

World Vision

SPRING 2017

II
PROGRESS
AGAINST
POVERTY

Q&A WITH
PATRICIA
HEATON

28

Five-year-old Cheru walks 6K for water that makes her sick. She shouldn't have to—and now she won't.

Water Within Reach

12

HEROES WANTED

(no experience necessary).



Make it personal—
walk for a child
on May 6.

Johgina,
USA



Cheru,
age 5,
Kenya



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GLOBAL 6K FOR WATER

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ON THE COVER

Cheru, 5, carries a tea kettle for miles to collect water.

JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

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When [I was] discouraged and things felt very difficult, I thought about God's plan. God has a plan for us."

—JULIA LOLEM,
MOTHER OF KAMAMA



Rich Stearns walks with two of his sponsored children, Jackson (left) and Morgan, in Zambia in 2004.

Walking with the Poor

By Rich Stearns

NOW THAT I HAVE A FITBIT, I'm acutely aware of just how little ground I cover on my own two feet every day. Sitting in my car on the way to work, sitting at my desk, and sitting in meetings doesn't do much for my step count. (They say sitting is the new smoking!)

Actually, my wife, Reneé, and I love to take walks, and we do it every chance we get, walking in parks or around our neighborhood, wearing our sturdy-soled athletic shoes and hats, sunglasses, or jackets as the weather demands.

How different things are in rural areas of the developing world, where car ownership is rare and public transportation erratic. Walking isn't something people *want* to do for exercise but *have* to do to get around. They must walk everywhere—school, farm fields, the market, church—and do so rain or shine. I'll never forget my first trip to rural Kenya. As our Land Cruiser toiled along on roads out in the middle of nowhere, I was amazed to see people walking, many in flimsy sandals, some toting heavy loads, midway on their multi-mile trek.

One of the most urgent reasons to walk in rural Africa, especially for women and girls, is to collect water for drinking and bathing. The average distance they must go to a water source—and not usually a clean one—is 6 kilometers, about 3.7 miles. Since it's impossible for a woman or child to carry all the water to meet her family's daily needs, she must repeat the trip a few times every day. Turn to page 12 to see photos and read about what this is like for 5-year-old Cheru, a girl in Kenya.

Poor access to clean water is something World Vision is working with a vengeance to solve. We've accelerated the progress of our water work so that we're reaching one new person every 10 seconds—with a commitment to reach everyone, everywhere we work, by 2030. Children like Cheru deserve our best efforts.

You can help by participating in our Global 6K for Water, which enables you to walk—or run, if you're so inclined—in solidarity with those who lack clean water. But don't worry, we don't require that you heft a 50-pound jug of water as most

“

And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.

—2 JOHN 1:6

African women have to.

There's greater significance to this activity than just empathy. World Vision is providing clean water in communities where we serve for a decade or more, working closely with local leaders and families, investing in their lives, and inviting our own hearts to be transformed alongside theirs. A good metaphor for this is “walking with the poor,” and it's our philosophy of good development.

Former World Vision vice president and Fuller Theological Seminary professor Bryant L. Myers (who actually wrote the book *Walking with the Poor*) called this relational approach a “kingdom tool,” a way to emulate Christ, who walked in sandals among us.

Myers wrote, “We are to come closer, to walk with those who are suffering, left out, or devalued. We are to work with the poor and excluded as they seek a better life and treatment fitting those made in the image of God.”

When you partner with World Vision, you are walking with the poor, too. Mothers, fathers, and children feel your love and support across the miles. And with that comes a sense of God's love. Knowing they're not alone in their struggles lightens their load. **WV**

Rich Stearns is president of World Vision U.S. and the author of *The Hole in Our Gospel* and *Unfinished*.

FIND MORE

See photos from the countries where World Vision works at wvmag.org/photos.

Embark

COME IN AND SEE THE WORLD

ONLINE

Read about communities being transformed in Armenia at wvmag.org/armenia.



Armenia

A mother and child light candles at Khor Virap, a centuries-old Armenian Apostolic Church monastery. Easter in Armenia is celebrated with willow branches instead of palm branches, traditional food, eggs dyed red, and the lighting of candles at church. Armenians greet each other on Easter Sunday by saying “Christ is risen” and answering “Blessed is the resurrection.”

LAURA REINHARDT/WORLD VISION



Dominican Republic

Ernesto Sena used to be a plantain farmer—until water from nearby Lake Enriquillo started to rise in 2007. The water eventually drowned about 80 percent of his crop, making it difficult for him to make ends meet. World Vision helped train Ernesto in shoemaking and provided equipment and materials for him to start his own business. In nine years, he expanded his shop to 14 employees, making enough to send his children—several of whom are sponsored through World Vision—to college.

EUGENE LEE/WORLD VISION







Uganda

Children walk to church carrying sticks of sugarcane, which will be their offering. At Buhimba Christian Fellowship in Hoima, Uganda, some congregants bring sugarcane, tomatoes, eggs, and more as tithes. The items are auctioned off to fellow churchgoers and the money goes to the church.

JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

Ethiopia



Peru



CLOCKWISE: JON WARREN/WORLD VISION, EUGENE LEE/WORLD VISION,
JON WARREN/WORLD VISION, JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

Uganda



India



GLOBAL NEWS | 10

The Syrian crisis turns 6; World Vision in Latin America; and updates from the field.

Discover

EXPLORE THE ISSUES FACING PEOPLE IN POVERTY

COVER STORY | 12

Cheru and Kamama live just 16 miles apart, but their lives are dramatically different.



PROGRESS AGAINST POVERTY

Poverty has been reduced dramatically in Southeast Asia, where 18-year-old Saoly Ouk lives. In 1990, more than 46 percent of people in the region lived in extreme poverty. Now? That number has dropped to 7 percent. Find more progress against poverty on page 11. >

Laura Reinhardt/World Vision



STEFANIE GLINSKI/WORLD VISION

In the Field

SOMALIA

Five years after drought and conflict killed an estimated 260,000 people—half of them children under age 5—a **severe hunger crisis** threatens Somalia. Over six million people need lifesaving aid, with more than 3 million of them in severe food insecurity. World Vision is assisting in seven regions with nutrition training, food, water, sanitation, and healthcare. The East African nation, which hasn't had a fully functioning government in more than 30 years, elected a new president in February.

DID YOU KNOW?

