

WorldVision

SUMMER 2013



Journey of Love

Taking the next step in God's story

24 WORLD VISION LAUNCHES AN UNPRECEDENTED CAMPAIGN FOR EVERY CHILD



Rich Stearns' new book
Unfinished—page 12

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1 Choose a design



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3 Add a photo



4 Send your email

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KARI COSTANZA/WORLD VISION



KARI COSTANZA/WORLD VISION

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LAURA BERNHARDT/WORLD VISION

Are You a Finisher?

BY RICH STEARNS

A couple of years ago, I was plagued by a question that I had never heard my pastor ask, much less answer: Why did Jesus leave? It seemed to me that having died for our sins and conquered death, he could have fully ushered in his kingdom then and there. Didn't Jesus himself say, "It is finished"? Why not go directly to Matthew 25's judgment scene—do not pass go, do not collect \$200? Gather the nations, separate the sheep from the goats, get the judgment behind you, and set up your eternal kingdom forever and ever. Amen. Now, that makes sense. But no. Instead, Jesus chose to leave.

I found the key to the answer in Jesus' words: "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come" (Matthew 24:14). Before Jesus left, he gave a critical mission to his followers and said that he would return when it was finished. And this "gospel of the kingdom" requires that we both proclaim the message of forgiveness and demonstrate God's love through our actions—caring for the poor, healing the sick, feeding the hungry, freeing the oppressed, and standing up for justice. This is a mission for every follower of Christ—with no exceptions.

This idea eventually developed into my new book, *Unfinished: Believing Is Only the Beginning* (read an excerpt on pages 12-18). The central thought is this: God has invited you and me to join him in changing the world. God has a vision for the world that Jesus called the kingdom of God. And you and I will only find fulfillment in our lives when we discover the unique role God has for us in building his kingdom. But this mission Jesus gave to his church is unfinished. And if you haven't found your place in this kingdom work, you may be missing out on the very thing God created you to do.

I believe this is why World Vision exists—to help finish this



RYAN SMITH/WORD VISION

"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come."

—MATTHEW 24:14

great mission. It is our job to do what Jesus calls his church to do—to lift up the poor and proclaim the good news. We are to transform the world for Christ.

But this is a huge task, and it requires a massive effort. Nearly 1 billion people are hungry, causing 2 billion children to grow up underweight or stunted. Lack of clean water and sanitation contributes to 19,000 children under 5 dying every day. Meanwhile, 30 percent of the world's people have not heard about Jesus Christ, much less seen the gospel in action.

So at World Vision, we have asked ourselves, are we really doing enough? Are we helping every child we can? World Vision has experience, infrastructure, and on-the-ground relationships in our sponsorship communities that enable us to care for millions of people every year. But we realized that we could do even more in those communities—if we had the resources. So we have launched a rescue mission.

We have embarked on a \$500 million campaign through 2015 that will allow us to build on our work in sponsorship communities and rescue an additional 10 million people from suffering. Already, hundreds of donors have joined World Vision's Campaign For Every Child, sacrificially giving hundreds of millions of dollars. We are pouring those resources into our sponsorship communities, enabling them to go deeper and expand their reach to more of God's children through accomplishments like clean water, health interventions, economic development programs, child protection, and Christian witness work. (Learn more on pages 24-44.)

However, right now, the job remains unfinished. Lives are at stake. The need is too great, and Jesus' mission is too important. Will you join us by being one of God's "finishers"? ●

FOR MORE FROM RICH
visit www.richstearns.org

FRONTLINES



PATRICIA FOUJAHKI/WORLD VISION

A BENCH CALLED HOME

In Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, 4-year-old Yasmin and her family called this park bench home after they fled conflict in Syria. The family stayed nights in a local mosque or in an open train. Yasmin and her three brothers had only one toy to play with between them, and when her nose ran, her mother struggled to find a tissue.

As the Syrian civil war takes its toll, families are forced to flee to neighboring countries. According to the U.N., more than 376,000 Syrians have poured into Lebanon, and more than half are children

younger than 17. World Vision's response is focused in the Bekaa Valley along Lebanon's eastern border, where about one-third of refugees are living.

World Vision distributes hygiene kits and food vouchers to families like Yasmin's and provides children with safe places to play and heal from the emotional pains of war. More than 6,000 families have also received blankets, clothes, stoves, and heating fuel. ●



POLIO | The number of children paralyzed by the polio virus reached an all-time low in 2012, with just 218 cases worldwide—a **60 percent** reduction from 2011. The decline can be attributed in part to a global eradication campaign, which distributed 2 billion doses of vaccine to 429 million children last year. Polio, a viral disease that can lead to partial or full paralysis, was reported in only five countries in 2012: Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nigeria, Chad, and Niger.



TUBERCULOSIS | With an estimated 2 million cases annually, India tops the global tuberculosis (TB) list. About **20 percent** of the world's TB infections are in India, and as many as 320,000 people there die of the bacterial infection each year. Children are especially at risk of extrapulmonary TB, a form of the disease that is not primarily in the lungs.



MALARIA | Between 2000 and 2010, malaria mortality rates fell by **26 percent** worldwide, and an estimated 1.1 million malaria deaths were averted—mostly because of scaled-up interventions. Funding for malaria control is up but still below the amount needed to reach global malaria

targets. Despite the decreasing infection rate, the disease remains solidly linked to poverty.



DENGUE | Dengue infects an estimated 50 million people each year, making it the world's fastest-spreading tropical disease. Transmitted through the bite of a female mosquito, the viral disease is now prevalent in more than **125 countries**, its spread boosted by an increasingly mobile population and natural disasters like flooding. Dengue causes flu-like symptoms that typically subside in a few days; the severe form of the disease often requires hospitalization.



CHOLERA | More than three years after the magnitude-7.0 earthquake, cholera continues to wreak havoc in Haiti—especially in unsanitary conditions like the overcrowded encampments where more than 350,000 quake survivors still reside. The intestinal infection, caused by consuming contaminated food or water, has killed **7,750** since October 2010. Before the earthquake, Haiti had not recorded a case of cholera since 1960. Cuba also has had two cholera outbreaks in the last year, following 130 years without the disease. ●

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WORST COUNTRIES FOR CHILD DPT VACCINATION

According to a report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 22.4 million children failed to receive a complete course of the diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (DPT) vaccine in 2011. More than half of them—12 million children—live in India, Nigeria, and Indonesia.

The 10 countries with the highest percentage of children failing to receive three DPT doses are:

INDIA*	32%
NIGERIA	14%
INDONESIA*	7%
ETHIOPIA*	5.2%
PAKISTAN*	4%
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO*	3.4%
PHILIPPINES*	2%
AFGHANISTAN*	1.8%
CHAD*	1.6%
SOUTH AFRICA*	1.4%

* Countries where World Vision works to improve child health and eliminate poverty.



CAMBODIA

CAMBODIA | FIGHTING AGAINST CHILD LABOR

A grant from the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of International Affairs will provide \$10 million to help fund a new program to combat exploitative child labor in Cambodia. Designed and managed by World Vision and several Cambodian nongovernmental organizations, the program will target children engaged in commercial sex work, brick making, agriculture, fishing, begging, souvenir selling, and domestic labor. It's estimated that more than a quarter of Cambodian children between ages 5 and 17 are forced to work due to extreme poverty.



