

WorldVision

SUMMER 2010

DANS PEN DOORS

*Families hold fast to
dreams. p. 17*

**HAITI
UPDATE**

See special
section after page 16.





Rich with relief goods in Haiti.

Going Deep » *by Richard Stearns*

When I went to Haiti a few days after the earthquake, I was not prepared for what I saw. Driving through Port-au-Prince, the damage was almost apocalyptic. Imagine if our White House, the Capitol building, the Supreme Court, the National Cathedral, the Pentagon, and a third of all the schools, churches, and businesses in Washington, D.C., collapsed into rubble. That's what happened to Haiti in 60 seconds.

I wept at the scale of human suffering. More than 200,000 dead—men, women, and children; mothers and fathers; pastors and priests; rich and poor. One homeless man said to me, "Who will give us our life back?"

Less than two months later, the same could be said by people in Dichato, coastal Chile, where an even stronger quake than Haiti's struck, causing a tsunami. A man there said, "I wouldn't wish this on my worst enemy."

In both places, I was so proud of how my World Vision colleagues swung into immediate action. In Haiti, we had relief supplies already stocked in anticipation of the hurricane season. Airlifted supplies began arriving from our warehouses in Denver and Miami within days. In Chile, where earthquakes are more common, pre-positioned goods again came in handy, allowing staff to quickly distribute water, food, blankets, tents, and other aid.

World Vision has worked in both Haiti and Chile for more than 30 years, and we will stay for however long it takes. The recovery will take years, requiring World Vision to address more than just the obvious symptoms of need—we'll have to go deeper, to the root causes of poverty.

They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations. —ISAIAH 61:4

Poverty is complex. Simplistic solutions will not work. If you build a house for a poor family, but they have no food, they are still poor. So World Vision has programs in Haiti and all over the world to address chronic malnutrition through sustainable agriculture and methods.

If you improve the availability of food, but there is no health care, children still have high mortality rates. So World Vision educates communities in basic health care, first aid, HIV and AIDS prevention, and maternal health practices.

If health care is present, but the drinking water is unsafe and

contaminated, people still become sick. So World Vision tackles the problem with clean water boreholes, rainwater-catchment systems, and community-wide sanitation programs.

But food, water, and health care are insufficient to lift a community without education. So World Vision works to ensure that children go to school.

And if you bring food, health care, clean water, and education, but there's no way to earn a living, families are still poor. So World Vision offers microfinance programs in more than 40 countries, providing loan capital to the poor (read more on page 17).

World Vision has learned that unless all of these factors are addressed simultaneously, communities cannot overcome their poverty in a sustainable way. This is what makes our work distinctive.

Our presence in communities—through good times and bad—makes an impression. World Vision's national director in Chile, Tatiana Benavides, told me that when Chilean President Michelle Bachelet visited Dichato, a woman marched up to her and announced in front of the TV cameras: "President, we wish to thank the firemen, the army, and World Vision."

I believe we can give Haiti's homeless their lives back, and we can help Chile recover. More than that, we can change the world so that 24,000 children will not need to die each day. I refuse to listen to those who say that poverty is too big, too expensive, and too difficult to overcome. World Vision is doing it—and you're helping us every step of the way. ■

» **KEEP UP WITH RICH**
on Facebook (www.facebook.com/RichardStearns.WVUS) and Twitter (twitter.com/RichStearns).

FRONT LINES

Compiled by James Addis



Counting Our Blessings

Fiscal 2009 provided another reminder that World Vision's ministry rests in God's hands. Thanks to faithful supporters, last year we were blessed with continued growth despite a tough economy.



World Vision U.S. was responsible for distributing 243,000 metric tons of food, equal to more than 8,000 semi-truck loads.



89 percent of the total operating budget went to ministry, with overhead expenses down 6 percent.



Revenue from private and public sources reached \$1.2 billion—a 10 percent increase.



The number of children helped by U.S. sponsors grew by more than 10,000.



Staff responded to an estimated 95 emergencies worldwide.

» **FOR MORE DETAILS** see World Vision's 2009 Annual Review at www.worldvision.org/AR.



WORLD WATCH

CHILE CALAMITY ON COAST » A magnitude-8.8 earthquake, followed by tsunamis and scores of aftershocks, created havoc along Chile's coastline in February. The disaster completely destroyed towns, tossed boats inland, and sent houses floating out to sea. More than 700 people died, and 2 million were adversely affected. World Vision distributed water, blankets, warm clothing, tents, and mattresses to 25,000 survivors and established Child-Friendly Spaces to aid children's emotional recovery.



BANGLADESH CYCLONE DRILL » World Vision helped construct 10 schools that will double as community disaster shelters in areas vulnerable to cyclones. When the buildings opened, community members participated in a disaster simulation in which they practiced evacuating from their homes to the shelter, readying themselves for the rush to safety when the next cyclone strikes.

KENYA RAGING RAINS » After a severe, three-year drought, the Turkana region experienced heavy rain and flash floods in January, killing 30 people and leaving more than 20,000 homeless. In Lokori, women and children took refuge in a church while men sought higher ground to save their animals. The floods also destroyed canals in World Vision's irrigation projects in Morulem and Lokubae. World Vision provided mosquito nets, blankets, and water-purification chemicals for affected families.



MEMORIAM

IN MARCH, armed assailants attacked and bombed World Vision's office in Mansehra District, northwestern Pakistan, killing seven employees and wounding seven others. Faheem Saleem, Muhammad Ayaz, Zaryab Yousaf, Liaqat Ali, Kehkashan Zia Mufti, Jamshaid Ahmed, and Imtiaz John died serving communities affected by the 2005 earthquake. World

Vision has never lost so many staff members at once to violence; it was a terrible blow. At memorial services around the world for the fallen, colleagues affirmed: "We refuse to walk down the path of hatred or fear. We ask instead that God direct our lives, our work, and all of World Vision in the paths of love and peace." Please join us in praying for the grieving families, the injured, and for all World Vision workers in Pakistan.

SUDAN DARFURIANS DISPLACED

» Tribal conflicts continue in Darfur, uprooting families and forcing them to live in displacement camps. More than 700 families in the community of Mosko fled fighting, leaving all their possessions behind. At the Manawashi camp, World Vision ensured that they received medical care, water containers, and space for temporary homes.

AFRICA MALARIA RATES REDUCED

» According to a World Health Organization report, malaria cases have been reduced by 50 percent in more than one-third of affected countries, including nine in Africa, between 2000 and 2008. These improvements are attributed to increased international focus and funding. However, more efforts are needed to meet the Millennium Development Goal of universal bednet coverage by 2015.

SRI LANKA RETURNING HOME

» After the civil war ended in May 2009, World Vision delivered food and water to thousands of families living in displacement camps. In the north, for families returning home, World Vision gained approval from authorities to support resettlement by providing access to water, health, and education.



WORLD VISION STAFF



TU XIHUA/WORLD VISION

CHINA ENJOYING ENGLISH » In classrooms rebuilt after the 2008 earthquake in Qingchuan County, World Vision helped children learn English through weekend classes. Using multimedia equipment, World Vision-trained volunteers taught the children to sing, play games, and chat with peers in English. The activity also helped children continue to deal with their emotions about the earthquake.

ROMANIA READY FOR RISK » Teachers in Iasi County prepared for disasters occurring during school hours by taking risk-reduction training through World Vision and local officials. Teachers also pass along information to students' parents, facilitating a community-wide disaster plan. ■

MIGHTYMICRO

A snapshot of World Vision's microfinance program supporting the entrepreneurial poor. See how it works on page 25.

Countries served
by microfinance



42

Loan clients



626,000

Female loan clients



68 percent

Average loan size



\$629

Children impacted



873,000



Through her art, Andrea Krook brings the plight of the poor to a new audience.

a visit to Soweto, a slum in Nairobi, Kenya.

Andrea visited Soweto with a group from her church, which funds World Vision development programs in the community. She was struck by the magnitude of the destitution she saw there.

Among the heartbreaking memories was visiting a single mother of six who was dying of AIDS. "AIDS is such a private thing, but she was gracious enough to allow us in and talk a little bit about what it is like. I recall how skeletal she was. Things like that I will never forget," Andrea says.

On her return home, Andrea resolved to sponsor a child in Kenya. But as time went on, she felt she could do more. She became a World Vision Child Ambassador—a volunteer recruiter of child sponsors. She also decided to use some of her photographs as a basis for paintings that could bring the critical needs of Soweto to a wider audience.

Some of her works are pointed. In "They Do Have Faces," the children's faces are dark blobs. "I left out each face because I feel Americans often ignore Africa—and anyone, for that matter, living in poverty. We look the other way," she says.

Other paintings are optimistic, including one that shows a thriving general store that benefitted from a World Vision income-generation project.

So far, Andrea has had three exhibitions of her African paintings, which have given her a chance to talk about the benefits of sponsorship. Ultimately, Andrea hopes to find 1,000 sponsors for children. "I'm not a wealthy person, but I feel I have a responsibility to these little ones who can't help themselves," she says. ■

» **TO LEARN MORE ABOUT**

becoming a World Vision Child Ambassador, visit www.worldvision.org/childambassador.

Art from the Heart

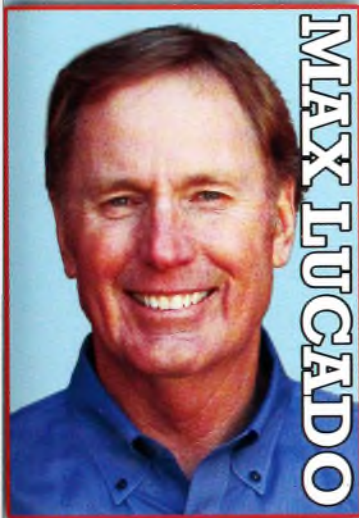
A visit to a Kenyan slum inspires a series of compelling paintings.