In the last decade, World Vision has stepped up our efforts to bring clean water to all the communities where we work. In 2015, we set a goal to reach one new person with clean water every 10 seconds by 2020. Thanks to your generosity, we hit that goal early! Now, we're aiming to reach everyone, everywhere we work, by 2030. Help us hit this critical goal by using the form between pages 18 and 19. **WV**



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

Brazil

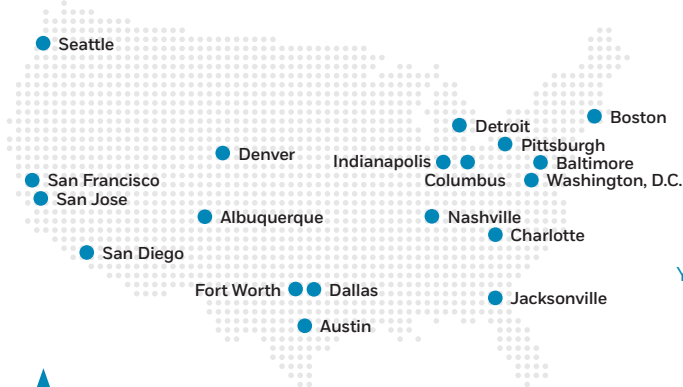
A **new sponsorship program** in Brazil is aiding some of those who need it most: children born with microcephaly, a condition that can be caused by Zika virus. Pregnant mothers who contract the mosquito-borne virus are at risk of giving birth to babies with microcephaly and other serious birth defects. The program helps with the cost of specialized—and expensive—medical care and therapy these children require but their parents often can't afford.

Philippines

Tropical storms and earthquakes are a part of life in areas of this island nation, so World Vision works with schools in Bohol province to teach students **how to prepare for emergencies**. They learn about disaster risk reduction, first aid, contingency planning, evacuation strategies, and early warning systems, and they are encouraged to share what they learn with their families. The deadliest storm to hit the Philippines was Typhoon Haiyan in 2013; World Vision assisted more than 1.6 million people affected by the disaster.

Sierra Leone

Though Sierra Leone was declared Ebola-free in November 2015, **the impact of the deadly virus isn't over**. Children who lost parents to Ebola are more vulnerable to exploitation, and many now live with relatives who struggle to support their families. To ease the burden for caregivers, World Vision provides food and job opportunities in seven districts. The Ebola outbreak claimed more than 11,300 lives across West Africa from 2013 to 2016. **WV**



VISUALIZE THIS
SYRIA AND IRAQ

Between the populations of Syria and Iraq, 15 million people are displaced from their homes—either fleeing to a safer place within their country’s borders or leaving altogether. That’s the equivalent of every man, woman, and child in these U.S. cities. **WV**

Find more online at wvmag.org/syria:

- Syria crisis and conflict FAQs
- How to talk to your kids about the refugee crisis

6

Years since the Syrian conflict began on March 15, 2011

470,000+

Syrians estimated to have been killed in the conflict

100,000

People in Aleppo helped by World Vision since December 2016

Sources: U.N., UNHCR



Then and Now

BY THE LATE 1970s, World Vision, which began in 1950 serving countries in Asia, had expanded its work into Africa, the Middle East, Europe, and Latin America. Forty years ago, in a 1977 issue of *World Vision* magazine, we asked readers to pray for our growth into Latin America:

[Pray] for God’s direction as World Vision moves into Central and South America. ... We will be moving into community development projects as the Lord leads.

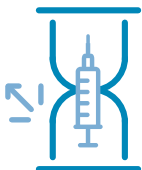
Please pray for the opening of the new World Vision regional office in Guatemala. Pray for the new staff members and their families, that God will lead them in establishing a strong ministry in Latin America and that they will have a smooth adjustment to life in a new country and culture.

Since then, World Vision has expanded into 14 countries across Latin America and the Caribbean. Today, more than 780,000 children in nearly 4,500 communities in the region are sponsored—a “strong ministry” indeed. Because of this work, World Vision was equipped to respond to disasters like the 2010 earthquake in Haiti and Hurricane Mitch in 1998. **WV**

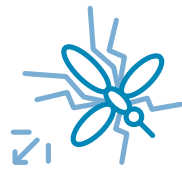
Progress Against Poverty

Three Things to Celebrate

OVERWHELMED BY DISASTERS, conflict, and poverty in our world? Take heart: Global gains in health, economics, and generosity mean the fight against extreme poverty can be won—and together we’re making strides to accomplish that goal.



Since 2000, life expectancy in all regions of Africa has increased by 9.4 percent, mainly due to curbing the AIDS crisis (and increasing access to antiretroviral medications), progress toward controlling malaria, and other efforts to ensure child survival.



Speaking of malaria, deaths caused by the mosquito-borne disease have declined 60 percent since 2000.

Sources: World Health Organization, World Bank, Giving USA Foundation



In 2015, Americans gave more to charity than ever before. Individual donors, estates, foundations, and corporations gave an estimated \$373.25 billion, and giving to international charities—like World Vision—rose by 17.5 percent. **WV**