MALI

MALI | CONFLICT ESCALATES

Fighting between rebel groups and government forces has escalated in northern Mali, displacing families and children. The number of families fleeing conflict is expected to increase as soldiers from France and other African nations seek to restore peace and democratic governance. Additionally, a crippling food crisis in West Africa—brought on by drought, high grain prices, and displacement



ETHIOPIA

AKILU KASSAYEWORLD VISION

ETHIOPIA | MODEL FOREST PROJECT

A reforestation project in Ethiopia won global recognition by becoming the first on the continent to earn U.N.-administered carbon credits. Managed by World Vision and the Ethiopian Forestry Department, the project now serves as a model for similar efforts around the globe. The 73,000 credits awarded to residents can be sold to industrialized countries to fulfill their obligations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, providing more than \$700,000 to the local community for the next decade. World Vision plans to replicate this model in several East African countries.

WORLDWIDE | FOOD WASTE

Up to half of all food produced in the world never reaches a plate. Between 1.3 and 2.2 billion tons of food are wasted each year due to lost harvests, inefficient storage practices, and retail and consumer waste. In industrialized regions, almost half of the total food squandered—more than 330 million tons of edible food—would be enough to feed the estimated 870 million hungry people in the world. ●



WORLDWIDE

JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

**WORLD VISION'S
WORK IN
2012**

Thanks to the generosity of donors across the United States, in fiscal year 2012, World Vision equipped more sponsored children than ever before.

Today 1.1 million children are sponsored by more than 749,000 U.S. sponsors.

MORE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

955,000

children and adults gained access to clean water in **10 African countries**, including drilling **1,207 wells**.

806,575

entrepreneurs in **35 countries** used

\$607 million

in microloans, benefiting more than **2 million children**.

10.3 million

people received recovery assistance following **87 natural and human-made disasters**.

For more details, see World Vision's 2012 Annual Review at www.worldvision.org/AR.

SMALL CHURCH GIVES BIG

Size is no factor in engaging in God's work in the world.



The congregation of Cross Connection Community Church is learning new lessons in giving.

COURTESY JOEL BAIK

After learning of the plight of millions of starving people in the Horn of Africa in 2011, a tiny church in Gardena, Calif., dug deep to give big to the cause.

Many of the 15 young families that make up Cross Connection Community Church sponsor children through World Vision. Each Christmas, the congregation launches a campaign to provide livestock and other animals through the World Vision Gift Catalog. The church also serves its own community through various service projects and outreach events.

As if that wasn't enough, the couples—all with children younger than 4—recently collected \$40,000 from their personal resources and a Facebook promotion. They gave half to World Vision's work in the Horn of the Africa and the other half to Wycliffe Bible Translators.

The congregation's generosity is an

ongoing expression of its desire to be salt and light in the world.

Pastor Tony Park and some college friends planted the church in 2003, and they stayed together as they married and started families. Tony says his idea of how the church effectively spreads the good news throughout the world has expanded from more traditional "preaching and teaching" to living out the gospel message.

"People in our church are seeing that giving to others in need is part of our responsibility," says Tony.

When Tony heard about "Journey to Jamaica," World Vision's film that tells the story of two young African children who lost their parents, the church hosted an event featuring the film.

Seeing the film and learning about the desperate situation of millions of children in the Horn of Africa stirred something in the young parents' hearts like nothing else had before. "Our babies

are precious to us. Hearing these stories of children dying before they reach 5 wasn't as relevant to us [before] as it is now," says David Kim, 31. "We became more genuine in supporting these things."

As they prayed and sought guidance on their response, Tony says they felt prompted to give a double portion by using funds from the church's savings account, which had accumulated since they launched the church.

"Everyone agreed to give to Horn of Africa. We sensed that the time was right," Tony says.

Cross Connection's gift is a landmark of sorts along its spiritual journey. David says they experienced a strong sense of gratitude to be a part of God's work in the world. Sacrificial giving is now embedded in the church's faith expression, demonstrating that size isn't a factor when it comes to generosity. ●

—Chris Huber

WHY I LOVE BEING A CHILD SPONSOR



CLOIA DESKINS
HARTFORD CITY, IND.

One day in 1976, I was watching a World Vision program on television and told my husband, "We should call the

number and sponsor a child." He agreed it was a good thing to do. In a few days, the papers to become a sponsor arrived for us to fill out. I wondered, with all those precious children needing help, how could I pick one? I wrote across the form, "You pick us a child, no matter how old or where he or she lives." World Vision chose for us a boy in India. He was 8 years old, born on Sept. 25. That was my son, Wayne's, birthday. This little boy's name was

"I'm 84, and I don't need any gifts, but it's such a joy to pass the blessing on to hungry children."

Wayne, and his father's name was Frank, which is my husband's name. We called this a miracle. I asked my husband what he thought this meant. He said, "It means we should sponsor a child as long as we live." That was 37 years ago. Sponsoring a child still gives us great satisfaction. For several years, I have asked my children and friends to give me money for World Vision, instead of gifts. I'm 84, and I don't need any gifts, but it's such a joy to pass the blessing on to hungry children. ●

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

NEW WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED



JOHN WARREN/WORLD VISION

IN OUR DIGITALLY ADVANCED WORLD, words and images reach across the globe instantly. Technology brings sponsors closer than ever to their sponsored children. My World Vision, your sponsorship portal, allows even more ways to interact:



EMAIL YOUR CHILD.

Last year, World Vision sponsors sent more than 76,600 messages to their sponsored children, who love greetings and words of encouragement.



SEND PHOTOS TO YOUR CHILD.

These days, you snap a picture and immediately send it to friends. Now you can attach images in emails to your sponsored child. See page 2 for details.



ENGAGE ON YOUR SMARTPHONE.

My World Vision is mobile. Engage with your sponsorship information on the go with your iOS or Android device.

STAY CONNECTED AS A SPONSOR

VISIT WWW.MYWORLDVISION.ORG.

RIGHT: During their reunion, Kim Bendis (far right) reminisces through a scrapbook with Elsie Weaver. Adoptive mom Alice Tennies looks on. BELOW: Richard and Alice meet Kim for the first time at Dulles airport.



BENNIE BOSTON/PUBLISHED IN WASHINGTON STAR-NEWS, NOV. 1972

So Elsie, then 23, organized dozens of adoptions to the United States. On Nov. 15, 1972, she boarded a Pan Am flight in Saigon with six newborn orphans—among them 5-month-old Kim. Kim's adoptive parents, Richard and Alice Tennies, met the plane and took her to her new home in Maryland.

Forty years later, as Kim shared her rescue story on the phone with a World Vision staff member, she began to wonder: *Where is Elsie Weaver now?* She located Elsie in Harrisonburg, Va., and called her.

Late last year, the women joyfully reunited in Annapolis, Md. Elsie, now 64, brought a pile of photos, scrapbooks, and correspondence.