Open sewers are seldom the subject of art, but Seattle-based artist Andrea Krook did not shy away from painting them following

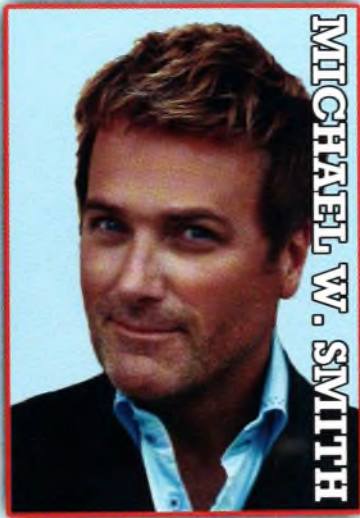
YOU'RE INVITED...

World Vision presents

MAKE A DIFFERENCE TOUR 2010



MAX LUCADO

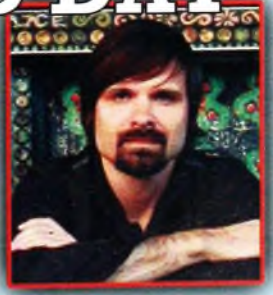


MICHAEL W. SMITH



TOBY MAC

THIRD DAY



AGENT

School Student
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\$9,000. ■

what?
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water.

BEN WEBER

ANGING GIFT

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TOUR DATES:

09.30 • YOUNGSTOWN, OH
Covelli Centre

10.01 • CORBIN, KY
Southeastern Kentucky Expo Center

10.02 • ALPHARETTA, GA
Verizon Wireless Amphitheatre

10.03 • CAPE GIRARDEAU, MO
ShowMe Center

10.07 • SAN ANTONIO, TX
AT&T Center

10.08 • BEAUMONT, TX
Ford Pavilion

10.09 • LAFAYETTE, LA
Cajundome

10.10 • COLUMBUS, GA
Columbus Civic Center

10.14 • SAN JOSE, CA
HP Pavilion

10.15 • BAKERSFIELD, CA
Rabobank Arena

10.16 • ONTARIO, CA
Citizens Business Bank Arena

10.21 • COLORADO SPRINGS, CO
World Arena

10.22 • LUBBOCK, TX
United Spirit Arena

10.23 • WICHITA FALLS, TX
Kay Yeager Coliseum

10.24 • TOPEKA, KS
Kansas ExpoCentre

10.27 • CEDAR RAPIDS, IA
US Cellular Center

10.28 • GREEN BAY, WI
Resch Center

10.29 • DAYTON, OH
Nutter Center

10.30 • WINSTON-SALEM, NC
Lawrence Joel Vet. Mem. Coliseum

*all dates subject to change without notice

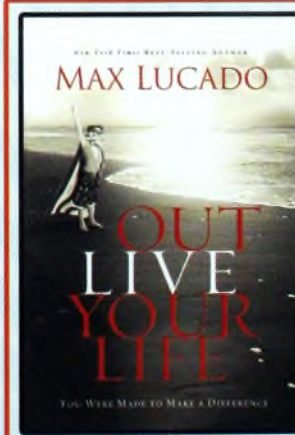
COMING SOON...

SPECIAL OFFERS FOR WORLD VISION SUPPORTER INCLUDING EXCLUSIVE TICKET PRESALE AND VIP PACKAGES

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Outlive Your Life
You Were Made to Make A Difference

THE FORTHCOMING BOOK

by MAX LUCADO

IN STORES SEPTEMBER 20



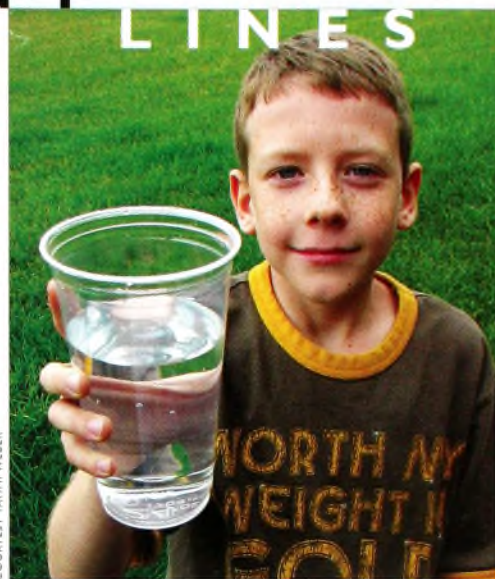
STEP INTO AFRICA

"I didn't expect World Vision Experience: AIDS to impact me. After all, I'd been to Africa; my heart had already been broken by the reality of AIDS. But the exhibit so powerfully captured the tragic reality of what I'd seen that I walked out broken once again. The greatest challenge we face in engaging our churches globally is to bridge the geographical and cultural distance that separates us from our brothers and sisters in need. The Experience provides a necessary and effective bridge." ■

—LYNNE HYBELS, WILLOW CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH

» TO BRING THIS

experiential exhibit on AIDS to your church, visit worldvisionexperience.org.



COURTESY TARRI WEBER

A HARROWING STORY, INSPIRING PLAY

Many children who are abducted and forced into combat are so scarred by their experiences that they find it impossible to talk about them.

But Soenke Weiss, a former communications manager for World Vision in Africa, discovered one who could. He turned the story of Christine Akello into a book, *The Girl and the War*, and then, with friend Karin Dahms, a successful play, "Butterflies of Uganda: Memories of a Child Soldier," which has been performed in Los Angeles and Kampala, Uganda.

Soenke met Christine at World Vision's Children of War center in Gulu, Uganda, where she had fled after escaping the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). The rebels had captured and marched Christine, her older brother, and father into southern Sudan. During the journey, rebels forced Christine to beat her father so severely that he suffered brain damage and almost

died. Later, she was forced to participate in an LRA terror campaign, looting villages, killing and maiming residents, and abducting more children.

Soenke says that over several years, he developed a friendship with Christine, and she felt able to share some of her most harrowing experiences for the first time. "There was a build-up of trust," he says. "I warmed up to her, and she warmed up to me."

Having been forced to "marry" the LRA's second-in-command, Christine provided insight into what made the rebel leaders tick—invaluable material for the play.

But Soenke says the main theme of the play is about reconciliation. A World Vision staff member interceded with Christine's family to take her back. They were reluctant at first, given what she had done to her father. But eventually Christine's mother concluded: "This is my daughter; I cannot abandon her."

Soenke says Christine's story illustrates that even in the direst circumstances, reconciliation can take place when there is love. "You have to learn to reconcile somehow. Otherwise how can you continue as a people—as a country—if you don't?" ■

» TO LEARN MORE

about children affected by war, visit www.worldvision.org/advocacy.

CHANGE AGENT

Name » Ben Weber

Home » Firth, Neb.

Occupation » Home-School Student

Program » Gift Catalog

Buzz » When 9-year-old Ben Weber learned of the desperate need for clean water in Africa via World Vision's Gift Catalog, he decided to fund a deep well to do something about it. The price tag, more than \$13,000, did not put him off. He got together a group of friends ages 5 to 11 to form the campaign "Agua for Africa." Ben speaks in churches about the well project and has proved an effective fundraiser. He sometimes hands out wide-necked water bottles to his listeners and asks them to fill them up with loose change. So far, *Agua for Africa* has raised about \$9,000. ■

*You know what?
I don't want people
to have to drink
that dirty water.*

—BEN WEBER

» TO GIVE A LIFE-CHANGING GIFT

through the Gift Catalog, visit www.worldvision.org/gifts.



COURTESY SOENKE WEISS



Extending Hospitality

A hotelier helps a major chain build a better world.

Mina Dahya: Increasing caring around the world.

Walk into a Best Western hotel today, and you will likely find a framed picture of a sponsored child in the lobby. The idea came from Mina Dahya, 51, part-owner of 10 hotels in the Los Angeles area, six of them in the Best Western chain.

Although today a successful hotelier, Mina says influences in early life connect her to the plight of the poor. Born into an Indian family, Mina grew up in Zambia, where poverty was never far away. When she moved to the United States, she married a Fijian Indian, Dinu, who as a 16-year-old immigrant struggled alone to survive while studying to become an engineer.

Most of all, Mina remembers her mother, who told her: "Love unconditionally every human being, as they are children of God."

So Mina thought there was no better way to support the "Best Western for a Better World" campaign than by having hotels sponsor children through World Vision. She sponsors 15 children, including two for each of her Best Western hotels.

After praying, Mina bravely pitched the idea at the company's annual convention before more than 3,000 hotel owners. "If we care so much about our guests and their needs, and we are in the hospitality industry, could we not be hospitable to the needy children of the world?" she asked the audience.

The response was enthusiastic. Best Western adopted World

Vision as its charity of choice, and now, nearly 500 children are sponsored by hotels in the U.S. and Canada. The chain also supports the organization's work through its Best Western Rewards program. When the Haiti earthquake struck, Best Western rallied its Reward program members to donate points to World Vision's relief efforts, raising nearly \$100,000. Hotel owners and corporate staff donated another \$50,000.

Best Western is the largest hotel chain in the world, with more than 4,000 properties in 80 countries. Mina hopes that as her idea spreads internationally, hundreds more children will be sponsored. "Caring is missing in this world, and we need to increase it," she says. ■

» **LEARN ABOUT** World Vision's partnership with Best Western at www.worldvision.org/BestWesternCares.



