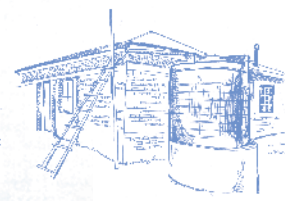
Hand-drilled wells when the water table is close to the surface



Mechanized wells with solar pumps for higher yields in larger communities



Protected and capped springs when freshwater sources are available



Rainwater harvesting near schools and health clinics

The Pipeline to New Life

1960s

World Vision begins small water projects.

EARLY 1980s

Severe drought points to the urgent need for clean, accessible water.

1985

World Vision's water program is firmly established as drilling begins in Ghana.

1990

The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation becomes a crucial partner in the Ghana water effort.

2005

West Africa's 2,000th well is drilled in Ghana.

2003

Drilling extends into Mali and Niger, benefiting more than half a million people through the West Africa Water Initiative by 2008.

2006

Large-scale water work begins in Ethiopia, providing 741,000 with clean water as of March 2014.

2009

Large-scale water work begins in Zambia, including sanitation and hygiene practices.

2011

World Vision expands its water work worldwide, increasing the number of people reached fourfold over the next two years.

2012

Drilling begins in Honduras. As of March 2014, 20 water systems were completed or in progress to benefit 15,000 people.

2013

Drilling begins in India. World Vision and P&G—celebrating a partnership that provided 1 billion liters of purified water—host former President Bill Clinton and Chelsea Clinton to see the impact in Rwanda.

2014

Independent study reveals that nearly 80 percent of Ghana's World Vision wells continue to function at high levels, even after 20 years; the 1,000th productive well is drilled in Mali.



ABBY STA. LBROTEN/WORLDDIVISION

A Couple's Thirst for Water

Dave and Dana Dornsife are devoted to spending time with the people who benefit from the clean water the couple provides throughout rural Africa.

Tens of thousands of children are alive today because of Dave and Dana Dornsife's vision, perseverance, and long-term commitment to solving the world's clean water deficit. Their partnership also is a significant factor in World Vision's standing as the world's No. 1 provider of clean water in rural communities.

DAVE AND DANA DORNSIFE take philanthropy to a whole new level. Passionate about clean water, they travel throughout Africa, entering into the work to bring clean water to hundreds of communities where children had been dying at alarming rates.

"After you see what water does in relation to stopping disease and changing quality of life, it's like flipping a switch that changes lives," Dana says.

Dave and Dana have been flipping that switch since 1990 in Malawi. The California couple has funded all or part of 10 drill rigs, each rig providing 35 to 50 wells every year. They have financed so many wells in thirsty communities that they've lost track of the number.

The number they do remember is the 748 million people who still don't have clean water. So the couple also supports learning centers and water labs that allow World Vision's hydrologists and other staff to learn from each other's successes, challenges, and ideas.

The Dornsifes spend plenty of time in the field as well. In early November, Dave and Dana traveled to four Southern African countries, working side by side with village elders, women's groups, water committees, community members, and World Vision staff to ensure water plans were moving forward. This was Dave's 34th and Dana's 16th visit to Africa.

"It's really important to see the work firsthand," says Dana. "Unless you go,

Addressing the global clean water crisis

Today, World Vision is the largest nongovernmental provider of clean water in the developing world. Since 2011, large-scale water projects in 10 African countries have provided more than 10,500 sustainable wells and water points for more than 2.7 million people.

“I was talking with the women,” Dana recalls, “and in the background we noticed how many sections of drill steel were being added on the drill rig. We started getting a little nervous because we knew where the water table was, and they should have hit water by then.”

The drilling crew kept trying, but no water was tapped

you’re totally working on assumption.”

The relationships the Dornsifes build in the field foster mutual respect and opportunities to learn about a community’s needs, further strengthening the work. Dave contributes his engineering acumen. Dana brings her wisdom and compassion. Both provide unwavering vision to improve life for those they serve.

The work also requires patience and fortitude, as Dave and Dana learned in rural Ghana in 2006. An entire village had gathered near the drill rig to celebrate the water they expected to come bursting from the ground.

“It’s like flipping a switch that changes lives.”

— DANA DORN S I F E

that day. “It brings tears to my eyes right now,” Dana says. “We got back in the Land Cruiser with heavy hearts. Just driving away and turning around and looking at these people, we felt like we abandoned them. That had never happened to us before, and I will never forget that.”

But neither the Dornsifes nor World Vision would give up. The drilling rig returned, and finally the community celebrated the arrival of clean water.

Dave and Dana faithfully walked with World Vision as the work of providing life-giving clean water expanded and matured. Better-equipped leaders and staff and new technology brought more precision in locating water and in drilling. Many lessons were learned along the way, and slowly the practices and principles that guide today’s extraordinary water work emerged.

One of the major advances is ensuring communities add sanitation and hygiene to their daily habits before they receive clean water, further reducing the spread of disease.