Among Elsie's memories were details of a desperately malnourished Kim attached to a feeding tube at the World Vision home in Vietnam. Other recollections included the sleepless 48-hour flight from Vietnam. "On that flight, there were many returning GIs. They were great helping me with the babies. I was like, 'Could you hold this baby, could you feed that baby?'" Elsie says.

Kim says Elsie was able to answer questions that had haunted her for years. "It was inspiring to see how a 23-year-old woman chose to spend her first years of marriage in a strange land, with strange people, and taking great risks," she says.

Kim, the sponsor of seven children, feels her difficult start in life has given her an affinity for vulnerable people. Much of her work as a nurse practitioner has taken place in soup kitchens. After meeting Elsie, she hopes one day to return to Vietnam to serve people in need. ●

—James Addis

THE GREAT ESCAPE

Reunited women share memories of their flight from war-torn Vietnam.

A courtesy call from World Vision triggered vivid memories of an escape from embattled Vietnam and a joyful reunion for two women who had not seen each other in 40 years.

On the phone, 40-year-old Kim Bendis recounted how World Vision had flown her, as a newborn, out of Vietnam to join adoptive parents in the United States.

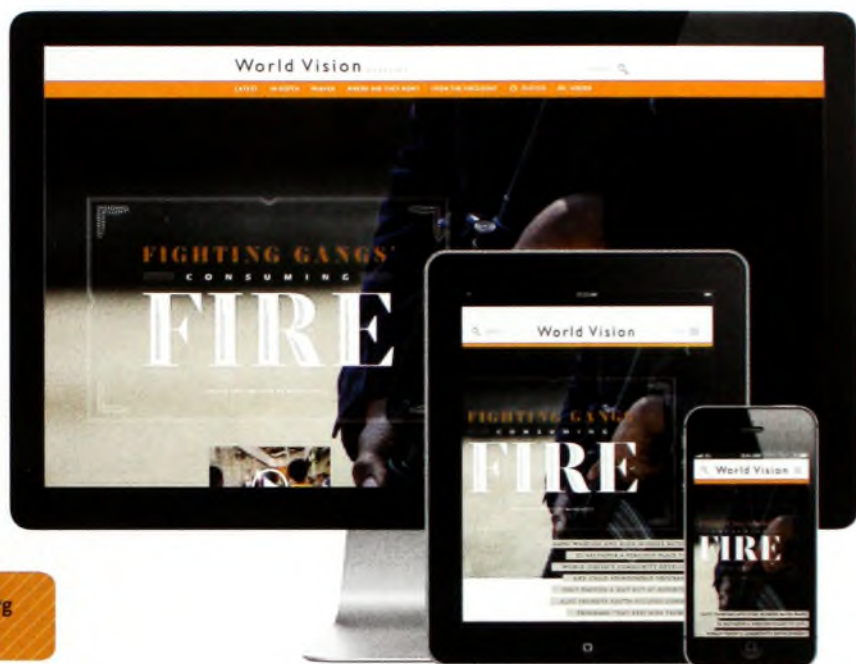
World Vision does not handle adoptions, but the flood of orphans created by the Vietnam War and the appalling state of local orphanages forced the organization to improvise. In the early 1970s, newly married American couple Steve and Elsie Weaver were helping run a World Vision halfway house for orphans in Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh City). They took in the sickest orphans, gave them appropriate care, and returned them to the orphanages. Tragically, once the children went back to the orphanages, they often got sick again and died.

YOUR MAGAZINE AS YOU LIKE IT

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Designed to serve you better, the magazine's site pages now automatically resize to fit all screens. In addition to the new look, you'll also find fresh content every day. Get your fix of humanitarian news, stunning images, and stories about children around the world.

Stay informed on the go with World Vision Now, our daily news app. To download, search "World Vision Now" in the iTunes store. ●



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CHANGE AGENT



NAME Ignite F.C.

HOME Bothell, Wash.

OCCUPATION Soccer

PROGRAM Gift Catalog

THE BUZZ The boys who play for Ignite F.C. have a special reason to celebrate every time they score a goal. Each time they do, supporters pass a can among their fans to solicit a contribution to the players' favorite charities. The initials F.C. actually stand for "For Christ," rather than the traditional "Football Club." Last season, Ignite F.C. scored 24 goals, which helped team members raise \$219 to purchase Bibles, chickens, and soccer balls through the World Vision Gift Catalog. The items were sent to help families in developing countries. Sweeper Xander Wood, 11, nominated World Vision after his family began sponsoring Keketso Khopho, a child who lives in Lesotho in southern Africa. Xander considers Keketso part of his family and prays for him every night. ●

"I knew that we were passing the can around for God's glory."

—XANDER WOOD (Pictured for right in black top)

FIND a life-changing item for a family in need in the World Vision Gift Catalog, www.worldvisiongifts.org.



BY RICH STEARNS



UNFINISHED BUSINESS

It's only when we say yes to Jesus' invitation to change the world that we discover real purpose for our lives. An excerpt from *Unfinished*, the newest book from Rich Stearns, author of the best-selling *The Hole in Our Gospel*.



ver the past few years, I have had the opportunity to meet and speak personally to thousands of individuals as I have traveled around the world on behalf of the world's poorest people. Many of them have come up to me to tell me a bit about their

own lives and how they have sought to put their own faith into action. There is a powerful common thread of longing that I hear from them—a yearning for a deeper sense of purpose and significance in their walks with the Lord. They want to discover that *one thing* that God is calling them to do. They long to feel that they are doing something important for God and that their lives really count for something. Many of them tell me they feel incomplete, as if something about their lives is unfinished. They are young and old, male and female, wealthy and not so wealthy. They are lawyers and real estate agents, homemakers and students, accountants and engineers, receptionists and CEOs. All of them want to experience the satisfaction of really knowing that their lives matter and that they are living in “the zone” of God’s calling and purpose for their lives.

But if I have learned anything about the purpose, meaning, and significance of life over the years, I have learned that, for a Christian, it is not found in any job, even a job like mine. It is not found in any human relationship, no matter how important. Nor is it found in any accomplishment, no matter how significant. Meaning, purpose, and significance are

found only by aligning our lives with God’s purposes, in lives committed to following Jesus Christ. That bears repeating: The meaning, purpose, and significance of our lives are found only by aligning our lives with God’s purposes, in lives committed to following Jesus Christ.

In other words, it is not our work that brings purpose to our lives; nor is it our spouses, our families, our educations, our abilities, our money, or our accomplishments. Rather, it is the *purpose* of our lives that brings meaning to everything else. And we find the purpose for our lives only in Christ. Jesus said, “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full” (John 10:10). So why is it that so many Christians seem to lack that sense of fullness of life? They go to church, read their Bibles, and say their prayers but still feel that something is missing.

The big story

We all know the familiar expression “He can’t see the forest for the trees.” It is used to describe a person who is so absorbed in the things right in front of him that he has lost a sense of the bigger picture. I believe that this is exactly what has happened to many Christians in the 21st century—we have become so absorbed by the “trees” of our everyday lives that we have lost a sense of the bigger story within which our lives take place. We grow up, go to school, begin careers, get married, have kids, and struggle daily with life’s challenges. These are the “trees” of our lives that occupy most of our waking hours.