ERIC MOONEYHAM/WORLD VISION

VOICING THE VISION

In World Vision's 60th anniversary year, we remember the spirit of those who shaped this ministry. ■

“Attempt projects so big that they are bound to fail without God. Bob Pierce called it ‘God room’—call it whatever you will, but let those projects be so big that you can’t possibly, humanly do them yourselves. God has to do them for you. It is then to his glory and not to ours or yours.”

—STAN MOONEYHAM,
WORLD VISION PRESIDENT,
1969-1982

BOOK BONUS



Now out in paperback, *The Hole in Our Gospel* by World Vision U.S. President Richard Stearns includes 48 pages of extra material, such as:

- » Reneé Stearns' comments about her journey with her husband to help the world's poor.
- » Color photographs of Rich, his family, and his travels with World Vision.
- » A detailed list of practical tips and tools for taking action to fill the "hole in our gospel." ■

» **BUY THE BOOK** at Family Christian Stores, World Vision's special retail partner. www.familychristian.com.

why I love BEING A CHILD SPONSOR

Carla Rutz, Redmond, Wash.

When I looked into my newborn granddaughter's eyes, I knew she was among the truly blessed. She had the love of two committed parents, the devotion of many family members, and a social and economic status that would serve her well.

How could I show her I loved her and cared for her future? Should I compete with other family members for the best toys or the cutest clothes? Aha! I would help someone in need in her name. Eventually she could join me in supporting this cause. I sat down to do my Googling and discovered World Vision. I searched for another special little girl and decided she should have the same birthday. The result was our sponsored child—another bright-eyed baby.

My granddaughter is now 5, as is our sponsored child. My granddaughter and I shop for her together, and she is coming



ABBY BETTY/WORLD VISION

to realize, as much as any child can, that there are many in need in the world. We bought a small "Dora the Explorer" doll for our sponsored friend, and my granddaughter immediately went and got her own doll's comb so she could send it along as well. I was a pretty proud grandmother.

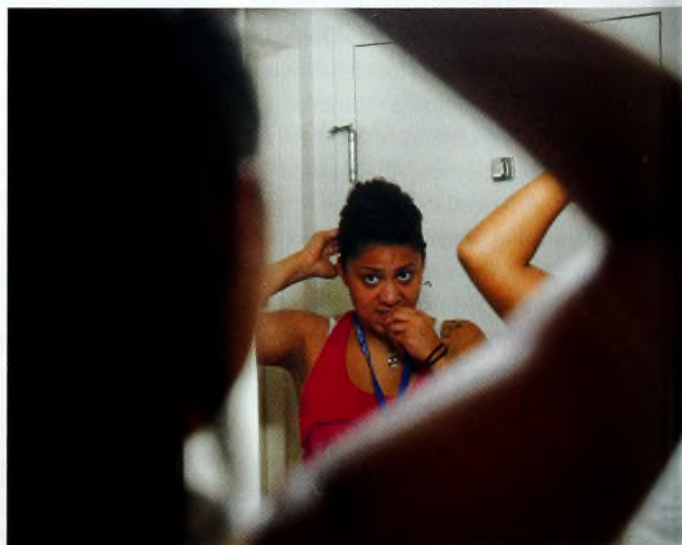
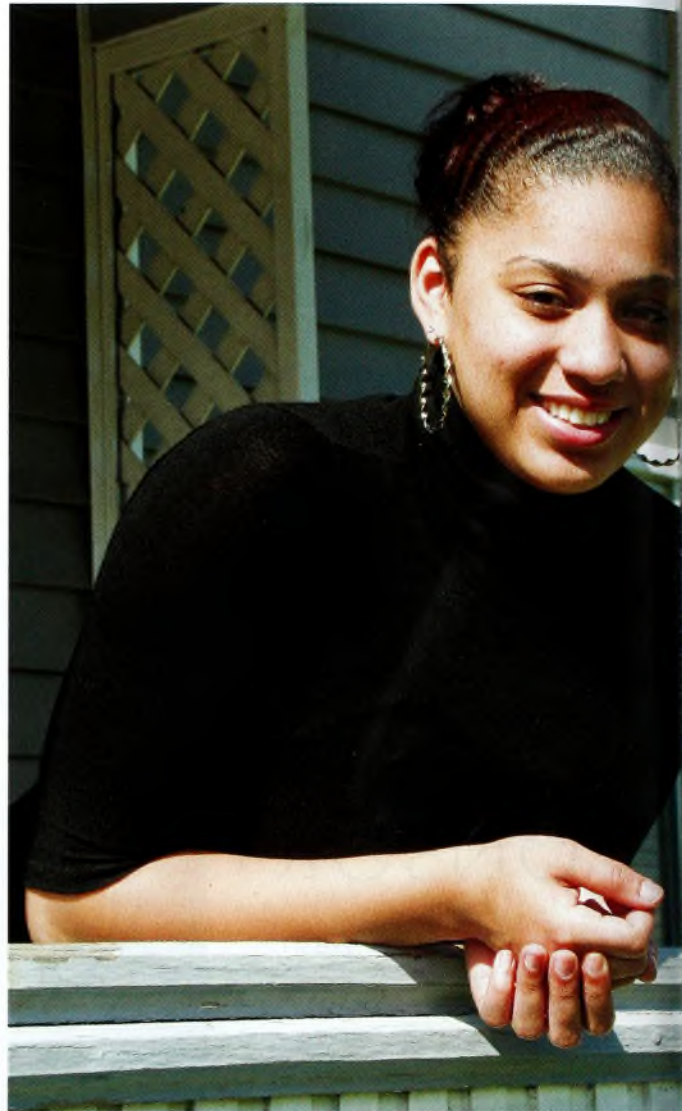
Now I look at my blessed granddaughter and see compassion, generosity, and social responsibility developing. What greater gift! ■

» **TELL US YOUR STORY** Why do you love being a child sponsor? Write the editors at wvmagazine@worldvision.org.

TREADING *New* GROUND

THROUGH WORLD
VISION'S YOUTH
EMPOWERMENT
PROJECT, A YOUNG
WOMAN IS BECOMING
THE CHANGE SHE
LONGS FOR IN HER
SEATTLE COMMUNITY.

STORY & PHOTOS BY LAURA REINHARDT



SIX EYES ZERO IN

on the mirror as three girls crowd in a tiny bathroom, examining every bobby-pin placement, every dress pucker, and even the most minute blemish. In the next room, 18-year-old Quincy Dunham kneels on the floor, ironing a formal gown. The dress isn't hers; it belongs to her friend Fundisha. Quincy is used to taking care of others. § The young women are from Seattle, known for such corporate giants as Microsoft, Starbucks, and Boeing. But to these girls from economically challenged neighborhoods, Seattle means drugs, gang violence, broken homes, growing up too fast, and friends dying too young. § Tonight, they are a world away, in Washington, D.C. Tonight, they will sit side-by-side with donors, members of Congress, and White House dignitaries to share their stories. The evening's gala celebrates the young men and women who, through World Vision's Youth Empowerment Project, have found the courage to go beyond their own hardship and advocate for others. »

Members of the Seattle Youth Empowerment team celebrated the end of the summit in Washington, D.C., with a formal gala. **BOTTOM PHOTO:** Quincy Dunham in Seattle.



QUINCY'S STORY

The Youth Empowerment Project reaches out to young people from at-risk communities in 12 areas across the United States. The 20-week program focuses on what the youth see as the critical problems in their neighborhoods. The teens then learn to mold their ideas into policy proposals that they present to congressional lawmakers during a five-day summit in Washington, D.C.

Quincy jumped at the opportunity to be involved. She loves her community, Seattle's Rainier Valley, for the diversity of people and cultures, but she also sees the problems and wants to be involved in creating solutions. "I so think that our community has been separated. It still is right now, but we have made progress. I love where we came from and hopefully where we're going."

Seattle Youth Empowerment leader Steve Polzin says the program is a self-esteem builder because it emphasizes strengths the teens might not even know they have. "That is huge, because then they start to see themselves as assets," he says. Through U.S. programs like Youth Empowerment, World Vision works to help all people, particularly children, reach their God-given potential.

Quincy grew up without much parental encouragement. When she was a year old, her father abandoned the family. Despondent, her mother turned to drugs and alcohol. Quincy eventually assumed a nurturing role with her siblings. "I had to grow up 10 times faster than I would have if [my father] had stayed," she says.

Eventually, her mother joined a church that helped her overcome her addictions. In 1999, to the shock of Quincy and her siblings, their mother eloped with a man from the church. Later that year, he died of a heart attack, right in front of the family.

Her mother, pregnant with Quincy's brother, Elijah, fell into depression again. When Elijah was born, Quincy took over his care on top of cleaning the house and cooking for her other two siblings.

Elijah didn't sleep well. "I would be up all night with him, and we would just be so tired," says Quincy. Her schoolwork suffered, and she fell behind. Believing



After graduating from Seattle Urban Academy in 2009, Quincy plans to study social work in college.

she was wasting the teachers' and everyone else's time, she often stayed home. "I stopped caring," she says. "And [the teachers] stopped caring because I stopped caring."

Quincy was in danger of becoming another statistic. Enrico Moretti, an economist at the University of California-Berkeley, estimates that if high-school graduation rates in the U.S. were 1 percent higher, there would be 100,000 fewer crimes, 400 fewer murders, and a national savings—in welfare costs and lost taxation—of \$1.4 billion.

Things reached a boiling point between Quincy and her mother, who pulled out of her depression and regained her authority over the family. "She started becoming the mom, and that was *my* role," says Quincy. Defiant, she started staying out late, drinking and doing drugs. At 16, she went to live with her biological father in Michigan, where she returned to school. "It kind of shocked me back into reality," she says. "I do have stuff that I want to do with my life."