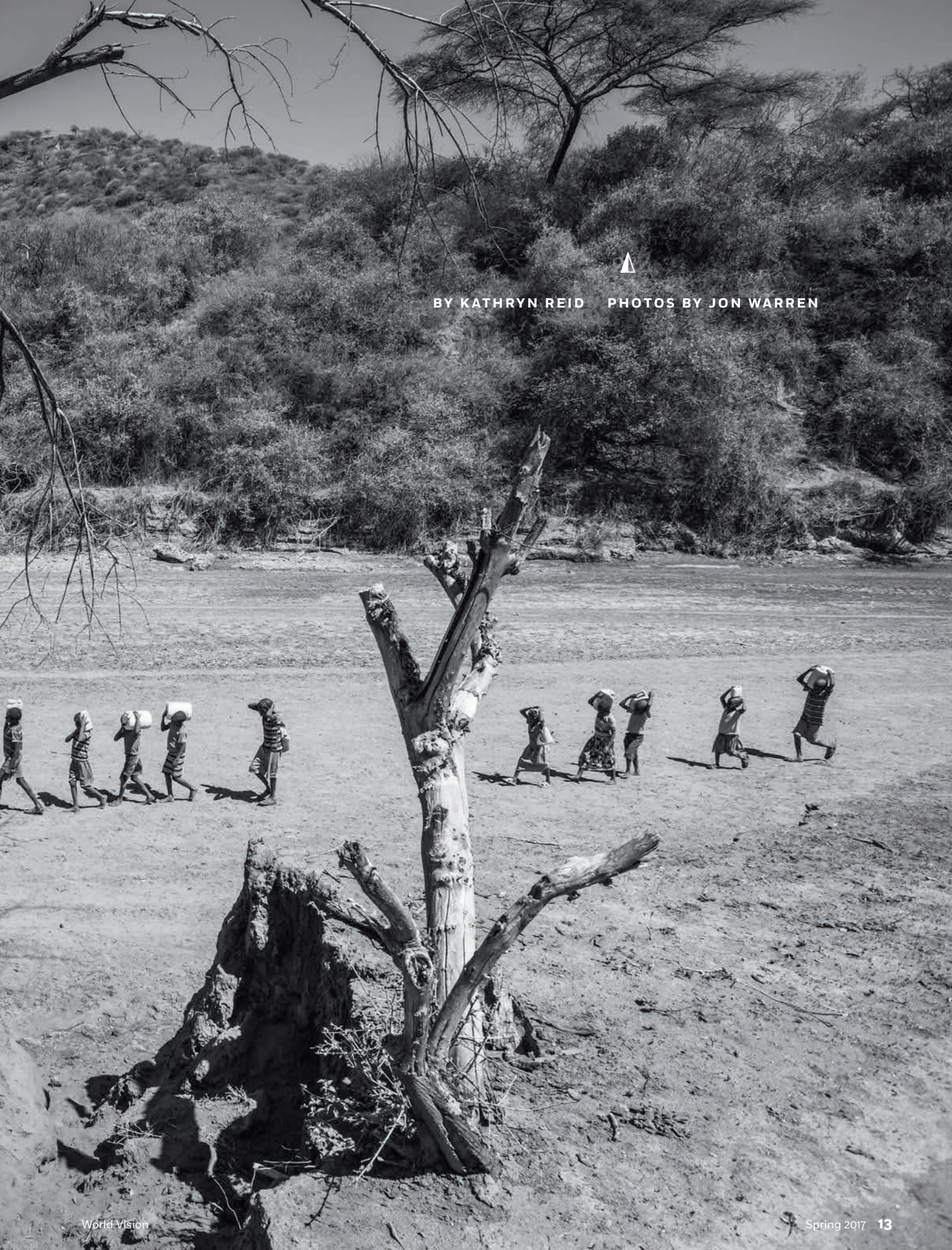
FOR WANT OF WATER

IN SUB-SAHARAN Africa, 319 million people worry about where and how they'll get enough water. Without access to an improved water source, their days revolve around gathering enough to cook, clean, bathe—and of course, drink.

The task of collecting water falls mainly to women and children, especially girls, who carry water an average of 6 kilometers (3.7 miles) a day. Some walk much farther, while others—especially those living in a community where World Vision has sponsorship programs—walk far less.

Meet two of them: Cheru and Kamama. Both 5-year-olds live in rural Kenya, and like millions of African children, they help their mothers carry water every day. Though they live just 16 miles apart, for one, fetching water is a three-hour struggle; for the other, it's a seven-minute stroll.

Walk with them.



BY KATHRYN REID PHOTOS BY JON WARREN



Though only 5, Cheru walks miles every day to collect water.



CHERU

+ AGE: 5

+ LOCATION: Chepoyotwo village, Kenya

+ DISTANCE TO WATER: 6.88 kilometers, or 4.27 miles, round trip

+ TIME SPENT ON EACH TRIP: 3 hours, 32 minutes

CHERU LOTULIAPUS drinks the last of her warm milk tea—her usual breakfast—and hands the tin cup to her mother, Monica, to wash.

Her older sister, Dina, waits for her, jerry can in hand. Cheru stands on tiptoe to pull down the tea kettle hanging on the side of a woven wood stand where clean dishes dry in the sun. The girls hurry to join other children with jerry cans large and small, and the group sets out walking on a hours-long journey to fetch the water their families’ lives depend on.

The sun climbs higher and hotter in the clear sky as if to melt the sand and rocks of the dry Kesot River bed. Slowing their pace, the children, ranging in age from 5 to 12, skirt the bluffs and linger in the shade of trees.

Sweat beading on her forehead, Cheru falls behind. She stops, swaps the kettle to her other hand, and plunges ahead to catch up at the next resting place. The youngest of the group, Cheru follows the older children and tries to do what they do.

At the Waterhole

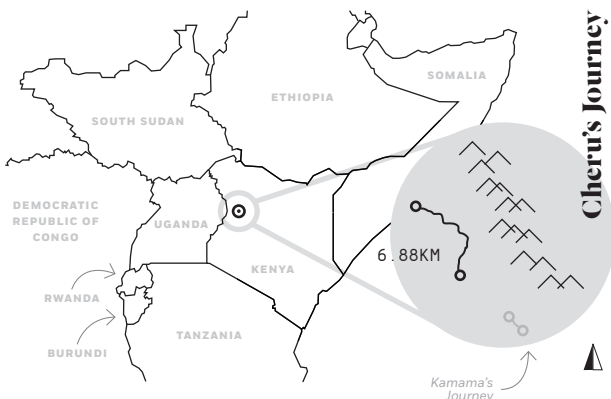
CHERU’S BATTERED aluminum tea kettle holds enough water for her morning tea, but little more. When she digs in the sandy riverbed with the lid and scoops enough water to fill her kettle, it’s not enough to cook a meal or wash dishes.

Even at age 5, Cheru knows that her mother worries about water and struggles to carry enough for their daily needs, though she makes the round trip trek twice a day. So every day, the little girl picks up her kettle and walks to fill it. “I help my mother,” she says.

Dina, 6, can dig faster and fill her jerry can with more water. She’s impatient and pushes Cheru out of the way. They’ve had to wait for a turn to dig, and others are waiting to take their place. Goats, cows, and camels jockey for position, too. The little girl starts to cry.

Children don’t get the best places to dig. There’s a larger, more productive waterhole 50 yards further on. There, women fill jerry cans, bathe their babies, wash clothes, and watch their cattle drink.

The driest time of year is coming, bringing months when there is no rain. As water becomes more scarce, the fiercest competitors—wild honeybees—dominate the waterholes during the day, threatening to sting intruders. The bees gather anywhere there’s moisture, even clustering





Above: Cheru cries when her sister, Dina, pushes her out of the way to fill the kettle faster.
Left: Cheru rushes to catch up with the other children.





around a child's runny nose or in the corner of their eyes, says Monica.

As it gets drier, digging becomes serious business for adults. They'll dig deep, some years going down 20 feet, hauling up filled jerry cans with a rope until the waterholes yield no water, only sand. The holes can cave in on people who are digging, and animals sometimes fall in and drown.

"When there's no water here, we go to the dam," says Samson, Cheru's father. They walk more than six miles to take water from a crocodile-infested river.

Kids' 6K For Water

BUT TODAY, there's water for the digging and the bees are buzzing elsewhere. When the children's jerry cans are filled, they start the trek home. Some tie a long scarf around the handle and support the weight of the jerry can with their foreheads. Others balance a jug on their head or shoulders. Cheru swaps her tea kettle from one hand to the other and plods along.

In every shady place, the children stop to put down their heavy water jugs and rest. It's a school holiday, so they take their time. No parents are along to rush them.