Our church lives aren’t all that different. We go to church each week, sing some songs, and listen to

God created you intentionally to play a very specific role in his unfolding story.

a sermon. Maybe we even pray before meals, read our Bibles daily, and participate in small-group Bible studies. But they can become just more trees in a forest already cluttered with trees. What happened to the forest; what happened to the bigger story? Who are we? Why are we here, and where are we headed? How do we fit into God's big story? If we are ever truly going to find purpose and meaning in our lives, we first have to rise above the trees to rediscover the forest—we have to understand what God is doing in the world and how we fit in.

Fortunately, as Christians, we have a way out of this dilemma. If God is the Author of the bigger story within which our own stories take place, if he is the Creator of the forest in which we all walk, then we can only find the deepest meaning and purpose of our lives when we discover the role he uniquely created for us to play in his bigger purpose. Doesn't it make sense that the Author of the bigger story, the Author who created each of the characters in the story, would have a specific role for each of those characters to play?

The implication of this is profound. God created you intentionally to play a very specific role in his unfolding story. God didn't create any extras meant to just stand on the sidelines and watch the story unfold; he created players meant to be on center stage. And you will only feel fully completed when you discover the role you were born to play.

So just what is that unfolding story in which we are to play our parts? How do we discover it? Mary and Joseph played their parts. So did Peter, Paul, Luke, and John. But now, 2,000 years after the resurrection, we seem to have lost the plot. Where are we

now in the bigger narrative, and what is it that we are supposed to be doing?

The title of my new book suggests that there is some unfinished business for followers of Christ in our world: *And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. (Matthew 24:14)*

This plain statement by Jesus in Matthew 24 lays out a simple premise: once the "gospel of the kingdom" has been satisfactorily taken throughout the world, the end will come. Jesus' promise that the end would come was not a bad thing. He was referring to his grand promise to reconcile all things, to right every wrong, to wipe away every tear, to raise the dead to eternal life, to judge the wicked, to restore his creation, and to establish his wonderful kingdom forever and ever. He was promising to tie up all the loose ends of the big story and bring it to its amazing conclusion. But before all of this happens, Jesus called his followers to complete a crucial assignment he gave to them just before he left.

A revolutionary vision

This assignment Jesus gave to the disciples just before his ascension appears in several key New Testament passages and is generally referred to as the Great Commission. It was revolutionary in its vision. It involved going into all the world to establish and build a different kind of world order—one that Jesus often called the kingdom of God. It was a clarion call to follow him by joining him in his mission to reconcile humankind to God's purposes. It was a call to action to join God in his intent to form a

God has invited you to join him in changing the world.

God has a dream for this world that Jesus called the kingdom of God.

God created you to play an important role in his kingdom vision.

And you will never find your deepest purpose in life until you find your place in building God's kingdom.



new kind of kingdom that would become a blessing to all nations—one based not on land, politics, power, and dominion but on God's truth, love, forgiveness, and compassion—a kingdom within kingdoms. It was not a call to give up on the world, holding our "tickets to heaven" firmly in our hands and retreating into our churches. It was a call to go into the world to reclaim, reform, and restore it for Christ. It was a call to launch a revolution that involved nothing short of the overthrow of the prevailing world system. And before Jesus left, he commissioned his church to lead this revolution, promising that the very gates of hell would not prevail against it.

Those first disciples were on fire. Nothing could stop them. Within 300 years, the gospel revolution had conquered the Roman Empire and changed the known world. Their radical lifestyles were characterized by a sense of urgency and divine purpose. Nothing was more important and no price was too high to pay. Many of the first disciples were martyred for the cause, but others rose to pick up the banner and lead the charge. But 2,000 years later, the Christian movement, especially in the global north, has lost its sense of urgency. We've lost a sense of the plot and the big story—the arc of history. Affluent, comfortable, and distracted, Christians today seem to have lost the fire to change the world. The work of God's kingdom lies unfinished, and God's people seem to have lost their very sense of purpose in the world.

There is something terribly disturbing in this.

The very Son of God became flesh and lived among us. He died that we might find forgiveness and reconciliation with God. He commissioned us

to bring this same good news to the nations of the world, yet we have failed to deliver. What happened to the revolution?

Jesus' mission and yours

I believe there is a direct connection between the unfinished work of God's kingdom and our sense of feeling incomplete in our Christian faith, because there is a connection between our story and God's story. If we are not personally engaged in God's great mission in the world, then we have missed the very thing he created us to do. We are like birds meant to fly but living in a cage; fish meant to swim but floundering on the beach.

But it doesn't have to be this way. God created each of us uniquely, and he created us for a purpose. God doesn't coerce us—he invites us. He offers meaning, fulfillment, and significance in our lives but always gives us the option to decline, and sadly, many do.

Simply stated, my message for you is that:

- *God has invited you to join him in changing the world.*
- *God has a dream for this world that Jesus called the kingdom of God.*
- *God created you to play an important role in his kingdom vision.*
- *And you will never find your deepest purpose in life until you find your place in building God's kingdom.*

Listen carefully to these next few statements: You don't have to go to the Congo or to Uzbekistan to change the world. You don't have to be brilliant to change the world—or wealthy or influential or a spiritual giant. But you do have to say yes to the invitation.

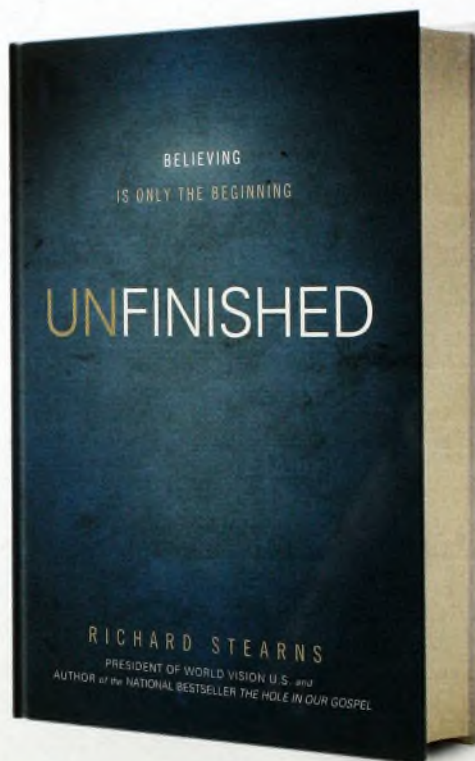
You do have to be available and willing to be used, and you may have to pay the price that comes with following Jesus, because changing the world and following Jesus isn't easy and it doesn't come cheap. There will be some sacrifice involved—there always is.

Our Christian faith is not just a way to find forgiveness for sin in order to enter eternal life, yet it is that. It is not just a system of right beliefs about ultimate truth and the order of things, though it is that. Nor is it just a way to find God's comfort in times of trouble or a helpful code of conduct for how to live a good and productive life, though it is those things too. Fundamentally, the Christian faith is a call to leave everything else behind, to follow our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and to join in the great mission of Christ in our world. It is a call to forsake all else and follow him. Only then will we become completed people—people living according to God's deepest purpose for our lives.