When her relationship turned sour with her dad, Quincy returned to Seattle. Her mother discovered Seattle Urban Academy, which provided individualized attention for students. Derrick Wheeler-Smith, who teaches African American studies and religion at the school, remembers Quincy as very unsure of herself at first. "She was really like a closed flower," he says. Soon she began to blossom, and her grades rose.

"I so think that our *community* has been separated. It still is *right now*, but we have made progress. I love where we *came from* and hopefully where *we're going*."

—QUINCY DUNHAM

HARD WORK PAYS OFF

At a Youth Empowerment meeting, Steve Polzin asks the youths to name their favorite color, favorite animal, and favorite body of water. The atmosphere is full of laughter and joking, but things turn serious as Steve reads the final question: "You're trapped in a room with white walls, and they're closing in on you. Describe how you feel." The question is designed to reveal how the teens perceive death.

Dré, one of Quincy's teammates, says he feels at peace. He has already been stabbed in a major artery. "All my homies is dead," he says. "My dad is dead." Dré is 16.

Gang-related violence has increased in recent years in King County, Wash., much of the activity in the neighborhoods where the Seattle Youth Empowerment participants live. Quincy's half-brother was injured in a shooting. She's comforted friends who have lost loved ones. When an ambulance races past, she interrupts her conversation to say: "Oh Lord, please don't let someone else be shot."

While violence preys on young men, a common problem for young women is settling for dead-end relationships with gang members and high-school dropouts. Quincy says it's easy for girls in her community to set the bar low for themselves. Most of her young, unmarried cousins have had babies, some more than one. "I don't think that they see themselves

Quincy's education has deepened through her experience in Washington, D.C. (top and bottom photos), and through mentoring by her teachers (middle photo).



as treasures," she says.

Later, Quincy squirms while watching herself on the computer screen. She winces and pulls her black turtleneck up over her nose. She's working on the Seattle team's Youth Empowerment media project, a video representing the teens' view of their community, to be shown at the summit in D.C.

Quincy relaxes when her friend Jordan appears on the screen, standing on Beacon Hill with the Seattle skyline behind him and rapping about the problems facing his peers. "My best friend is so amazing," she whispers.

She's used to seeing the value in others, but finds it difficult to see it in herself. Her former teacher, Derrick, sees her as being hesitant to step out and take risks because of past rejections. He thinks that as she sees her hard work paying off, she will seize more opportunities. "I really feel like Quincy can do whatever she wants to do if she's willing to put in the work," Derrick says.

"She's having to create *a future for herself* that she hasn't seen the people around her *create*."

—AMY KENDALL TIMOLL, Quincy's teacher

Over the 20 weeks of Youth Empowerment training, Quincy proved willing to work hard, her efforts culminating in the D.C. summit in July 2009, when she and the Seattle team presented anti-violence policy recommendations to lawmakers.

Quincy longs for "just a handful of [people] who put heart and care into the community. If there were more people who were willing to get down to the nitty-gritty and pull the kids out from the bottom, I think it would be a good thing." And what she longs for, she is becoming. Building on the Youth Empowerment training, she plans to study social work in college.

Quincy's former teachers and mentors cheer her progress. "She's having to create a future for herself that she hasn't seen the people around her create," says Seattle Urban Academy language-arts teacher Amy Kendall Timoll. "It is totally new ground for her." ■

Laura Reinhardt is a photojournalist covering World Vision's programs in the United States.

SEE PHOTOS & VIDEO of the 2009 Youth Empowerment summit at blog.worldvisionmagazine.org.

INSIDE

HAITI'S HEROES:
INSPIRING STORIES
OF ORDINARY PEOPLE

DISASTER DIGEST:
RELIEF AT WORK
IN HAITI

WHERE IS GOD?
WORLD VISION
PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE

SchoolTools

Backpack Drive!



Provide backpacks
and
school supplies
for children
in need in your
community!



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TACOMA WA 98471-0438



RTBREAK

on's rapid response to
worst calamity.



Quincy's education has deepened through her experience in Washington, D.C. (top and bottom photos), and through mentoring by her teachers (middle photo).



as treasures," she says.

Later, Quincy squirms while watching herself on the computer screen. She winces and pulls her black turtleneck up over her nose. She's working on the Seattle team's Youth Empowerment media project, a video representing the teens' view of their community, to be shown at the summit in D.C.

Quincy relaxes when her friend Jordan appears on the screen, standing on Beacon Hill with the Seattle skyline behind him and rapping about the problems facing

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World Vision 

Building a better world for children

INSIDE

HAITI'S HEROES:
INSPIRING STORIES
OF ORDINARY PEOPLE

DISASTER DIGEST:
RELIEF AT WORK
IN HAITI

WHERE IS GOD?
WORLD VISION
PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE

HAITI

HOPE IN THE HEARTBREAK

How staff and supporters propelled World Vision's rapid response to Haiti's earthquake, the Western Hemisphere's worst calamity.

AGONY'S AFTERMATH

WITHOUT WARNING, the earthquake cut lives short and shook down the fragile structures of a struggling country. Without hesitation, the world reached out.





ABOVE: Nelio Chery tries to comfort her granddaughter Jenny, 4, who suffered a crushed foot in the quake, as they wait at a field hospital outside Port-au-Prince. World Vision provided tents, food, water, mattresses, and baby supplies for the hospital.

FACING PAGE, TOP: Francine Lorneus and her 1-month-old daughter, Morine, are homeless, but they were among the first to benefit from World Vision food distributions.

FACING PAGE, BOTTOM: Devastation is severe in Cite de Soleil—the poorest and most violent neighborhood of Port-au-Prince.

MAPPING THE MAGNITUDE

The earthquake struck near Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince, home to 2 million people. With World Vision's child sponsorship projects located in largely unaffected areas, all sponsored children were spared. Staff across Haiti and in the Dominican Republic—especially Jimani—have joined in the disaster response. ■



TRAGEDY: 7.0 QUAKE
 DEATHS: >220,000
 INJURED: >300,000
 DISPLACED: >1.5 million
 AFFECTED: up to 3 million

RESPONSE: WORLD VISION IN ACTION
 HISTORY: >30 years in Haiti
 HAITI STAFF: >1,000 workers
 RELIEF STAFF: >200 Haitian and international
 PROGRAMS: >23,000 U.S.-sponsored children



Schneily Similien, 4, takes his first steps with crutches after doctors at the Good Samaritan Hospital amputated part of his leg that had been crushed by falling concrete.



THE HURT

ABOVE: Strung-up bed sheets over a dirt floor was home for Fabiola St Juste, 8, and her family until World Vision gave them tarps for a better shelter.

ABOVE: A doctor comforts 6-year-old Jeff Previlma at the Good Samaritan Hospital. Both of Jeff's parents were believed to have been killed in the quake.

ADDITION TO grieving for their lost loved ones, survivors endure crippling injuries and adapt to harsh living conditions in makeshift shelters. Desperate, some posted signs on main thoroughfares, pleading for assistance—usually food and water.

BELOW, LEFT: Parts of Port-au-Prince were already poor before the quake; in seconds, the city was plunged into dire need.

BELOW: Clutching their registration papers, women from Cite de Soleil line up for a World Vision rice distribution, the first food aid the impoverished neighborhood received.





ABOVE: Children can't wait for activities at a World Vision Child-Friendly Space to start. The spaces help children emotionally recover from their frightening experiences.

BELOW: One of the early World Vision food distributions gets under way. Delivering food supplied by the World Food Programme and USAID, World Vision has reached 1.9 million people.

HOPE IN THE
HEARTBREAK

THE HELP

BY MAKING USE of pre-positioned supplies, World Vision workers began emergency relief operations the day after the quake. Haitian community leaders greatly facilitated the effort by organizing camps, conducting their own assessments, and providing beneficiary lists of the most vulnerable.





ABOVE: Camp residents help distribute boxes of cooking utensils to families in Parc Acra, Petionville.

LEFT: People lost their homes but not their faith. Worship services, including Scripture reading and singing, were a daily occurrence in many camps.



HEROES OF HAITI

BY JAMES ADDIS

THERE IS AN IMAGE of Haiti that I will never forget, and I hope I will never see the like of it again. I'd arrived in Port-au-Prince on Jan. 14, just two days after the earthquake. My first job was to travel with a consignment of medical supplies World Vision was delivering to the general hospital downtown.

We negotiated the rubble-strewn streets and arrived to find most of the hospital buildings in ruins and those still standing unsafe to use. Dozens of patients were lying on beds and stretchers on the hospital grounds; some were bandaged up and some were awaiting attention—many of them for amputations. Periodically, a truck would rumble past, carrying away the dead from the city morgue.

I walked up the road to see the morgue, the appalling smell of death getting stronger with every step. Still, I was ill-prepared for the scene as I rounded the corner.

It was impossible to get within 50 yards of the morgue. The way was blocked by human corpses stacked three deep, stretching across the width of the street. Three masked men laboriously lifted them up one by one and tipped them into the bucket of a bulldozer—a big front-end loader. When the bucket was full, the loader would back up, swivel, and drop the dead into a waiting truck to be taken to mass graves. Nearby, grieving relatives watched, fearing that somewhere in this sea of death they might see the face of a missing loved one.

The scene reminded me of footage from liberated Nazi concentration camps after World War II and of a comment made by German philosopher Theodor Arno shortly after those times: "To write poetry after Auschwitz is barbaric." So disturbed by the evil of the death camps, he felt that such art was dead.