In 2015, World Vision is expanding its water, sanitation, and hygiene coverage from 10 to 22 African countries. This growth is possible in part because the Dornsifes inspire others to join them.

“If we’re going to change some of these things in the world, we can’t do it alone,” Dave says. “We need others’ buy-in and support. And it’s been very effective.”

As Dave and Dana have helped transform others’ lives, they themselves are changed through the people they have met, the insights they have gained, and the satisfaction in serving others. “We all possess the capacity to change these communities,” Dave says. “If more people understood that, we’d get the job done a lot faster.”

Undergirding all this work is Dave and Dana’s faith.

“Bringing water, sanitation, and hygiene to a new person in Africa every 30 seconds is an unbelievable accomplishment,” Dave says. “Our successes and guidance have come from God. This is our chance to truthfully do what we’re asked to do biblically, and that’s serve the poor.” ●

Women and girls in rural communities often spend up to six hours every day transporting water. (UNICEF, 2013)



An Ethiopian girl collects clean water from a well that Dave and Dana Dornsife made possible in World Vision’s Guraghe development area.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



PAUL BETTINGS/WORLD VISION

PASSING THE TORCH OF LEARNING

A FORMER SPONSORED CHILD IGNITES A LOVE FOR EDUCATION AMONG YOUNG STUDENTS.

BY MICHAEL CZOBIT

Phally Pheng likes getting kids' hands up in the air. A former sponsored child who now teaches in northeast Cambodia, she works hard to teach in ways that engage her students. She wants her students to participate—for their hands to spring up in excitement when she asks a question.

One morning, the 21-year-old teacher calls a boy to the blackboard. He doesn't hesitate to pick up the chalk. This boy, like all the children in her classroom, is sponsored. Phally knows education can change their lives—just as education changed hers.

Phally's only dream as a child was to become a teacher. "I told my sponsor this, and she encouraged me to study hard," she says. If the boy working diligently at the blackboard follows his teacher's example of adding determination to sponsorship, his dream could also come true.

Phally remembers well the days before World Vision and child sponsorship arrived. Her parents were farmers, but they didn't earn enough to support her and her younger sister and brother. Phally's parents had to borrow money from her aunt to pay school fees.

But then, when she turned 9, someone began to sponsor her through World Vision, and Phally was able to go to school. She initially attended classes held outdoors because her community didn't have a building for the children to learn in. Phally says, "We weren't encouraged without a building."

But as World Vision's work in Samlot continued, the community changed in many ways. "There was a lot of development," says Phally. "World Vision built a well, roads, and school buildings." Phally adds that the well, in particular, made life easier. "We used to fetch water as far as eight kilometers (nearly five miles) away. But after we had the well, it was easy for us to get water."

Ready access to water is helping more children go to school instead of carrying water throughout the day. As a result, all children in Phally's community are now enrolled in primary school, and 60 percent of younger children attend preschool.

As Phally progressed from grade to grade, she saw the need for more teachers to plant the seeds of learning in young minds like hers. She began to think that perhaps she too could be a teacher one day. "When I was growing up, we didn't have enough teachers," she says. "I found this didn't encourage us to go to school. I wanted to help my community."

Along with benefiting from the work that World Vision did in her community, Phally also enjoyed an ongoing relationship with her sponsor, who sent her letters twice

"Faith is very important to people. People need God. I believe it will shape people to do good things."

—PHALLY PHENG

a year. "She would ask about my family and my schooling," Phally says. "She wanted to know how I was doing." Phally would write back and tell her sponsor about her life and successes. In one letter, she shared about her dream of becoming a teacher.

Her sponsor encouraged her to pursue that dream, a message Phally took to heart. After she finished high school, Phally went to college. Her Christian faith also motivated her to keep striving. "Faith is very important to people," she says. "People need God. I believe it will shape people to do good things."

For the past four years Phally has taught a number of grades and a variety of subjects. Her favorite subject is literacy because, she says, "I love reading."

In class, she proudly wears a traditional Cambodian dress, but her pride in her students is even more evident. "Through sponsorship, children have a chance to gain knowledge," she says. "They receive what they need." Phally is proof of this—through sponsorship, she received what she needed to realize her dream. ●

TO SPONSOR A CHILD

fill out the form between pages 20 and 21 and enclose in attached envelope, or go to 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. ●



PAUL BETTINGS/WORLD VISION

God Has More in Mind

BY BOB BOUWER

It is interesting how God often uses the most quirky or seemingly insignificant gifts or passions to glorify his name and advance his kingdom near us and around the world.

Since college, I have used running as a way to keep in shape and, more recently, as a space for discipling Faith Church leaders. As I run with others, we catch up on life and ministry and dream big about the future.