It is time to rediscover God's vision for our world and his call upon your life. Where do we fit into this big story of God, how can we discover the role God created us to play, and what are the implications of this for our lives, our world views, our careers, and our families? I invite you to revisit the breathtaking truth, the urgent mission, and the profound personal significance of our Christian faith as we seek to follow the One who died that we might have life and have it to the full.

We can rediscover this great calling upon our lives and reignite the revolution. The 21st-century church has everything required—the resources, the knowledge, the scale, the mandate, and the power of God's Holy Spirit. All we lack is the will. It's time to finish the job. ■

Excerpted from Unfinished: Believing Is Only the Beginning by Richard Stearns (April 2013, Thomas Nelson).



To Read More

Unfinished: Believing Is Only the Beginning is available now in bookstores and online retailers. At the author's request, all royalties due to him will benefit World Vision's work with children in need. Learn more about Rich Stearns, *Unfinished*, and his award-winning first book, *The Hole in Our Gospel*, at www.richstearns.org.

Start to Finish

Where do you fit in to God's big story? What role has God created for you to play? These are tough questions, requiring reflection and prayer. To help you take the next steps in finding the mission God is calling you to finish, order *Unfinished DVD-Based Study*, available in May from Thomas Nelson publishing. The six-session study features Rich Stearns and some of the people he mentions in his book as it guides you deeper into the themes of *Unfinished*.

You can also find inspiration in the following stories of two couples who are "finishers"—those who have discovered God's call on their lives to join in the work of the kingdom.

SELLING OUT FOR JESUS

BY JAMES ADDIS

A Portland family changes how they live in order to live out their faith.

THE BRAND-NEW, craftsman-style house was beautiful, nestled in an upscale Portland, Ore., neighborhood. For months, Jeff and Kari Patterson pored over every detail of its construction and visited the site almost every day, imagining life in their dream home. After they moved in, the young couple finalized the color scheme and completed the landscaping, which featured an outdoor playhouse for their two children, Dutch, 6, and Heidi, 4.

Just when the finishing touches were in place, the Pattersons read *The Hole in Our Gospel* by World Vision U.S. President Rich Stearns. In the book, he describes abandoning his role as a corporate CEO and forgoing the prestige and financial trappings of corporate life to answer God's call to serve the poorest of the poor.

—continued on page 20

"ALL OF A SUDDEN,
WE REALIZED WE DID
NOT WANT TO FIT
INTO THIS WORLD."

—KARI PATTERSON

FOR BRADEN/WORLD VISION

The book's message was not entirely new for the Pattersons. Apart from the house, the couple had always lived modestly so that they could give generously. But the more Kari meditated on the book, the more convinced she became that their giving was not enough. In *The Hole in Our Gospel*, Rich recounts God asking Moses to throw down his staff, which instantly becomes a snake. "All of us have something God can use," Rich writes. "The question is whether we will offer whatever stick we have to his service."

For Kari, there was no doubt about the answer. Much of the couple's income was tied up in mortgage payments. Kari reasoned that the money might be more profitably directed toward people who don't have enough to eat.

Coincidentally, her husband—the associate pastor of a local church—was thinking the same thing. One week after finishing *The Hole in Our Gospel*, and one year after moving into their dream house, Jeff and Kari put their home on the market. The idea was to move into more modest accommodations and, over time, allow them to donate as much as \$500,000 to those in need.

Exactly a year later, the house sold. The Pattersons first moved into what they describe as a "dumpy" rental property but more recently bought a modest home in a much less affluent neighborhood. It meant losing almost 1,000 square feet of living space, air conditioning, and a master bedroom with a lavish en suite bathroom. Jeff and Kari now share a bathroom with the kids. On the upside, downsizing slashed their mortgage payments by 75 percent and allowed the couple to give away a quarter of their income. They hope to increase their giving to half their income.

Kari considers the move the best decision they've ever made. It was as though someone had "turned on a faucet" for them to receive more from God. "I definitely felt a greater sense of his pleasure, his love, and his provision. I do believe that when we act in obedience, he blesses," she says.

Scripture too became more compelling: "When God speaks of the poor, and he speaks of his heart for the widow and the orphan and the downtrodden and the alien—all those things began to come alive," Kari says.

The Pattersons also discovered new freedoms, such as being released from the demands of their former residents' association, which monitored how they took care of their trash and how green their lawn was. "It just felt like we were draining our lives trying to keep up appearances and fit into this world," says Kari. "Then,

"I DO BELIEVE THAT WHEN WE ACT IN OBEDIENCE, HE BLESSES."

—KARI PATTERSON

all of a sudden, we realized we did not want to fit into this world."

After selling the house, Jeff felt God prompting him to establish a new church in a low-income neighborhood. The family's income dropped by two-thirds, but, with no pressure to maintain high mortgage payments, that wasn't a problem.

Jeff is convinced that had they stayed in their dream home, they could not have considered a call to plant a new church for years. Moreover, he feels that living in a more humble dwelling helps the family achieve a greater sense of communion with those of equally modest means, whom they now serve.

Even so, the reaction from fellow Christians is not all favorable. Some said the Pattersons were passing judgment on people who live in nice houses. Kari disagrees. She stresses that just because God told her to give up her home does not mean he is asking the same of everybody. "My story is different from your story," she says. "Everyone is in a different place. We have two cars that are paid off, but he might tell someone else to sell their second car."

Nor does Kari think that it is wrong to enjoy nice things—pointing to the biblical example of the woman who poured an expensive jar of perfume over Jesus' head. She notes that shortly after the family moved into the rental property, they were offered, and felt at liberty to accept, a free vacation in Hawaii.

But Jeff and Kari believe it's important to consider carefully how to spend money in light of Jesus' teaching and to be unconcerned if those financial decisions are radically different from others'. "I hear from Jesus and what he says," Kari says. "If he is smiling, it does not matter who frowns, right?" ■

CALLED TO COMPASSION

BY KRISTY J. O'HARA

*A young doctor rescued
as a child offers new
hope to exploited
children.*

AS VINH CHUNG WATCHED several young girls playing computer games to learn English in a Cambodia classroom, his gaze fell on a little girl about 7 years old, and he rushed from the room.

"I had to walk away, because I knew why she was sitting there," says Vinh, a surgeon and father of three from Colorado Springs, Colo. "Someone or a lot of people had exploited her and had done horrific things that I was afraid to even imagine."

He went to another room to let his tears flow. His wife, Leisle, had seen him cry only once before. She stayed, fighting back her own emotions.

The Chungs traveled to Phnom Penh last November to see World Vision's child protection work firsthand—including the Trauma Recovery Center where girls come to heal after being subjected

—continued on page 22

"IN ORDER TO TRULY
HELP SOMEONE, WE
NEED TO HAVE OUR
HEARTS BROKEN."

—VINH CHUNG

PHOTO COURTESY OF VINH AND LEISLE CHUNG



Vinh Chung [circled] and his family were refugees afloat in the South China Sea until they were rescued by World Vision freighter Seasweep.

to sexual exploitation—and to follow God’s leading on what they could do to protect exploited children.

Vinh is no stranger to suffering. When he was 4 years old, he escaped death in a small boat on the South China Sea. World Vision helped to save him at one point, and now he’s working with the organization to help other children in dire circumstances.