But in the following days, I began to see that precisely the opposite applied in Haiti. I often saw the best of people. I saw gentleness and humility; people with nothing would quietly turn to God and seek strength and comfort. I saw generosity, often from those suffering deeply themselves. And I saw great courage and resilience. These are the stories of people who inspired me—the heroes of Haiti. »





World Vision



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

LOOKING AHEAD

Rebuilding will take years.
Haiti's children deserve no less.

"VOW"

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Help Haiti—your gift goes three times further.

"VOW"

returned home after the earthquake. His wife, Immacula, was injured and bleeding profusely. His son, was desperately trying to get help for his wife. His son was emerging from their own wrecked home, a sign of his 6-year-old daughter, (above).

At the time their daughter was surely dead. I could be heard crying under the rubble, my bare hands around the rubble," said Immacula. "Gladys had hidden under the rubble, the wall broken but had prevented her head. "She is a bright girl. She is named Rochelin.

Immacula's wife and daughter was only the beginning, the family was forced to live in a field with nothing but a mattress for a bed. Help came when World Vision provided cooking utensils, and a hygiene kit with soap and toothpaste. Immacula was despondent about the days ahead. "It's hard. He has given me courage and hope. He will take care of my children."

HEROES OF HAITI

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GIVING HER ALL

"WHEN THE disaster happened, I knew I had to come," said nurse Nicole Muse, 56. "And the next thing I knew, I was here."

Nicole, a World Vision child sponsor, arrived in Port-au-Prince shortly after the quake and went directly to a field hospital in Fond Parisien, near the Dominican Republic border. There she helped treat scores of children, including a small boy named Jeffrey, just 3 or 4 years old. Jeffrey's head was wrapped in bandages. He whimpered softly as she held him.

Nicole lives in Chicago, but Haiti, the country of her birth, is never far from her thoughts. She sponsors several Haitian children, and every December she returns to Haiti to work for a charitable foundation she started.

Nicole's first day was a blur. After arriving in the country late at night, she woke at 4 a.m. to drive to the field hospital, which had received medical supplies from World Vision. Then she worked nonstop to help a constant flow of patients.

"I've been holding off my tears all day," she said quietly. "This just breaks my heart."

"UP TO GOD NOW"

ROCHELIN DOLIS returned home after the earthquake to find his house collapsed. His wife, Immacula, was pinned under a girder and bleeding profusely. His son, Rodolphe, was desperately trying to get help for his mother from neighbors emerging from their own wrecked homes. There was no sign of his 6-year-old daughter, Magdalena (pictured above).

Immacula cried that their daughter was surely dead. But then Magdalena could be heard crying under the wreckage. "I dug with my bare hands around the rubble," recalled Rochelin. Magdalena had hidden under the kitchen table, which had broken but had prevented debris from falling on her head. "She is a bright girl. She did the right thing," said Rochelin.

But extracting his wife and daughter was only the first obstacle. Once free, the family was forced to live on a bare-earth soccer field with nothing but a mattress salvaged from their home. Help came when World Vision delivered a tarpaulin, cooking utensils, and a hygiene kit containing basics such as soap and toothpaste.

Rochelin was philosophical about the days ahead. "It's up to God now," he said. "He has given me courage and strength to bear this. He will take care of my children."



RESTAURANT RELIEF

RESTAURANT OWNER Gilbert Bailly found a novel way of keeping his business going in quake-devastated Port-au-Prince: giving away meals for free.

Gilbert did not have fuel or power to keep his three Muncheez pizzerias open. So through one restaurant he served free meals, using donated food and fuel. His nephew, a student in the Dominican Republic, organized the first truckload of donated food. When that dwindled, World Vision provided more food to keep the operation running.

Each day of those first desperate weeks, Gilbert's staff distributed 1,000 plastic bracelets in a needy part of the city. Later in the day, those wearing a bracelet were allowed into his restaurant. Muncheez also gave departing customers 5-pound bags of lentils, beans, flour, and bottles of cooking oil supplied by World Vision—Gilbert's way to reach family members who couldn't come to the restaurant themselves.

"Money-wise, this has been disastrous for us, but I was trying to build a bridge to those suffering in the community," he said. "We have a country to rebuild."

WHEN DUTY CALLS

AMONG THOSE rendered homeless by the Haiti quake were many World Vision staff based in Port-au-Prince, including communications officer Jhonny Celicourt. He was at his desk when the quake struck. "It was so violent. I thought I was going to die," he said.

It took Jhonny five hours of driving through the chaotic streets before he could reach his home. There, to his great relief, he found his 4-year-old daughter, Kemisha, and his wife, Florence. The house was badly damaged. The family set up camp in a nearby tennis court.

First thing the next morning, Jhonny went to work, helping deliver medications to Port-au-Prince hospitals. "I saw at least 200 corpses," he said. "I cried and cried. I could not stop."

It was the first of many long days. But Jhonny stayed on the job, helping other homeless families in his ruined city.



LOVE IN TRANSLATION

SPONSORED CHILD Leonel Novas, 17, was thrilled to play a role in World Vision's Haiti relief efforts. Leonel lives in Jimaní, in the Dominican Republic near the border with Haiti, where thousands of injured Haitians sought treatment after the quake.

But not many Dominican doctors could speak the Creole language of their patients. Leonel, the son of a Haitian mother and Dominican father, joined a team of World Vision translators to help.

He found the translation work satisfying but emotionally challenging. "I remember a little girl who had to have both her feet amputated. She cried and cried throughout the night," he said.

Leonel can identify with of the suffering. In 2004, his home was destroyed when flooding swept through Jimaní, killing several members of his family. Aferward, World Vision provided food and clothing.

"I feel I need to help, just as I was helped back in 2004," he said. ■

LOCAL HEROES

SNAPSHOTS OF AMERICANS' BENEVOLENCE FOR HAITI.



ABBY HETTY/WORLD VISION

DINE FOR HAITI

When chefs Lisa and Gordon Clement from Astoria, Ore., learned of the shocking scale of the earthquake in Haiti, they felt compelled to act. So they organized a "Dine for Haiti" day at their restaurant, Clemente's, and served traditional Haitian food to raise money. The restaurant was packed for the event. Diners

generously contributed about \$1,800 for World Vision's relief work.

"There was a lot of joy and some tears," Lisa says. "To sacrifice one day of our lives for such an amazing cause was something that we felt we had to do."

Lisa says the change to a Haitian menu required some serious research, but the food was "amazing." Now they are planning to add a popular Haitian pan-seared pork dish to their regular menu.



KRISTIN COPHER

KITS AT THE CROSS

A tangible way to respond to the overwhelming need in Haiti was to assemble Caregiver Kits, most commonly provided to AIDS caregivers in Africa. The kits, containing basic medical supplies such as oral rehydration salts, painkillers, antiseptic ointment, and antibacterial soap, are being distributed to

hospitals, clinics, and homeless camps in Haiti.

More than 150 young people at The Church at Pinnacle Hills in Rogers, Ark., not only assembled Caregiver Kits for Haiti—they also brought them to the foot of the cross and prayed for those who would receive them. "It not only helped many lives, it helped us learn how to serve people in need," said one participant.

» **LEARN MORE** about Caregiver Kits at www.worldvision.org/carekits.



COURTESY BRADLEY FAMILY

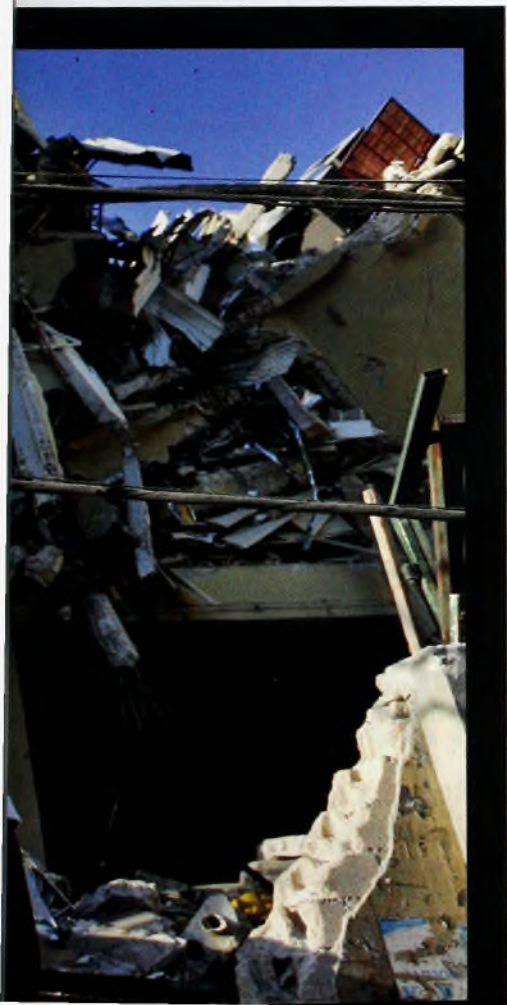
KARA'S COMPASSION

Shortly before her 11th birthday, Kara Bradley came down with the flu. That meant she was at home watching the news after the Haiti earthquake instead of at school. The youngster from La Cañada, Calif., was so moved, she asked the guests invited to her upcoming birthday party to bring a contribution to World Vision's

Haiti relief effort rather than a present for her. "It was better for them to provide clothes and food for children in Haiti, instead of getting me things I don't really need," she says.

Her guests contributed more than \$1,500. Then at a celebration dinner at Kara's favorite restaurant, Sakura, she chatted with owner Charles Wee about the fundraiser. Charles donated \$500 so Kara could make her \$2,000 target. It was a generous move—the restaurant had already contributed \$10,000 to World Vision for Haiti relief. ■

» **HOW DID YOU HELP HAITI?** Write the editors at wvmagazine@worldvision.org.