When the new school session starts, the children will hurry to the waterhole early, before the bees come in full force. They'll fill their jerry cans with the water they need for the school day and walk to class. After classes, they'll stop by the water hole to fetch water to take home. The distance is more than 6 kilometers, the average daily distance women and girls in the developing world walk for water.

"When it's very dry, it's hard for kids to get to school," Monica says. "They have to wait too long at the waterhole or take care of the younger kids while their mothers spend the whole day to fetch water from far away." Monica worries that Cheru won't be able to keep up for the long walk.

"If we had water here, they would attend school without fail," says Samson.

'If We Had Water'

"I THINK ABOUT water more than anything else," says Monica. She's always wondering: Do I have enough water to cook a meal, to make tea, and to wash clothes? Is there enough for the goats?

Villagers have agreed to take their goat herds to the waterhole on alternate days, so they have to carry home enough water for them, too. Seated in the shade of a kitchen hut, Monica and other women from the village imagine what it would be like to have water close at hand.

"If we had water," says one villager, Rael, "we would have time for other things. We would grow vegetables and go out to do business."

The rainy season has just passed and with it their chance to make an annual crop. Says Rael, "We grew



Opposite page, top: Monica makes hot milk tea in Cheru's kettle for her children's breakfast. *Bottom:* A whirlwind blows sand into the children's faces when they put down their heavy water jugs to rest in the shade. *Above:* Cheru falls while walking down a steep slope to the riverbed.



Cheru rinses her face, arms, and legs in the first puddle she sees.



The effects of this life mean that Cheru and so many other girls and women are not able to live up to their potential.

Every day is shaped by the walk for water.



maize in a field by the riverbank, but it dried up. Now we'll have to buy maize."

If we had water, the women say: "We could grow bananas, sugar cane, cabbages."

"Our children wouldn't have to carry water to school."

"They would be clean and not get sick from drinking dirty water."

Monica says hardly a week goes by before a child in her family gets sick.

"Cheru was sick three weeks ago. She was very sick," Monica says. The little girl had stomach problems, headache, nosebleed, and bloody stool. She was weak and listless. Luckily, the closest health center was open. (It's often closed for months.) She still has a runny nose, rheumy eyes, and a deep, congested cough.

Even as a child, Cheru's daily life is consumed with finding water. The effects of this life—poverty, illness, malnutrition, and inadequate education—mean that Cheru and so many other girls and women are not able to live up to their potential. Every day is shaped by the walk for water.



Clean, fresh water and all the blessings it brings are a given for Kamama and her community.



KAMAMA

+ AGE: 5

+ LOCATION: Sengelel village, Kenya

+ DISTANCE TO WATER: 252 yards, or .14 miles, round trip

+ TIME SPENT ON EACH TRIP: 6 minutes, 49 seconds

BARELY 16 MILES away lives another 5-year-old girl, Kamama Lolem, whose life is very different from Cheru's. She and three siblings are World Vision sponsored children—and where World Vision brings clean water and child sponsorship, a cascade of blessings follow: fewer illnesses, better nutrition, more kids in school, and time for moms and dads to farm or run a business.

In 2015, World Vision—along with community members including Kamama's mother, Julia—tapped a mountain spring and piped water down to their community. Everything has been different since then.

Kamama's family and their neighbors have experienced the transformation that clean water brings. Their 13-mile-long gravity-fed pipeline carries water to 15 kiosks, serving 880 households as well as schools, churches, and a health center. World Vision runs the system, but local committees manage the kiosks and are preparing to take over maintenance, too, funded by a small monthly fee for users.

Paving the Way for Progress

LIKE CHERU, Kamama helps her mother by carrying a small jerry can—or even the family's tea kettle—to easily bring water from the nearest

source. She can fill her kettle with clean water from a kiosk and return home in less than seven minutes, a round trip of 252 yards. She doesn't have to compete with cattle and goats who dirty the water; the animals drink from their own water trough, away from the village water supply.

Kamama and her friends like to meet at the kiosk to play, just yards from where their mothers are drawing water, washing clothes, or hanging laundry on the cactus fence that lines the dirt road.

"Before, I walked for three hours to collect water from the river," says Julia. "Now it's just a few minutes to the kiosk."

The responsibility for providing for her children falls solely on Julia. Tragedy struck the family in 2014 when her husband, Daudi, was killed in a road accident. Julia worried that she wouldn't be able to keep the children in school, which had been her husband's dream for them.

"On my own, I knew I had to work extra hard. First, I work to grow maize, fruit, and other crops we can eat and sell. Then I pick up other work, too," says Julia.

World Vision and the family's church helped keep them afloat and boosted her courage.





Above: Kamama's walk to the water kiosk takes less than seven minutes.

Left: Spring water piped from a mountainside is pure and clean—good for drinking and every other household need.







“When discouraged and things felt very difficult, I thought about God’s plan,” says Julia. “God has a plan for us. And in that plan, I need to manage for my family. I have authority.”

‘Water Has Changed Everything’

THE EFFECTS of the water project flow through the village. Clean water runs from the faucet in the community health center’s lab, and

it’s piped straight to the school and sprinkled on the children’s demonstration garden. It has changed family life in fundamental ways.

“Life became much easier when the water came. We save time, too. I have more time for farming,” Julia says. She and her children tend maize, beans, millet, and lush fruit trees heavy with mangoes, oranges, lemons, and guavas. They have maize to eat from their harvest, even in a year with low rainfall.

Samuel Lemungole, lab technician at the local health center, remembers the days when he’d arrive at work to find 10 people waiting, very sick.

“I’d test and find that it was typhoid. Now we seldom see that. Diarrhea and other waterborne diseases are way down,” he says. “Water has changed everything for the better.”

Good health comes not just from piped water to drink, but also from using toilets, taking baths, and washing hands. World Vision trains village health volunteers who teach others to construct and maintain toilets. World Vision WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene) clubs in the primary school teach health and hygiene.

Education is stronger than ever, too. Enrollment at the local primary school increased from 200 to 500 students in the two years since water came. Students grow a demonstration garden in the schoolyard, full of tomatoes, *sukuma wiki* (collards), and other greens. “It’s our outdoor classroom,” says Korio John, their teacher. “They learn science, nutrition, culture, life skills. The garden is perfect for developing the whole child.”

Kamama is in her second year of school. She goes every day with her best friends, Ktum and Safari, who live next door. “She can go to school early and study well, wear clean clothes, and not be tired or sick,” says her mother proudly. “To drink clean water and keep your children clean, this is a good life.”

Hopes and Dreams

KAMAMA AND CHERU seem further apart than the few miles that separate them.

Already there’s an alarming difference in their lives, and the gap between their prospects for the future will only widen unless Cheru gains easy access to clean water.