FLOATING AT SEA

Vinh’s family was among the thousands who fled communist Vietnam by boat in the late 1970s. He, nine immediate and eight extended relatives, and 75 others were crammed into a boat, hoping to find safe haven in another country. They reached Malaysia but were turned away. They were left floating aimlessly, waiting to die.

God had another plan. Launching a daring program called Operation Seasweep, World Vision scoured the waters to help stranded refugees, including those on the Chungs’ boat. Vinh’s family made it to Singapore and, three months later, immigrated to Fort Smith, Ark. They soon came to know Christ through a local church’s Vietnamese ministry.

“I am amazed at the different people God has placed in

my life at different critical points,” Vinh says.

Vinh and Leisle met in high school at a summer program—her family had immigrated to the U.S. from Korea when she was 1, moved around, and settled into another rural Arkansas community when she was 4. Vinh and Leisle attended separate Ivy League colleges, but the relationship grew. They married in 1998.

While Vinh prepared for his future medical career, he also began to explore his past, putting substance to his vague childhood memories. He learned World Vision was the organization that had rescued his family years before.

Vinh became more curious about his homeland, so in 2002 he and Leisle visited Vietnam to meet his extended

THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

The National Leadership Council is a network of more than 80 donors who help champion World Vision’s Campaign For Every Child, which is addressing the basic needs of 10 million of the world’s most vulnerable people. Learn more about the campaign on pages 24-45.

family. The relatives, who tried unsuccessfully to escape at the same time as Vinh, shared details of a difficult life after their boat drifted back to Vietnam. "I felt like there was such unfairness in this world," Leisle says. "I happen to be in circumstances where you can work hard and it pays off. They were just stuck."

Vinh realized how different his life could have been. He says, "It was almost as if God was speaking to me in that moment when I was in Vietnam, as if to say, 'Vinh, have you done everything you can with what you have? Now that you can see with your own eyes and feel and touch this other world that could have been yours, what are your plans for the future?'"

ANSWERING GOD'S CALL

Vinh finished medical training and started a private practice. He and Leisle had always tithed, even while Vinh was in medical school. But now, as their income escalated, the couple resolved to donate extra money to a Christian organization with international work. They decided on World Vision—in part because of Vinh's past, but also because Leisle's research showed that the work was effective.

Their giving grew, and last year Vinh and Leisle joined World Vision's Campaign For Every Child (see page 24). As members of the campaign's National Leadership Council, the couple was invited to World Vision's Trauma Recovery Center work in Cambodia, to see how their donations are helping children rescued from trafficking.

Vinh didn't want to go.

"I knew that the poverty I've spent my entire life trying to escape, I would have to re-enter and experience it again. I knew that would be traumatic and difficult to handle," he says.

When the couple arrived in Cambodia, neither was fully prepared for what they would encounter.

During one lunch with the girls at the center, an 8-year-old held Leisle's hand, joked with her, and shared stories. "I think about that as the moment I fell in love," says Leisle. "Up to that point, we'd always been passionate about World Vision and were so inspired to do what we're doing, but that's the moment that I just loved these girls and it became personal."

For Vinh, meeting girls who had been put through such trauma broke his heart. He was used to seeing pain and suffering in his surgical work, but this was different. "The suffering was a deliberate, evil crime that was committed by another person," he says.

He realized people alone cannot solve the issues of child exploitation. "We need God in this fight against poverty because it's not fighting against drought or against any type of natural disaster, but it is a fight against the evil that humanity can commit."

"IT'S AN INVESTMENT IN THE WORLD, AND WE WANT TO SEE THINGS CHANGE, AND WE BELIEVE THINGS CAN CHANGE."

—LEISLE CHUNG

FINISHING

The Chungs returned home changed.

"In order to truly help someone, we need to have our hearts broken," Vinh says. He paraphrases World Vision founder Bob Pierce's prayer: "Pray that God will break our hearts with what breaks his. It sounds good, but it's really something altogether different when you experience a broken heart."

Now their work seems more important than ever. "[The trip] gives us a renewed commitment," Leisle says. "You feel such urgency about the work that's being done."

She says what they do is not charity but an investment—"an investment in the world, and we want to see things change, and we believe things can change."

Vinh and Leisle are sharing their experiences with their community, including other medical professionals, and urging them to get involved. Vinh also convinced Leisle, who says she's never run more than a mile, to help organize and run a half and full marathon as part of Team World Vision. Vinh will even undergo a major knee surgery to participate—it's worth it, he says, if it can help save children's lives.

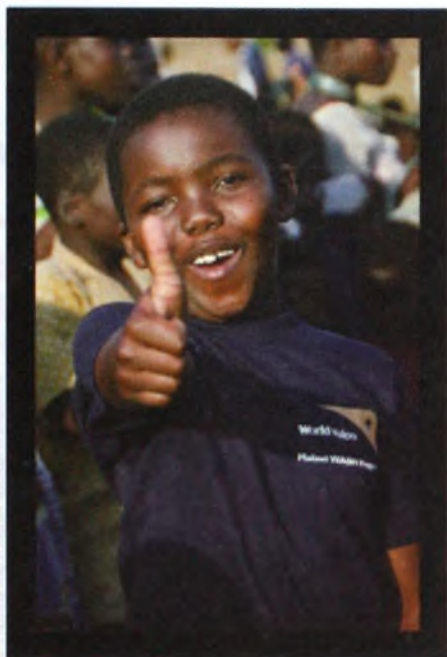
Equally important to the couple is the education they're doing at home with their three children, ages 8, 5, and 2. For now, the children are learning that World Vision's work is important to the family—they won't learn about the harsh realities of the world until they're ready.

"Luke 12:48 talks about when we face God, we have to be accountable for everything we have," Vinh says. "I also imagine a conversation I will have with my kids when they become adults and learn about children suffering in this world, and they'll ask me, 'Dad, what have you done about it?' They'll judge us by our actions and not by what we tell them." ■



WORLD VISION'S CAMPAIGN FOR EVERY CHILD

World Vision®



ABBY STALBRO滕/WORLD VISION

PART OF SOMETHING

BIG

World Vision's Campaign For Every Child is a bold, faith-stretching effort to reverse the plight of children living in poverty. Scaling up five key ministry areas—water, sanitation, and hygiene; child protection; health; economic development; and Christian witness—will change the lives of 10 million people.

It's the biggest thing World Vision has ever done in its 63-year history. And you can be part of it.

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healthcare, economic opportunities, and the love of Jesus Christ. The needs are

For more than 60 years, World Vision has transformed lives and communities through its experience, expertise, and extensive network. We need more help to children.