DISASTER DIGEST

The first month of a large-scale emergency is critical for bringing help and hope. World Vision has honed its emergency-response plan through many major disasters. **How did it hold up in Haiti?**



PRE-CRISIS **THE PLAN:** Early-warning systems monitored; disaster training for staff; goods pre-positioned. **HAITI EARTHQUAKE:** Earthquakes cannot be predicted, but World Vision planned for hurricanes in Haiti by training staff and pre-positioning relief supplies that were immediately accessible for the quake response. More goods were quickly mobilized at World Vision's Pittsburgh and Denver warehouses.



24 HOURS **THE PLAN:** Local staff assess crisis; Global Rapid Response Team (GRRT) deploys. **HAITI EARTHQUAKE:** Staff based in Port-au-Prince provided initial information before communications systems went down. GRRT members got on planes. The morning after the quake, Haitian staff began distributing the pre-positioned medical supplies to hospitals.



72 HOURS **THE PLAN:** Emergency supplies arrive; communications and media coordination begins. **HAITI EARTHQUAKE:** Despite a delay due to the Port-au-Prince airport closure, the first airlift from Denver arrived on Jan. 15, carrying more than \$75,000 in relief goods. Communications staff produced stories, photos, and video, to convey the need to the U.S. audience.



7 DAYS **THE PLAN:** Delivery continues of survival items; staff specialists arrive on scene. **HAITI EARTHQUAKE:** Staff delivered relief goods in four distributions and provided medical supplies for 11 hospitals and health centers, with more airlifts scheduled. More than 80 international staff (in Haiti and DR) worked full-time on the quake response.



30 DAYS **THE PLAN:** Temporary shelter established for families; emergency health and nutrition care provided; Child-Friendly Spaces set up. **HAITI EARTHQUAKE:** At the one-month mark, 500,000 people had received food and other aid, including tarps and blankets to improve families' living conditions. Four mobile clinics provided basic health care. Six Child-Friendly Spaces gave children safe play areas, while staff ensured child protection in all program activities. ■

“As a Christian, I feel that we need to feel the pain of those affected; we need to identify ourselves with the pain of what they are going through. We also need to provide our best human and professional effort to collaborate with them so that they can recover physically, mentally, and spiritually. This is our moral and religious duty, to be with the Haitian people at this time of grief and this time of emergency. We are working here arm-to-arm, heart-to-heart with the families and children affected



by this tragedy.”

—DR. MANUEL CALDERON,
REGIONAL HEALTH
ADVISOR FOR WORLD
VISION IN LATIN AMERICA

FAST FACT

90 PERCENT of all disaster victims live in developing countries, where poverty and lack of resources exacerbate the suffering.

RELIEF TO RECOVERY

World Vision's "first-in, last-out" approach to emergencies means that teams stay on well after the rubble is cleared away and the crisis fades from the news. In the next months and years in Haiti, World Vision will help restore social structures such as education and health systems, rebuild homes and infrastructure, and assist families with income-generation and small businesses. Here are the results of such efforts in countries devastated by the 2004 Asian tsunami.



Source: "Raising Resilience: The 2004 Asian Tsunami Five Years On." Read the full report at www.worldvision.org/magazine.

DID YOU KNOW?

IN 2009, World Vision responded to 95 emergencies around the globe, including typhoons, floods, earthquakes, and a tsunami.



"CHRIST IS NOT DISTANT FROM US IN OUR TIMES OF SUFFERING. HE IS NOT INDIFFERENT OR DETACHED. HE LIES CRUSHED UNDER THE WEIGHT OF CONCRETE WALLS. HE WALKS HOMELESS AND HUNGRY THROUGH THE CAMPS. HE WEEPS UNCONTROLLABLY OVER THE CHILD HE HAS LOST."

WHERE IS GOD IN HAITI?

BY RICHARD STEARNS, WORLD VISION U.S. PRESIDENT

WHO OF US, since this earthquake, has not asked the question, "Why, God?" The staggering human suffering seems to mock the very notion of a loving God. Where is God in Haiti?

There was another time that God was mocked in the face of suffering and evil. It happened on Calvary as Jesus Christ, God's own son, was spat upon, beaten, and hanged on a cross. And people asked, where was God then? Why not prevent this suffering from happening?

But God had another way. On that cross, Jesus faced all the evil that ever was or ever would be. He took upon himself the sins of mankind, the evils of injustice, the pain of suffering and loss, the brokenness of the world. He felt every pain and took every punishment for every person who would ever live.

Christ is not distant from us in our times of suffering. He is not indifferent or detached. He lies crushed under the weight of concrete walls. He walks homeless and hungry through the camps. He weeps uncontrollably over the child he has lost.

Where is God in Haiti? He hangs bloody on the cross: "A man of sorrows, and familiar with our suffering" (Isaiah 53:3).

"But where is hope?" we might ask. Where is justice for the dead, the broken, and the grieving? Here, alas, we need to see something not easily seen from human perspective. We, not God, are trapped in time. We, not God, see only in part and cannot yet see the whole. We, not God, must wait for that day when "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain ..." (Revelation 21:4).

We live in the *not yet*, but God sees the *already*. We see today and yesterday, not tomorrow—God sees all three at once.



In him, those crushed in Haiti are alive already. In him, those orphaned in Haiti are reunited with family already. In him, those broken in Haiti are healed already.

Rich comforts
quake survivor
Magdalena Dolis, 6.

In him, those grieving in Haiti rejoice already. Jesus Christ is "before all things, and in him all things hold together" (Colossians 1:17).

He is no distant God who turns his back on us. He is the God who "so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). He is God, who shed his own blood for us.

What then must we do? Unlike God, we live in the time between the *already* and *not yet*, and we must wait *until then*. Until then, we are commanded to love our neighbors as ourselves. Until then, we are called to comfort the afflicted, give food to the hungry and water to the thirsty. Until then, we are to shelter the homeless, clothe the naked, and grieve with the grieving. Until then, we are to care for the widow, the orphan, the alien, and the stranger.

We are to let our light so shine before others that they might see our good deeds and give glory to our Father in heaven. Until then, as the apostle Paul wrote, "We are therefore Christ's ambassadors ... as though God were making his appeal through us" (2 Corinthians 5:20). Until then, *we* must show forth God's deep love for Haiti. ■

"I LIFT UP MY EYES TO THE HILLS—
WHERE DOES MY HELP COME FROM?
MY HELP COMES FROM THE LORD,
THE MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH."
—PSALM 121:1-2

STAY CONNECTED

Stay connected with World Vision over the long haul as we continue to meet children and families' critical needs and help communities rebuild—in Haiti and wherever major disasters impact the poor. Find opportunities to give, pray, act, and engage with others who care:

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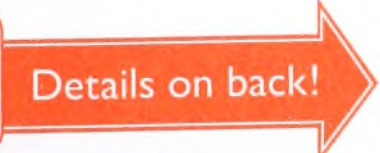
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World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice.



BY KARI COSTANZA
PHOTOS BY JON WARREN

TAKING

FLIGHT

In Mexico,
microfinance lifts
families' hopes for
the future while
allowing them to
stay rooted in a
land they love. »



'MARIPOSAS!'

cries 11-year-old Indra Ortega as a glorious splash of black and orange soars by. The *mariposas*, or monarch butterflies, are beginning to flutter to their winter home in Michoacán, the Mexican state that stretches east from the Pacific Ocean toward Mexico City.

Michoacán is famous for its monarchs. They created a worldwide marvel after a 1974 *National Geographic* magazine showcased photos of them blanketing the Oyamel fir trees unique to the region. Each year, 300 million monarchs make their way to Michoacán from places as far north as Canada. The butterflies, hatched thousands of miles away, fly south at the same time every year.

—continued on page 21



Indra Ortega (in photo on facing page), along with her siblings and cousins live in Michoacán, Mexico, a place of natural beauty and man-made hardship.





Youngest child Lupita, 4, wears a traditional dress to school.

—continued from page 18

WHY THE MONARCHS FLY TO MICHOACÁN IS A MYSTERY.

Why Indra's father, Silverio Reyes, travels the opposite way of the butterflies is no mystery. Silverio, 32, has made the journey north three times to work in the United States. Michoacán may attract millions of monarchs, but good jobs are scarce here, making it difficult for Silverio to care for his family.

Silverio and his wife, Yolanda, live in San Mateo, a town nestled in Michoacán's mountains. San Mateo feels like a movie set. It is centered around a 400-year-old Catholic church. Men on horseback remove their hats in reverence as they trot by, sometimes cradling toddlers in their laps. The small plots of land deeded to families by the government are crammed with corn stalks that reach toward a big sky. And in autumn, millions of monarchs fly "home" to a place they've never been.

IN SPITE OF ITS BEAUTY, MICHOACÁN IS BELEAGUERED.

Mexico's most powerful drug cartel, *La Familia*, or The Family, controls the state, spreading corruption through the system and terrorizing law enforcement—shooting up police stations, murdering federal agents, and delivering messages attached to the severed heads of their enemies for maximum impact.

The land itself is under attack as tree-cutting threatens the butterflies' habitat. And deep poverty keeps families down. Their government-deeded plots are too small for families to make a living by farming. Forty years ago, many of San Mateo's men began to make their way to the United States, looking for jobs in agriculture and construction, tearing the fabric of this close-knit society.

"It's a vicious cycle. No money and no jobs creates poverty," says Francisco Arias Yañez, the headmaster of San Mateo's elementary school. He says that as fathers head to the United States, kids drop out of school. "This place needs huge development to avoid emigration," he says. "San Mateo needs a miracle."