Opposite page, top: Julia and Kamama sing together, seated under a shade tree near their home. *Bottom:* World Vision’s Alfred Lolima plays an exercise game in the schoolyard with Kamama and other students. *Above:* Kamama has access to plentiful water for drinking and bathing.



Above: Kamama climbs an orange tree and hands the ripe fruit down to her mother.
Bottom: Kamama enjoys delicious milk tea made with clean spring water.

Cheru's family can hardly imagine the "good life" they could have if not for the daily struggle to meet their basic needs—especially the miles-long walk for water. They dream about what life could be like if water, education, healthcare, and income opportunities were available.

For Kamama's family, meeting daily needs requires work, but it's manageable. The water system lifted a burden, and sponsorship means the children can play, study, laugh, and dream about what their future holds. It's the difference of 16 miles—and clean water. **WW**

GIVE : Help bring water to Cheru's community. A gift of \$50 provides clean water to one person, bringing lasting change. To give, complete and mail the form between pages 18 and 19.

ACT : On May 6, 2017, join others around the world to walk or run—and change a life!—through World Vision's Global 6K for Water. Learn more and register at worldvision6K.org.

‘TEACH US TO PRAY’ | 26

Eight tips to improve your prayer life.

Inspire

MOTIVATING YOU TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

BELOW

Read the stories of five unlikely athletes who took the next step in faith.

ALEX GARCIA/GENESIS PHOTOS

“

People think a pebble can't make an impact, but it creates ripples, and the 6K can do that. They have to see themselves creating ripples and giving back.”

— JOHGINA DENSMORE
(PAGE 31)



‘Teach Us to Pray’

By Marilee Pierce Dunker

Eight habits to improve your prayer life.

“But Jesus Himself would often slip away to the wilderness and pray [in seclusion.]”

—LUKE 5:16 (AMP)

I love this verse from Luke because it shows that just like you and me, Jesus needed a break from the demands of his busy life to recharge his batteries and spend time with his Heavenly Father. When he was exhausted or burdened or in need of spiritual refreshment, he would “slip away” to pray—plugging into the power, perception, and purpose that can only be found in God’s presence.

Jesus prayed with a kind of authority and power his disciples had never seen before—as though God was listening. So when they came to him, as told in Matthew 6, they didn’t say, “Teach us another prayer.” They said, “Lord, teach us to pray.” The Lord’s Prayer is Christ’s response.

It is a beautiful prayer, but as elegant as its words are, I do not believe Jesus intended it to become another ritualistic prayer. Rather, it was to be an example of how to pray. Inspired by the Lord’s Prayer, here are eight habits that have helped me develop a more powerful prayer life.



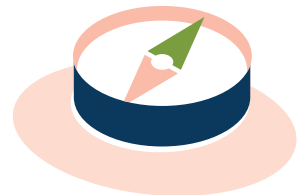
Know who you’re talking to.

Prayer is a conversation with God, and every conversation begins by addressing the person you’re talking to by name. Jesus begins with “Our Father in heaven.”



Thank him.

As we take the time to praise God for all he has done in the past—the answered prayers, the impossible situations overcome, the healings and grace—our faith to believe for even greater answers to prayer grows stronger and more confident. Praise opens the gates of heaven and should always be part of our alone time with God.



Ask for God’s will.

In a world where right and wrong are frequently confused and the future is so uncertain, it can be hard to know how to pray or what to ask for when difficult circumstances arise. But the one thing we can know with absolute certainty is that God’s plan for those who love him is good, and the safest place we can be is in the center of his divine will.



Say what you need.

We often hesitate to ask God for the little things we need, thinking he shouldn’t be bothered. And when the big problems come, we try everything we can to solve the problem before we think to pray. Never hesitate to ask God for what you need. Your Father in heaven delights to give you good gifts.



Ask for forgiveness.

James 5:16 reminds us that if we want our prayers to be heard, our hearts need to be right with God and with one another. If you feel your prayers are bouncing off the ceiling, take some time to check your heart.



Pray with a friend.

There is power in agreement when we pray in Jesus' name. When I have an urgent need to take before the throne of God, I will often call a friend to pray with me. If you don't already have one, find a trusted prayer partner.

Marilee Pierce Dunker is the daughter of World Vision's founder, Bob Pierce, and serves as a World Vision ambassador.



Pray the Word.

My mother was a spiritual prayer warrior, and much that I know about prayer I learned from her. I loved to listen to her pray because for every need or situation, she would claim a scripture of promise. "The Word of God has power and is our great spiritual weapon," Mama would say. "Pray the Word, Marilee. Pray the Word."



Memorize Scripture.

The most important key to a vibrant prayer life is to understand our spiritual authority in Christ as explained in the Scriptures. The only way to do that is to become intimately familiar with the Bible. Even a few minutes a day in the Word of God will add strength and authority to your prayers. **WV**



Thoughts on Gratitude

Timeless wisdom and modern inspiration.

“Gratitude is an offering precious in the sight of God, and it is one that the poorest of us can make and be not poorer but richer for having made it.”

—A.W. Tozer

“GOD GIVES US SOMETHING AMAZING WHEN HE GIVES US LIFE, AND I WANT TO LIVE WITH GRATITUDE. I WANT TO LIVE IN A WAY THAT SHOWS HOW MUCH I APPRECIATE THE GIFT.”

—Shauna Niequist, *Cold Tangerines: Celebrating the Extraordinary Nature of Everyday Life*



Actress Patricia Heaton met her sponsored child, Gracious, in Zambia in 2015.

EUGENE LEE/WORLD VISION

Q&A:

Patricia Heaton

By Johnny Cruz

The star of *Everybody Loves Raymond* and *The Middle* is World Vision’s new Celebrity Ambassador. She tells us about her faith journey, how acting is her contribution to God’s work in the world, and her trip to Zambia to see World Vision’s work firsthand.

How have your career and faith journeys been intertwined?

I moved to New York City directly after graduating from college. I struggled with every conceivable job, which was very character building. I had a string of years where it didn’t seem like my career was going to go very far. After nine years, I moved to Los Angeles and thought I would give myself two more years and then think about doing something else.

During that time, I went on a mission trip with a local Presbyterian church to an orphanage in Mexico. When I

came back, I had an inner change. My focus shifted from all my energy going toward being an actor to now thinking, “What is it that God really wants me to do?” I felt such an inner peace when I came back from Mexico that I’d never felt before. I said to God, “What do you want me to do? If it’s acting, I’ll continue to pursue that,” because at that time in Los Angeles I was starting to get some auditions and book some jobs. I said, “I’m willing to let go of that if you want me to go back to Mexico or go into the mission field. But make it very clear that’s the direction you want me to go

in.” As soon as I reprioritized myself in that way, the auditions just kept coming.