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www.worldvision.org/ReadandRespond



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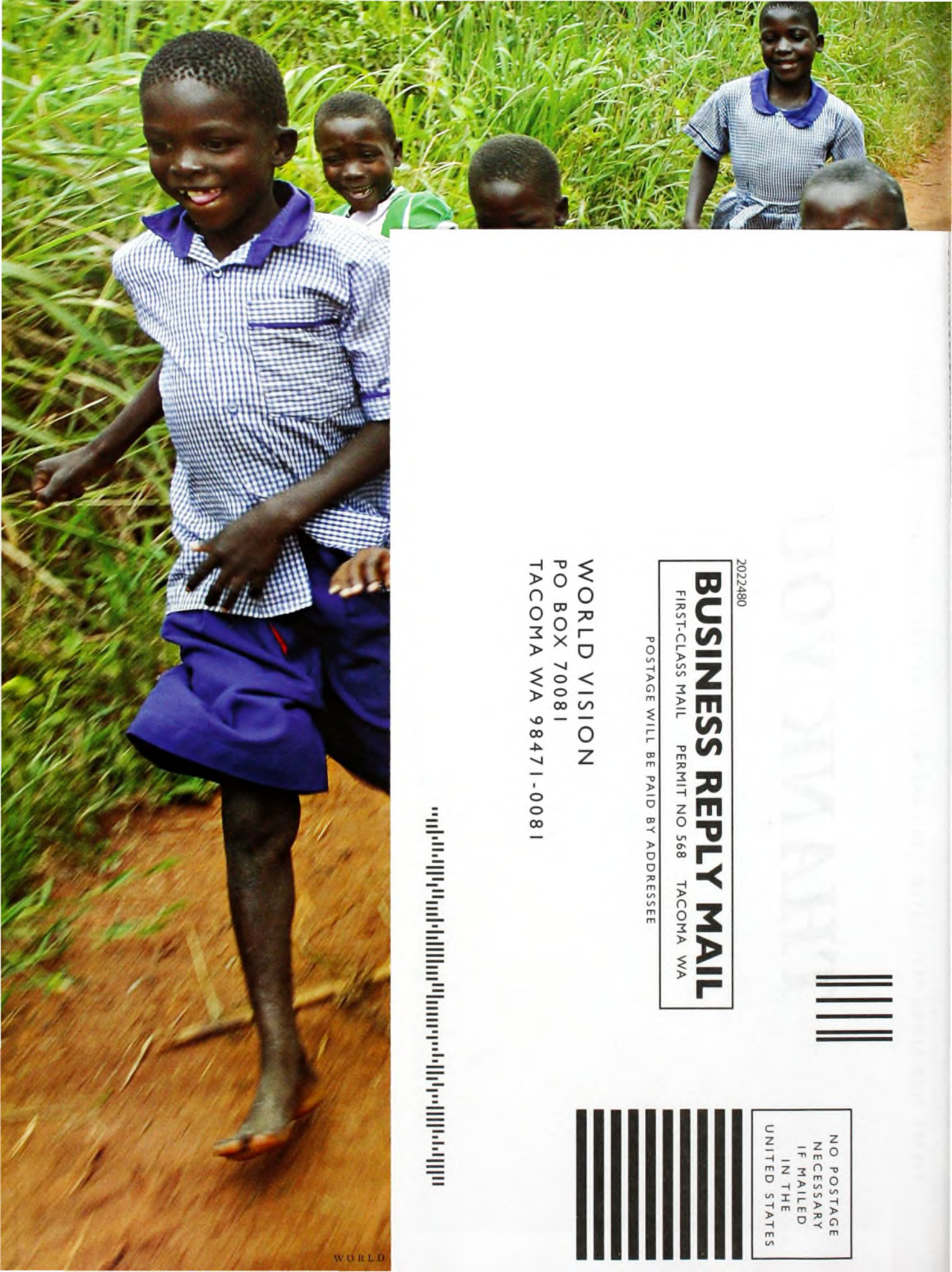
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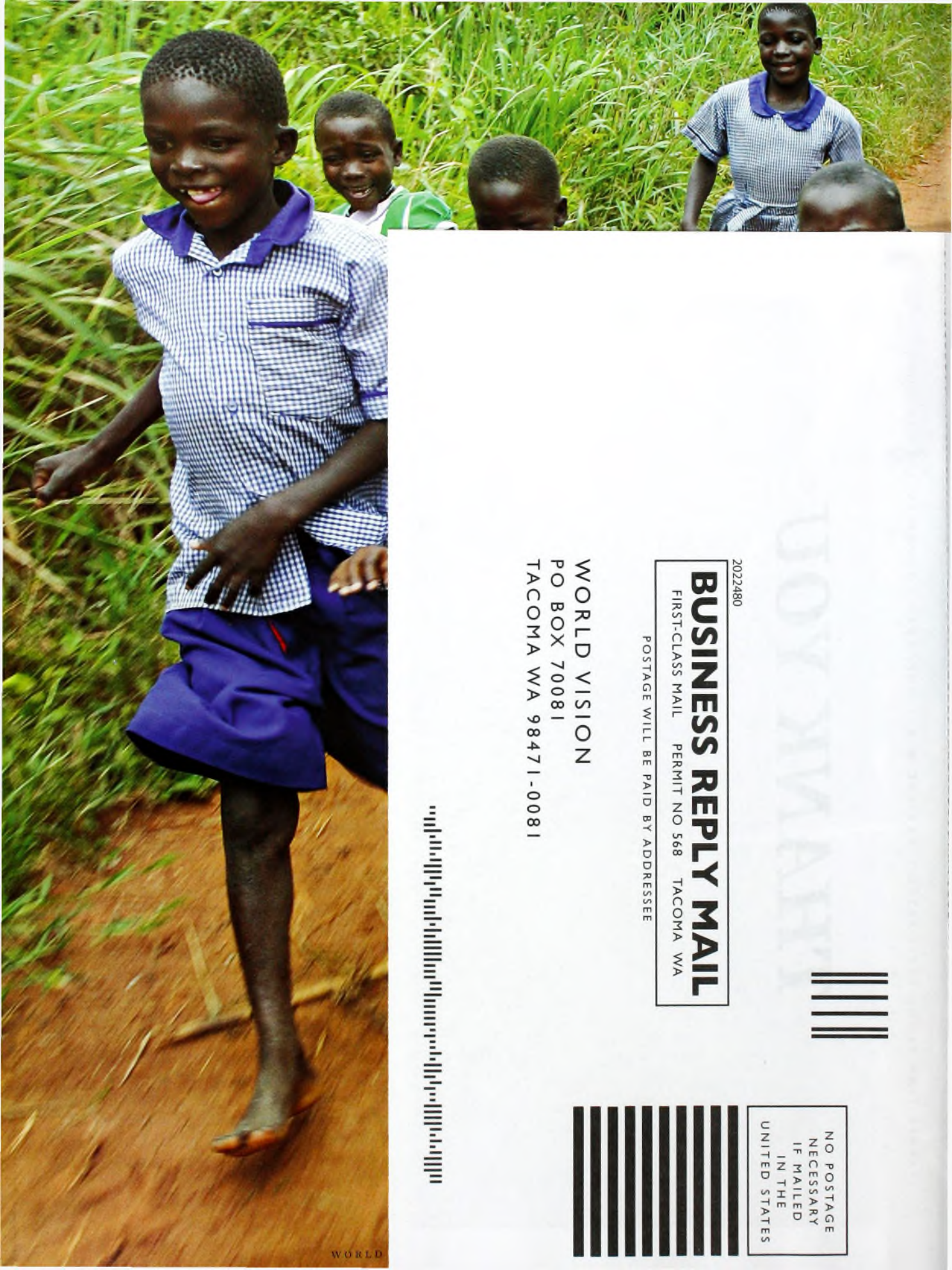
Finish *the* Race

MUCH REMAINS UNFINISHED IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

Millions of people struggle for the basics—clean water, healthcare, economic opportunities, safety for their children—and live without the knowledge of Jesus Christ. The needs are great and the call is clear for God's people to do more. • For more than 60 years, World Vision and child sponsors have transformed children's lives and communities through child sponsorship. Now World Vision is leveraging this experience, expertise, and extensive community presence in a groundbreaking effort to bring even more help to children.