When staff leaders and I became aware of Team World Vision (teamworldvision.org), which invites individuals to run marathons and raise support for World Vision's work, we knew it was a great fit. We were already passionate about running. And it was another connection point in a relationship with World Vision that started in late 2007, when Faith Church hosted the Step Into Africa exhibit. We were blown away by the response in attendance and child sponsorships. Our eyes and hearts were opened to the community of Karaba in Rwanda.

In 2008, we ran our first half marathon with Team World Vision in Chicago and raised more than \$50,000. Each year we continue to run with Team World Vision, and each year we are astonished by people's generosity. We also host annual Caregiver Kit packing events, which have blossomed into packing nearly 1,200 kits.

Four years after that first half marathon, I went with a team of leaders from Faith Church to Rwanda to visit the people in Karaba, who have become so close to our hearts. We were overwhelmed by the beauty and brokenness of this small nation, which is still recovering from the 1994 genocide.

After praying for so long for the people of Karaba, we were finally able to put faces to their names. Our team took many photos and videos, so we could bring back to our church the faces of the people we have grown to love. This footage culminated with our church using World Vision U.S. President Rich Stearns' book *The Hole in Our Gospel* for weekend services and small groups.



COURTESY BOB BOUWER (2)

“For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability...”

—2 CORINTHIANS 8:3

we continue to raise support through Team World Vision. There is no doubt God has more in store for us than we could ever have imagined.

Faith Church is looking forward to our ongoing journey with World Vision. We continue to learn new ways of using our gifts and talents individually and together to serve the world. ●



Bob Bouwer is senior pastor of Chicagoland's Faith Church, whose church members have raised nearly \$1.5 million through Team World Vision for World Vision's work. Bob also serves on World Vision's Ministry Advisor Council. He and his wife, Laurie, have four children, two grandchildren, and a sponsored child in Rwanda.

Pastor Bob Bouwer visits some of the Rwandan children his congregation supports through Team World Vision, child sponsorship, and more. Faith Church's work in Rwanda inspires many church members to use their unique gifts in caring for families in need.

The Hole in Our Gospel functioned as yet another catalyst in our story with World Vision. New dreams were birthed by individuals and small groups as money was raised for clean water, additional child sponsorships, AIDS Caregiver Kits, and more.

We learned as a community how to use our unique gifts to impact the global cause. We now have children who run their own version of a half marathon, host bake sales, and man lemonade stands to raise money. A small group passionate about crafting also hosts an annual *amazi* (water) craft fair at our church.

My first trip to Rwanda has now turned into two, our church is sponsoring more than 500 children there, and

RETROSPECT



NARGES GHAFARY/WORLD VISION

AFGHANISTAN

Boys in Robata Pariyan, Afghanistan, playfully splash each other with water from a new, 98-foot-deep well World Vision drilled in their community. Before, villagers depended on water from shallow, salty wells; waterborne disease was rampant, and sickness often caused children to miss school. With another well recently drilled in a neighboring village, more people in this area can experience the joy of clean water. In addition to providing Afghans with safe drinking water, World Vision—which has worked in the country since 2001—focuses on increasing children’s access to education and improving child and maternal health. Now that’s something to smile about. ●

Share clean water with a child in Zambia

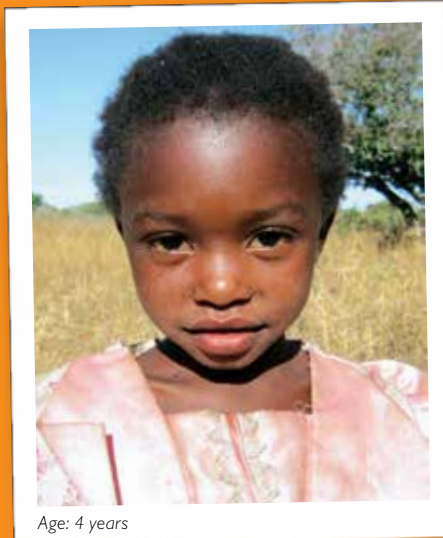
In the Zambian community of Hamaundu, women and children walk for hours every day searching for water that is often dirty and causes life-threatening disease. In the process, they miss out on education and income-generating opportunities and even risk physical harm.

But there is hope! By sponsoring a child in Hamaundu, you can help make clean water accessible to them and their entire community—along with other life-changing essentials like nutritious food, healthcare, and education.

Sponsor **Beauty** (below), **Bright** (right), or **Chipo** (bottom right) today!



Age: 11 months



Age: 4 years



Age: 4 years

Simply call **1.866.332.4453** or
visit **worldvision.org/hamaundu**.

*If the child you choose is already sponsored,
you can choose another in Hamaundu who
is still waiting for a sponsor like you.*

World Vision®

Published by
World Vision, Inc.
P. O. Box 70172
Tacoma, WA 98481-0172

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
World Vision

**If you have questions, comments,
or a change of address, you may
call toll-free: 866.332.4453**



To see how World Vision is partnering with the Hamaundu community to change lives through access to clean water, read Everlyn's story on page 12.