Was that a turning point for you?

I had a sort of a freedom from that moment on, because now I knew that my value as a person did not depend on whether or not I was a successful actor. Prior to that, every audition was too important because I had to be successful to be considered valuable to myself and to the world. Now, having put it aside, I could go into these auditions and know that it was really in God’s hands. And my work became better!

That was my journey. I’m still a monthly supporter of the orphanage where I first had that experience. I think God took that experience to change my heart, but he gave back to me the thing I really love—acting—in a whole new way that was so freeing. It also enabled me to participate in that mission work by being a financial supporter.

How do you blend your faith and compassion for the poor with your career and life in the entertainment industry?

Fortunately, the long-running shows that I’ve been on—*Everybody Loves Raymond* and *The Middle*—have been wonderful shows with great values about family and faith. Both families on the shows are churchgoers, which is kind of unusual on TV.

Sometimes I look at what I do, and I think, “This is sort of a silly way to make a living. I get dressed up in a costume, we laugh all day, and it’s not really a dignified, grown-up job.” And then I’ll get a letter, or someone will come up to me on the street and share a story with me about how an episode lifted them up, and I realize that each of us has a contribution to make. It comes in many different forms, and sometimes it feels like you’re not doing anything. I feel like the minute I took out the egotistical element from my career, it became a wonderful gift I could give to people. God has given me this opportunity, and I’m responsible for the way I use it.

How has the nature of your career impacted your faith?

What I love the most about what I do is how everything continually changes. Even on a show that's doing well, like *The Middle*—we're in our eighth season—you know the show is going to end. There's no job security, even when you're successful. It sounds horrible, but in life there is not any earthly security. Your only security is in God. Sometimes it's easy to put your faith and your trust in having a family or having a job or a reputation of some kind, but those things are not secure.

The beauty of being an actor is you know everything's going away, so you live in a constant state of insecurity. Instead of looking at it negatively, hopefully you look at it and think, "I wonder what's next." That's something I've learned to appreciate. You become very resilient as an actor; it builds character, and in a way it's a real gift.

Is there a part of the Bible that is particularly inspiring to you?

I think Paul's story is amazing. Something happened to Paul on the road to Damascus, and he ended up dying for the cause that he used to kill people for. If that isn't a testimony—a witness to the fact that something happened and that Jesus was present—then I don't know what is. And Paul's letters were beautiful. I get chills at the sentence, "For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face" [1 Cor. 13:12]. All the things he wrote about love—it's poetry. He is my favorite part of the Bible.

How did you first get involved with World Vision?

I can't quite pinpoint when I first became involved, but there were two things that made me want to step up to the plate a bit more. The first was reading about [World Vision U.S. President] Rich Stearns, talking to him, and reading his book, *The Hole in Our Gospel*. To those who were given much, much is expected. The second was when I learned that World Vision has 85 percent of donations going

to the programs, so overhead is very low.

Subsequently, I've gone to Zambia to see the work, and I saw how everybody is completely committed. I felt that the organization could be trusted. When you only have a certain amount of money to give to charity, you want to make sure that money is having an impact. I've seen the impact firsthand and how people's lives have changed. You don't have to work for World Vision to make a difference, but sponsoring a child or buying a goat for a family changes their lives forever. All of us want to feel like we have done something for someone else.

Tell us about your trip to Zambia with World Vision in 2015.

I took my son Dan, who was 16 at the time. I met my sponsored child, Gracious, and Dan met Aiden, his sponsored child. We saw how much we take for granted. Going to get water can take hours. We saw World Vision's program for clean water, which makes a huge difference. Not only were these wells built, but it makes a difference in people being able to walk out of their house and get water, as opposed to have to walk 3 miles. And World Vision goes further than that: They train people in the community to maintain the wells, so that 10 years later they are still working.

We got to see how much bicycles mean to people—we built bikes and gave them to a few families, which is like giving someone a car, because there's so little transportation for people in that area. We saw schools where World Vision is providing the opportunity for a lot of kids, especially girls, to receive an education and get the materials to study. We saw health clinics being built and learned about how doctors and community volunteers register pregnant women into a network and teach them about their pregnancy and healthy eating for themselves and nutrition for their kids. We saw everything from cooking groups to women who have received microloans to start their own businesses and earn income for their families. Person by person, World Vision is making a difference.

What parallels and differences do you see between mothers in the U.S. and the mothers you met in Zambia?

Motherhood is sort of the great equalizer, and it doesn't matter what country you're in or what economic level you're at. Motherhood galvanizes a woman. You become very fierce as a mom, and it's all about protecting your children and your family. We all relate to that. We have so many conveniences here in the U.S., and when you go to Africa and see the hard work of cooking and cleaning for your family that takes all day long, there's no spare time to think about yourself. No time to create a business, to educate yourself, to educate your children. Sometimes you don't have the opportunity for growth because you're so busy getting from morning until night. We're fortunate here that we have the leisure time to dream—and not just to dream, but actually make our dreams come true. That's what we want to do for other people.

What would you tell those who feel overwhelmed by hearing about global poverty?

I can't stress this enough: We can't all be on the ground. We all have our lives here, our families, and our jobs. But if your heart is really being tugged on in a certain area—whether it's refugees, or maternal health, or girls' education—you can give specifically through World Vision to those areas. It's easy to look at all the bad news, but there is so much good work going on all over the world, and there are people who have been called to manifest that good work in other countries. Americans are very generous people, but it is hard sometimes when you look around the world and you think, "How could I possibly help?" But you can, because World Vision is there to do the work that you want to see get done. You can choose to either feel despair about our world or hope, and there are a lot of good reasons to be hopeful. **WV**



Making Strides For Clean Water

The global water crisis is staggering. Worldwide, 663 million people live without access to clean water, and those in sub-Saharan Africa have it the worst. There, women and children spend a total of 20 million hours every day collecting water. They walk an average of 6 kilometers (about 3.7 miles) a day to fetch the water they need for drinking, cooking, bathing, and washing.

Meet five people in the U.S. who heard about the water crisis and decided to do something about it—6K at a time. By participating in World Vision's Global 6K for Water, they're helping bring clean water to one new person every 10 seconds.

LUKE FLOWERS

Phoenix, Arizona

AGE: 8

Not many 8-year-olds would use their birthday as an opportunity to give back, but on March 19 last year, Luke did. Instead of the usual games and cake, his birthday party went the extra mile—an extra 3.7 miles, to be exact. He invited his entire school to join him in running the 6K for Water, and on race day, Luke and 10 of his best friends ran together and raised \$1,755 for clean water in Africa. “I decided to run because I thought it would be fun, and it was,” he says.