San Mateo is a peaceful place, but bullet holes dotting the police station in nearby Zitácuaro are reminders of drug-fuelled violence.

IN A PLACE BRIMMING WITH BUTTERFLIES, MIRACLES CAN HAPPEN.

World Vision started working in San Mateo 10 years ago. At that time, says World Vision project manager Socorro Morales Rosas, "people kept their water in little tanks. Or in a tree trunk. Sometimes the tanks were made of iron, so it was unhealthy. Children had problems [with] their skin. They had allergies." Dogs and chickens would get into the water, making it unsafe to drink.

**"IT'S A VICIOUS CYCLE.
NO MONEY AND NO JOBS
CREATES POVERTY."**

—FRANCISCO ARIAS YAÑEZ



RIGHT: Yolanda and Silverio with their children. **BELOW:** Lupita in school. **FACING PAGE:** Indra reads her Bible from her sponsor. **FACING PAGE, BOTTOM:** Proud parents Yolanda and Silverio.



The homes in San Mateo had dirt floors, making children vulnerable to respiratory diseases. And the attitude of *machismo* kept women from reaching their full potential. Women worked hard, but they didn't understand their value or feel appreciated.

Through sponsorship, World Vision worked with the community to provide solutions: building home-water systems, cement floors, and a community center for leadership meetings; providing fruit trees and poultry to sponsored children's families; ensuring that each child receives school supplies and nutritional monitoring.

"Almost all of this town has the help of World Vision," says Silverio. His home is one of hundreds with a water system, a new roof, and fruit trees.

"I think that the most important change has been with the women," says Socorro. In the beginning, she says, all the community leaders were men. But today, leadership roles have reversed. The leadership committee is made up of 20 women and two men.

SPONSORSHIP LAID THE FOUNDATION FOR CHANGE.

Indra treasures her relationship with her sponsors—a couple with two children from Florida who write her letters and send her gifts, including coloring books and a Bible in Spanish. Indra loves the Bible, which includes a bookplate with her sponsors' names. "When there was a flood [in Florida], I prayed for them," she says.

Indra is the second mother to the family. Mature, reserved, and peaceful at just 11, she keeps watch over her siblings. Her brother Jorge, 14, also sponsored, is an artist. He and Silverio created an exquisite drawing of Jesus that hangs over Indra's bed. Christofer, 6, is all action. He can climb to the top of San Mateo's high fences, somehow avoiding barbed wire along the way, and knows, as only little boys do, that corn stalks make great javelins. Yeimi Guadalupe, or Lupita, 4, has an impish sense of humor. Introducing herself as Yeimi Guadalupe, she adds with a twinkle, "But my real name is Stephanie."

Silverio, Yolanda, and their children live in a three-bedroom home. In their living room, the family gathers to look through the pictures of their lives: baby Lupita's first steps, Indra's first communion, Silverio in New York—including his startling pictures of the Twin Towers aflame on 9/11.

Silverio has mixed feelings about New York City, where he shared a two-bedroom apartment with 10 others. But he thought the city was magnificent. "When I walked on Fifth Avenue, I thought it was beautiful. I thought, *I would like my children to see this.*" He was amazed at how the city took care of people in need. "Even poor people have a place to stay and something to eat."



‘I THINK THE MOST IMPORTANT CHANGE HAS BEEN WITH THE WOMEN.’ —SOCORRO MORALES ROSAS

FOR SILVERIO, SAN MATEO IS HOME.

“In New York City, there are no butterflies. There are no trees. The corn is very different,” he says. “Here, I breathe well. The sun is stronger. Here, it is so clean.”

Silverio grew up in poverty. His father had a drinking problem. “I had to work to help my mother,” he says. He quit school after second grade to become a delivery boy in Mexico City. “I had to learn to read a little to deliver to addresses.”

Like many in Mexico City, Silverio walked a path of pain. But Silverio, able to hoist a 90-pound bag of corn over one shoulder with ease, was strong inside. “I looked in the mirror and said, ‘No—my children will have different lives.’”





“[YOLANDA] IS LOVELY, HARDWORKING, AND RESPONSIBLE. SHE HAS BECOME MORE INDEPENDENT. SHE HAS MORE SELF-ESTEEM. THE LOAN HAS MADE HER A BETTER WIFE, MOTHER, AND WORKER.”

—SILVERIO REYES

NOW LIFE IS BETTER, THANKS TO A MICROFINANCE LOAN.

Like 100 other families in San Mateo, Silverio and Yolanda have a microfinance loan that has helped give the family newfound security. Microloans, provided through microfinance institutions, give the entrepreneurial poor small amounts of capital at competitive rates.

“There is a ‘before’ and ‘after’ with a loan,” says Perla Amayo Arriaga, 25, a loan coordinator with World Vision’s microfinance institution in Mexico, *Fundación Realidad*. She says that families with sponsored children fare better through microfinance because their basic needs are already met.

Vision Fund, World Vision’s microfinance subsidiary operating in 42 countries worldwide, provides loans to hardworking people living in poverty that they could never get from a bank. Vision Fund serves more than 600,000 borrowers worldwide, 17,000 in Mexico, including Yolanda and Silverio.

“The bank will deny me credit because we are poor,” says Silverio. The alternative, local lenders, gouge poor clients with high interest rates—120 percent a year.

Fundación Realidad searches out and invests in clients they know can succeed—go-getters with some prior business experience or a willingness to be trained. The majority of *Fundación Realidad*’s clients are women, and when their loan is paid, 80 percent of them get another loan.

THE CYCLE OF POVERTY BEGINS TO CRUMBLE.

Yolanda is part of a solidarity group of five women who take out loans together and collectively guarantee repayments. They have just taken out their fifth loan through *Fundación Realidad*. Loan officer Perla says Yolanda’s group is one of the best. “We choose people who are responsible, hard workers,” says Yolanda. “We feel like a family. And we always pay our loan one day before it’s due.”

Yolanda will use her portion for the thriving taco stand she runs near her church. She and Silverio used part of a loan to fund a successful *carnitas* (pork) business as well, and Yolanda makes beautiful handicrafts to sell.

It’s a world away from her difficult childhood. “When I was a little girl, my father died,” says Yolanda, taking a quick break from frying *flautas* stuffed with chicken, shredded lettuce, and a savory white cheese. “My mother was left with 10 kids and one on the way. I had the dream to study in secondary school but had to drop out when I was 12.”

Things began to turn around for Yolanda and Silverio when World Vision started sponsorship and community development in San Mateo a decade ago. And two years ago, when they took out their first loan and their fortunes began to rise, Yolanda knew she could go back to school. “I got my secondary education degree when I was 30,” she says, her eyes sparkling.

FAMILIES’ DREAMS TAKE FLIGHT.

Silverio and Yolanda’s income has quadrupled since they began taking out loans—from \$75 to \$300 per month. “I am a very happy woman,” Yolanda says. “I thank God every day because I have so many things. I always dreamed of having a family and children.”

Silverio walks in from the corn field, machete in hand, to visit with Yolanda. “She is lovely, hardworking, and responsible,” he says. “She has become more independent. She has more self-esteem. The loan has made her a better wife, mother, and worker. All of it has worked for good.”

In turn, Silverio has become a better husband and father. “My brother can stay in Mexico because he has the little [taco] stand,” says Silverio’s brother, Adrian. “He doesn’t have to go away anymore. His family has more chances.” Adrian admires his brother. “He doesn’t smoke. He doesn’t drink. Everything he does is for his family.”



FACING PAGE: Christofer waits for an after-school snack. **TOP:** Yolanda's solidarity group signs for another loan. **LEFT:** Silverio and Indra harvest corn. **ABOVE:** Christofer washes with water from a tank provided by child sponsorship.

Yolanda is the same. "I want [my children] to become someone in life," she says. "I tell them I will pay for school until the last grade they want to study. It doesn't matter if I have to sell tacos."

On Sunday, Silverio and Yolanda take their children to the 400-year-old church for worship. On this day, two nuns are bidding the congregation goodbye after 40 years of service. They say this community has grown in its faith and that it's time for them to move on.

But for Silverio, Yolanda, and their children, San Mateo has become a place to remain. "The butterflies make things special," says Indra. And thanks to her family's security through sponsorship and microfinance, she will be able to watch them fly home every year. ■

*Norma Angélica Ruiz Moncayo,
a child sponsor and volunteer
for World Vision in Mexico,
contributed to this story.*

**BELOW: Yolanda,
Silverio, and the
children worship at their
church in San Mateo,
a community that has
grown in its faith.**



MICRO: MAKE THE CONNECTION

Micro is a World Vision Web site that allows you to connect with entrepreneurs in the developing world and help them meet their economic goals. Select pre-qualified borrowers by country, business type, gender, or loan amount, read about them, and donate to help. You can track their progress and share in their success. Thanks to the loan repayment rate of 98.7 percent, your donation recycles over and over to support more entrepreneurs in the same country.

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HOW IT WORKS



LEFT: Benjamin Yumba at work in Kinshasa. **FACING PAGE:** One of Benjamin's award-winning paintings.

When 22-year-old art student Benjamin Yumba in the Democratic Republic of Congo spied a small advertisement pinned to an art academy bulletin board, he recognized an opportunity.

The ad invited entries for a journalism and cartoon competition organized by French humanitarian organizations. Drawings were to have the theme "World Views on Europe," and the competition was open to any artist living outside the European Union.

Benjamin, a former World Vision sponsored child, set to work producing three pieces of art that not only give a young African's perspective on Europe, but also help the viewer appreciate the circumstances that shaped his vision.