Luke encourages running the 6K with a group because not only is it more fun, but more runners equals more impact. He enjoys organizing friends and family to make a difference, and he loves knowing that this race will help change the lives of people who live without access to clean water.

Jessica Flowers, Luke’s mom, says Luke’s birthday was a way for him and other second graders to both celebrate and do something for others at the same time. “This was a great way to introduce the kids to World Vision’s mission and give them a chance to give back,” she shared. “They were proud of themselves for running and proud of themselves for making a difference.”
—Alissa Sandoval



CHARLIE LEIGHT/GENESIS PHOTOS



ALEX GARCIA/GENESIS PHOTOS

JOHGINA DENSMORE

Chicago, Illinois

AGE: 52

As Johgina Densmore walked along Lake Michigan on a bitter November day in 2014, 20-mph winds didn’t deter her and her best friend from completing their 6K walk—too much was riding on them finishing.

Despite not being a runner, when Johgina learned about the lack of access to clean water many families face, she signed up for the 6K. She was already making an impact on a community in Kenya by sponsoring a child with World Vision, and “when the 6K came up, and they were talking about providing clean water to kids in Africa, I was like ‘What? Everybody has clean water!’” she says. “But in my naiveté, I didn’t know.”

After finishing her first 6K as a walker in 2014, she shared what she’d learned about water with friends from church and work. About 15 additional people were inspired to join her in the 2015 6K—this time during a warmer month. Last year, Johgina felt God calling her to do even more, so she decided to captain a team and asked her pastor if they could announce it in church.

People stepped up, no matter their circumstances. “We have to be able to do what the Bible tells us,” she says. “Christ says, ‘I was in prison, and you came to see me, I was hungry, and you fed me, I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink.’ We have to live those scriptures.” On race day, a team of more than 150 people walked and ran the 6K for Water’s 3.7 miles together. Johgina even decided to sponsor another child from Kenya—a girl named Dorcas, whose picture was on her race bib.

This year, Johgina wants to multiply her steps even more. She’s praying to double her team for the 2017 Global 6K on May 6, and she’s recruiting family and friends to join her. “This may sound cliché, but people need to know they can be the pebble that’s thrown across the water. People think a pebble can’t make an impact, but it creates ripples, and the 6K can do that. They have to see themselves creating ripples and giving back.” —Kristy J. O’Hara

● Inspire



ANACLETO RAPPING/GENESIS PHOTOS

MALINDA FUGATE

Torrance, California

AGE: 33

Malinda Fugate has known about World Vision “for what feels like a zillion years.” She’s sponsored a child since 2003, and when she used to work for a radio station, she partnered with World Vision several times. But when she moved into children’s ministry work at her church, Faith Presbyterian, in 2015, her relationship with World Vision began to change.

“We worked on a project where our younger kids could be hands on, and we thought a fundraiser for clean water could be good to show them about the need for water,” she says. “We said, ‘Let’s walk the distance many children walk and have them carry the water.’”

The first year they did the 6K for Water, more than 50 people participated at a local park, even though “it was hotter in L.A. than it was in Kenya,” Malinda says. Last year, her church partnered with another church, and more than 70 people joined the event. The 6K sparked questions in the children who participated. “Kids started thinking outside of the box,” she says, asking questions about children living in poverty.

The event also pushed Malinda to new places as she dealt with the pain of her divorce. “This past year especially has been a rocky one,” Malinda says. “God and my friends convinced me to do a half marathon to raise money with Team World Vision, and that’s been transformative. It’s not just time with God, but it’s also the discipline of running.”

This year she plans to run in the Global 6K and another half marathon. And though she doesn’t love running like some Team World Vision members, “the bottom line is, getting clean water to people who need it is life and death.”

“When God calls you to do something, not being obedient is way more scary than obediently running a bunch of miles every morning,” she says. “Whenever you’re serving God, he changes you. That’s how he works.” —*Kristy J. O’Hara*

THAD SPRING

Muskegon, Michigan

AGE: 46

Thad Spring jumped right in when it came to running with Team World Vision. Three years ago, he and his wife, Jerilynn, started with a half marathon.

“She’s a full-time nurse practitioner. I’m a full-time pastor. We’re busy,” Thad says. “This allows us something to do together that not only makes a difference, but is also something fun we can enjoy and push each other with.”

They aren’t running alone. Thad is the outreach pastor at All Shores Wesleyan Church in Spring Lake, Michigan, and he invited his church congregation to run with him.

“I would not describe myself as a runner,” he says, laughing. “I’m 5’10”, 230 pounds. It takes me a while to get in shape and get going. But I enjoy running and the running process. Anybody can do it. Old and young.”

Now he and Nick DeBone, a local teacher, organize Team World Vision events for All Shores, like the Global 6K for Water. “The transformation that the 6K brings to you personally and those that you’re walking or running for is worth it,” Thad says. “I’ve watched children drink out of dirty streams where cows are standing in Zambia, watched children drink dirty water in Haiti, and seen pastors who are dying of cholera because of dirty water. So for me, there’s a personal touch and involvement.”

In 2016, their church was a 6K host site for more than 40 runners and walkers. “We had a lot of people with strollers who walked and ran. We had younger kids who could walk the entire distance,” Thad says.

This year, All Shores will collaborate with other local churches, expecting to more than double the number of participants. “We’ve created a running group and community of people who are reaching out to their friends for Christ,” says Thad. —*Heather Klinger*



TODD MCINTURF/GENESIS PHOTOS



SHURAWL SIBBLIES

Hopewell Junction, New York

AGE: 45

The choice to walk a 6K was an easy one for Shurawl Sibblies (above, in blue). Part of the appeal was a family activity. A little bit was staying healthy. Then there was the faith motivation—wanting to serve people less fortunate.

“I can’t imagine a child walking that long for water,” says the mother of two. “I had no idea the significance of that distance. It led us to think how privileged we are.”

So last year on a cold spring day, Shurawl walked and ran a 6K with her family—her husband, Winston; then-13-year-old daughter, Sollande; then-8-year-old son, Matthew; and her church community from Hopewell Reformed Church.

“It was fun to talk with people along the way, run with people along the way, and have our children participate,” Shurawl says. “People were out with their baby carriages and strollers, but there were also some avid, hardcore runners in our bunch.”

The 6K was right up Sollande’s alley; Matthew was more reluc-

tant. But when Shurawl asked him, “Wouldn’t you like to help another child? Think of how much you have,” he agreed to join the rest of the family.

That’s the bonus appeal of the 6K for Shurawl—instilling good values in her kids, like thinking of others first and missional living.

After receiving their race bibs in the mail—each with a child’s name, age, and photo—the family prayed together for the children on their bibs.

Next came fundraising to provide clean water for kids and communities in need. “When I reached out to people to donate,” Shurawl says, “they were happy to give, and I was happy to give. I give where my heart is called.”

This year, Shurawl and her family are again signed up for the 6K.

“It is something I would highly recommend,” Shurawl says. “It’s fun. It’s for a good cause. You’re giving, and you’re also receiving something in the process. Doing something good for others feeds your soul.”

—Heather Klinger **WW**

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XAVIER SKU/WORLD VISION

Standing on His Own Two Feet

By Xavier Sku

Now a teacher, a former sponsored child in Bangladesh saw his life transform when he was sponsored through World Vision.

AS A CHILD, Rongdi Jib, now 40, faced a life with few prospects.

In the mid-1970s, Bangladesh was a new nation. Once under the rule of British India, the country formerly known as East Pakistan emerged in 1971 after a war of independence that left 300,000 civilians dead.

Life in the wake of such upheaval was difficult for the many people in Bangladesh living in poverty—including Rongdi, who is known as Biswajit. “I was born in a low-income family, so my life was very uncertain,” he says. “My father was a day laborer. It was very hard for him to provide even daily meals for us, so it was an extra burden to pay my basic educational expenses.”

Biswajit’s family lived in Durgapur, in southwest Bangladesh. The town sits amid a tangle of rivers and tribu-

aries, all of which empty into the Bay of Bengal 50 miles to the south. The low-lying land is prone to natural disasters like flooding and cyclones.

After his eldest sister married, Biswajit moved in with her because she and her husband could provide enough food for him. That was where he grew up. “The turning point of my life was when World Vision registered me as a sponsored child in 1981,” Biswajit says. He was in first grade.

Another milestone came in 1984, when his World Vision sponsor, a doctor, traveled to meet him at the organization’s national headquarters in Dhaka, Bangladesh’s capital city. “As I was a young boy, I was excited to meet my sponsor and get chocolates, toys, and several drawing books from him,” Biswajit says. “He took many photos

and sent them to me later when he got back to his country.”

His sponsor’s visit sparked an eagerness to learn and stand on his own two feet. “People used to ask me what I dreamed of being,” Biswajit says. “I answered that I wanted to be a teacher, although I knew it would be tough for me. But I think it was God’s plan that made my dream come true. Many people’s lives have changed through World Vision’s programs, not only mine. World Vision taught me how to dream.”

After graduation, Biswajit followed his dream of a career in education. Today, he’s a teacher in an independent high school, where he is a popular staff member, sports coach, and cultural events organizer. In a country where nearly a million children aren’t in primary school, he’s making a difference in the lives of his students—as well as his family. Biswajit and his wife, a nurse at a hospital, have two daughters, both of whom are in primary school.

In 2015, World Vision phased out its presence in Durgapur. The local community was ready to sustain the work World Vision began many years ago: agriculture and husbandry training; workshops on nutrition and cooking; women’s savings groups; midwife training; educational support; and more. Sponsorship, the bedrock of change in Durgapur and other communities, has a lasting effect in Bangladesh through the lives of sponsored children like Biswajit.

“My family will be forever grateful to World Vision. I will always cherish World Vision in my memories,” he says. “May God always use this organization for the welfare of poor and vulnerable children.” **WV**

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Delight

FINDING MEANING IN EVERYDAY MOMENTS

“Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.”

—PSALM 37:4 (ESV)

IN THE KITCHEN MEXICO

After portioning out small balls of masa dough, Isaura Hernandez Garcia flattens each one and carefully positions them on her stove. She sells her tortillas hot from the stove—part of a business she began with her husband, Encarnacion Rodriguez Salaza. The couple has received three microloans and started several businesses out of their home in Zitacuaro, Mexico. One by one, each tortilla sold helps their children go to college.

JON WARREN/WORLD VISION 2008



Build a Tippy Tap

By Elizabeth Hendley

Clean water goes hand in hand with hygiene and sanitation, and handwashing plays a big part in stopping the spread of disease. In areas where there is no running water, tippy taps—clever contraptions that conserve water while keeping people healthy—are simple to build with easy-to-find materials. Here's how they do it:

Nine-year-old Ngonga Mukange teaches her little sister, Chishala, how to properly wash her hands at the family's tippy tap in Chongwe, Zambia.



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION



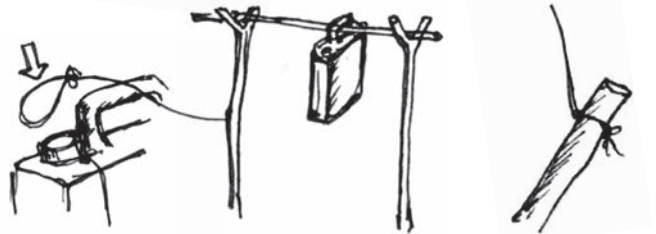
STEP 1 / Gather two forked sticks of equal length, two straight sticks, tools to dig, a water container, two pieces of heavy-duty string, and a bar of soap.

STEP 2 / Dig two holes 2 feet apart and place the forked sticks in the holes. Make sure the sticks are secure and tightly packed into the holes.

STEP 3 / Place one of the straight sticks across the two supports.



STEP 4 / Make two holes in the water container: one about six inches below the opening, and the other in the cap of the container.



STEP 5 / Fill the container with water, thread a piece of string through the hole in the cap, and hang the container from the cross stick.

STEP 6 / Attach the other end of the string to the remaining stick, which will be at the foot level.



STEP 7 / Make a hole in the soap, thread in the remaining piece of string, and hang from the cross stick.



BONUS: Make a gravel basin between the support sticks to prevent the area from getting muddy. **WV**

BRITTANY FAN/JOURNEY GROUP



India

EARLIER IN THE DAY, I photographed a children's club meeting in this small, dark room in Agra, India. Spotlights from ceiling holes created dark shadows or blown highlights, so it was challenging to get an even exposure across the frame. I tried waiting for action to enter one of the shafts of light, but the children's games ended, and I had nothing.

I'd moved on to photographing street scenes and disregarded the room as a location to shoot, so when this mothers' group assembled in the dark room, my heart sank. I almost didn't bother going back in. I thought my best-case scenario was to ask the mothers to sit in the doorway or front steps where there was more light.

But despite my doubts, I decided to give the room a quick look before asking the group to move.

My persistence paid off. Pooja and her toddler were quietly eating lunch with a cup of water in hand—a cup of clean water purified by a portable water purifier that World Vision provided.

I just smiled to myself and waited for the child to take a drink. **ww**

Written and
photographed by
Eugene Lee

Nikon D750 camera

24mm lens, 1/250th,
f/4, ISO 200

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Kamama,
age 5, Kenya

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