In one painting, Africans waving different flags come together under a blue sky filled with yellow stars, representing the flag of the European Union. The atmosphere is one of hope and celebration. In the foreground, an African baby attempts to join in, waving a Congolese flag. "It shows how the baby also searches for hope," Benjamin says, adding that war and poverty in Congo often mean that hope is in short supply.

"Children are abducted, raped, and abused. They cannot go to school. They are not protected, and no one seems to solve this problem," he says.

Growing up in a desperately poor neighborhood of Kimilolo on the outskirts of Congo's second-largest city, Lubumbashi, Benjamin recalls when he could not go to school because he had no shoes and the many times he went hungry. "I do not want to remember those times," he says. "It was very tough."

But one thing Benjamin does want to remember is his early passion for art. Whenever he could lay his hands on paper and pencils, he started sketching—often

VIANNEY DONG/WORLD VISION (3)

Picture His World »

By Vianney Dong

A former sponsored child becomes a celebrated artist.

portraits of movie stars such as Sylvester Stallone or Jean-Claude Van Damme. Unable to afford expensive materials, he would sometimes paint with mud or charcoal, using embers from a burnt-out fire.

His talent might well have gone undeveloped in a community where school dropout rates are high. But at age 6, World Vision workers visited Benjamin's home and persuaded his parents to enroll him in the Kimilolo child sponsorship program. Benjamin says it was just the encouragement he needed.

"When my parents were late buying me notebooks, pens, and pencils, I would receive these for free from World Vision, and that allowed me to study without being expelled from school," he says.

At first, Benjamin's teachers could not believe the youngster could produce such brilliant drawings unaided. Then one teacher watched him reproduce a picture of a hippopotamus, and ever since, his artwork has received top marks.

His reputation spread. Benjamin began to make a little money selling his paintings and drawings. In 2006, a delegation of Taiwanese donors who had funded World Vision's work in Kimilolo visited his family and made the startling proposition to support Benjamin at the Fine Art

Academy in Kinshasa. Although friends had urged him to study art, he had always believed such an education was beyond his reach.

On arrival in Kinshasa, Benjamin's work continued to impress. He also dazzled judges of the French art competition, who selected him as one of the four winners. Benjamin was flown to France to receive his award from the mayor of Paris. He also met members of the European Parliament and visited art galleries in Paris and Belgium. His work went on to be exhibited in three cities in France, including at *Memorial de Caen*—France's foremost peace museum.

Benjamin is grateful to his sponsor: "He sowed the seed. Today, he can see the fruit."

Now Benjamin hopes to help others with a passion for art. "The fact that someone who I do not know [was] taking care of me—it has influenced my attitude. I have learned a lot and am ready to share with others what I have." ■

Vianney Dong is the communications manager for World Vision in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

» TO SPONSOR A CHILD

To sponsor a child, see the envelope in the center of the magazine or go to www.worldvision.org/ReadandRespond.



About World Vision

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

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

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

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

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



Eternal Youth » *by John Ortberg*

Sometimes there are 20-year-olds who are cynical and jaded and passive and withdrawn; and there are 80-year-olds who are pliant and hopeful and learning and eager. Age is a moving target. A man I know runs a national super-senior tennis tournament. The finals pitted a 91-year-old player against a 94-year-old. One rally ended with the 91-year-old cracking a crosscourt forehand that the 94-year-old could not run down. "Oh, to be 91 again," he yelled.

I think our heavenly Father would enjoy that story even more than I did. He retains a youthful spirit. G.K. Chesterton wrote in *Orthodoxy* that God is like a young child. He keeps making daisies because, like a little child, he never grows weary of making them. The sun keeps rising because every day God, with the appetite of infancy, says to the sun, "Do it again." Chesterton concludes: "We have sinned, and grown old, and our Father is younger than we."

So what keeps people young? According to Psalm 92, "The righteous will flourish like a palm tree ... They will still bear fruit in old age ... They will stay fresh and green..."

The righteous? Really? Not the Botox-ed and the liposucked and the massaged and the Viagra-ed? What is it about righteousness that would make someone young?

I thought about this recently on vacation. My family chose me to go to the video store, and I came home two days later with a documentary called "Young@Heart." It's the story of the Young@Heart chorus from a New England town and is made up of folks in their 70s, 80s, and 90s. The twist is that instead of singing

*"The righteous will flourish like
a palm tree, they will grow like
a cedar of Lebanon..."* —PSALM 92:12

"Fanny Crosby" or "She'll be Coming Round the Mountain," their repertoire ranges from head-banging and heavy metal to acid punk, grunge, and indie. They rehearse forever to master songs like "Schizophrenia" or "I Want to be Sedated."

They learn. They grow. They care for one another. And—here's the key—they give everything of themselves for others.

In one scene, they go to a prison to sing to incarcerated men, most of whom are in their 20s. And by the time this choir of ancients is through singing their strange songs, jaded prisoners



COURTESY JOHN ORTBERG

are on their feet, giving them a standing ovation. Every conceivable barrier is crossed by beauty and love. If you are able to watch it without a tear, you are made of sterner stuff than I am.

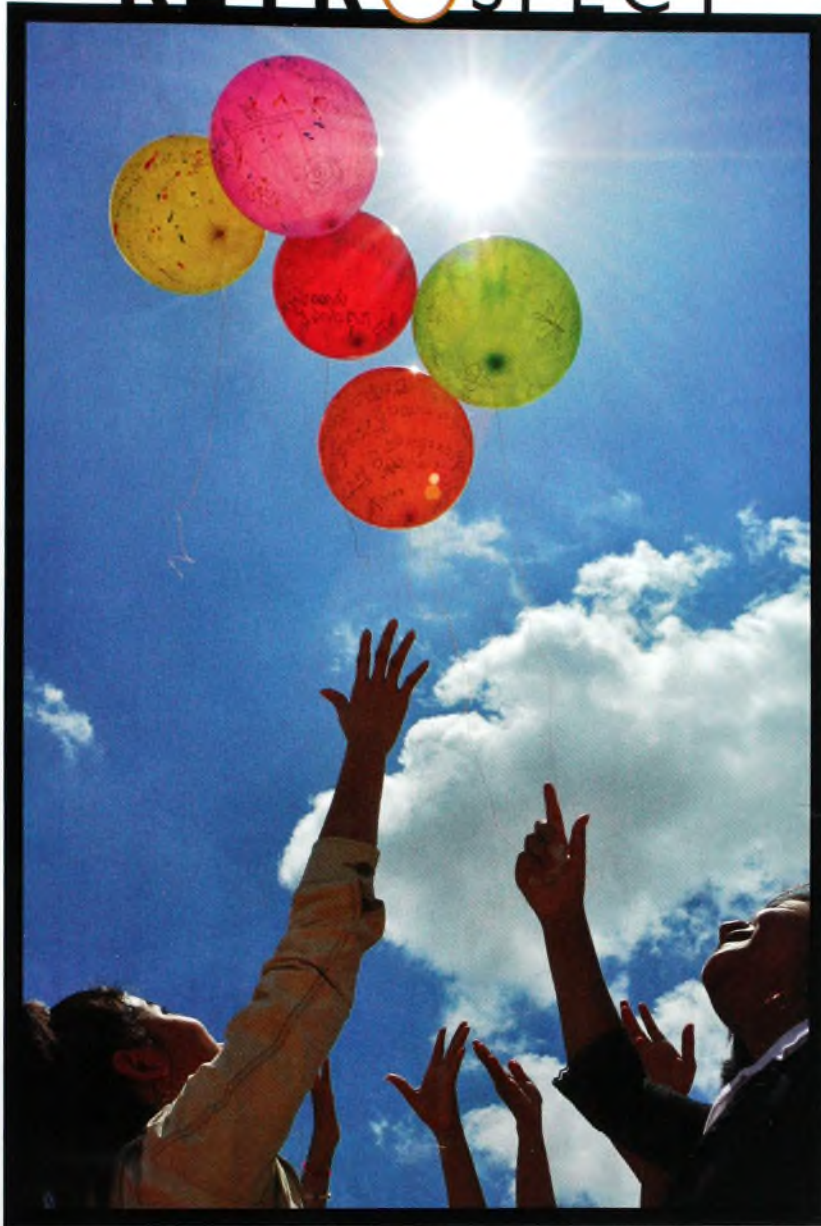
The members of the Young@Heart chorus suffer from congestive heart failure and spinal meningitis. And yet they feel so needed. They have such a gift to give to one another and to those who listen. Indeed, they are ready to die for it, and some of them do.

It's not surprising, really. They live in a community of learning and joy; laughter and giving; life and death and wisdom. And maybe all of these things together, under the power and grace and presence of God, are what go into righteousness. Maybe righteousness is not some stuffy religious word; maybe it is a word of fertility and surprise and generosity.

True, science and medicine can help more people live longer. But I suspect what we really want is the kind of vitality demonstrated by the Young@Heart chorus—the kind that science and medicine cannot give us; the kind that pours itself out for others. ■

John Ortberg is pastor of Menlo Park Presbyterian Church, Calif. He hosts *start> Becoming a Good Samaritan*, a curriculum and DVD series developed in partnership with World Vision.

RETROSPECT



SOPHEAK KHONG/WORLD VISION

C A M B O D I A

The girls giggle as they launch colorful balloons toward the sun. But the Khmer handwriting on these balloons is neither childish nor cheerful. And this event, at the Independence Monument in Phnom Penh, is no ordinary playtime at the park. The young girls have survived a nightmare of violence, trafficking, and commercial sexual exploitation and have found help from World Vision and other organizations fighting against such crimes. Now, safely surrounded by a team of counselors, each child finds words for her sorrow, writes them on a balloon, and together, the girls release their past terrors into the heavens. ■

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