Continued inside gatefold



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WORLD VISION'S CAMPAIGN FOR EVERY CHILD aims to help 10 million children by 2015. Sustainable programs in water and sanitation, economic development, health, child protection, and Christian witness build on existing sponsorship projects, with the power to benefit children for generations to come. The campaign also advances World Vision's work in gender equality, and employs innovation to accelerate game-changing ideas. The ultimate goal of this \$500 million campaign: to save 100 million people from the tragedies of poverty.

Work of this scope cannot succeed without World Vision's extensive partnerships with foundations, corporations, local governments, universities, and other humanitarian organizations. Together, child sponsors and all supporters are essential links in the chain to accomplish what no other Christian humanitarian organization has ever done.

In the following pages, tour each facet of World Vision's Campaign For Every Child and discover what has already been accomplished: communities have access to clean water for the first time; children are protected from exploitation; parents launch small businesses to earn more income; families are protected from malaria and other life-threatening diseases; and individuals have opportunities to know the love of Christ.

Spurred on by faith, World Vision *will* finish the race to create lasting change in children's lives. Be a part of this bold campaign.

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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CHRISTIAN WITNESS

WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE

A Town Called 'Rose'

In Ethiopia, a country blessed with a variety of water sources, World Vision chooses from a broad selection of technologies to bring clean water to remote communities.

BY KARI COSTANZA

Two hours south of Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa, is a village called Tsigereda. Translated from the local language, *tsigereda* means "rose." But there have never been roses in Tsigereda.

In Tsigereda, there is no water to spare for roses.

This makes 13-year-old Asef Dereje angry. Uncharacteristically outspoken for an Ethiopian teenager, she speaks with surprising candor in front of her parents, teachers, and school headmaster.

"Parents demand that their daughters fetch water," she says. "When I am on the morning shift, I walk for hours. Then I am late for class. When we go to school late, we can't get into class." Asef is second in her class of 57. "I could be number one," she says.

But only if the town of Rose had water.

In Rose, none of the 11,000 villagers has ever experienced clean water. They drink dirty water from streams that poison their bodies and cause life-threatening diseases.

At the health center in Rose, the situation is dire. "The most dangerous thing about not having water is after delivery," says Mekdes Abera, 24, a nurse. "There's nothing to wash with. We worry for women who give birth. They might be contaminated. We are required to wash after each

patient, but we can't. We can't clean instruments because of [a] lack of water."

ACROSS ETHIOPIA

Just 26 percent of Ethiopia's rural population has access to clean water, and fewer than one in 10 people has improved sanitation facilities. More than 80 percent of all childhood diseases in Ethiopia are linked to unsafe drinking water, poor hygiene, and open defecation.

An hour's drive from Rose, across farmland unspoiled by roads, is the village of Adadi. "Three children in this community died because of bad water," says community leader Tilaye Tsega, 55. The river water is infested with worms. "When we drank water, we would look at it just to pick out the worms before we drank it."

Today, Tilaye and his family of six children are disease-free. With For Every Child funds, he helped World Vision water engineers install a borehole in Adadi. "Now we have a latrine in our home," Tilaye says. "No child is suffering from diarrhea. There is no sickness and no missing classes. Lives are changing day to day."

Both Rose and Adadi are clustered within World Vision's Angolela development

MISSION

For Every Child is providing clean water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) to 7.5 million children and their families.



THE NEED

More than 80% of childhood diseases are related to unclean water or inadequate sanitation and hygiene.

780 million people do not have access to safe drinking water.

2.2 million child deaths can be prevented each year with access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene.

WHY WORLD VISION

Experience | World Vision is the world's largest humanitarian organization providing water in rural communities.

Staff | World Vision water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) experts have the technical expertise to investigate and implement innovations that can dramatically increase a community's access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene.

Commitment | The goal is to increase the impact and sustainability of WASH interventions while lowering costs. World Vision operates learning centers in Zambia, Ethiopia, and Ghana to discover and disseminate the best and most promising WASH practices.

COUNTRIES

Ethiopia, Ghana, Honduras, India, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Uganda, Zambia



CAMPAIGN ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

4,700

wells or water points drilled or rehabilitated.

5,600 communities trained in hygiene practices.

104,000 latrines constructed.

program. “For Every Child ensures sustainability for World Vision,” says Project Manager Tesfaye Bekele. “The needs of the community and the children are too great.”

In the past two years, For Every Child water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) funding has provided nine new water access points, five ventilated pit latrines, and three 229-foot-deep shallow wells that serve up safe water to thousands more. Today in Angolela, 80 percent of the people in rural areas and 100 percent of the people in towns have access to clean water.

A VARIETY OF OPTIONS

Across Ethiopia, World Vision has drilled 102 new boreholes like the one in Adadi, thanks to For Every Child donors. Water engineers use other ingenious techniques to bring clean water.

Next year, 25,000 people in Guraghe, just south of Addis Ababa, will benefit from a massive water project, which is the next phase of For Every Child. World Vision water engineers have capped a spring and are running 25 miles of pipe to serve families with dozens of water access points.

In Melka Belo, in Ethiopia's dry eastern region, crews are now trained to dig shallow wells using an innovative new auger. World Vision supplies the materials and pays

“The problem is colossal. When we get water, the mother [source] of all our problems will be gone.”

—ASSESA ALEMU

each driller 1,500 birr (U.S. \$81) per well. So far, the Melka Belo team has drilled 14 shallow wells serving 7,200 people in the area.

Two of the drillers are young women, Tigist Teshome, 20, and Misra Yusef, 19. They work alongside a team of six men. “People thought we couldn't do this,” says Tigist, who puts in an eight-hour day—every day—digging through a variety of soil formations to find water.

“I thought, ‘I have to face this challenge. Whatever the challenge is, we will endure as long as we can solve the water problem.’” In the next year, their team will drill 18 more shallow wells in parched Melka Belo.

Sanitation education is critical to World Vision's water work. In Wonchi, southwest of Addis Ababa, World Vision promotes community-led sanitation and hygiene practices to eliminate prevalent open defecation that can lead to disease, especially during the rainy season. In many communities, school children lead the effort through hygiene clubs. The kids create songs, dances, and poetry to inspire their elders to live in clean environments.

FOR EVERY CHILD IN ETHIOPIA

Through 2015, campaign funding will continue to grow World Vision's robust WASH program in Ethiopia, helping

875,000 people gain access to safe water, improved sanitation facilities, and effective hygiene practices.

Because Ethiopia has so many sources of water to choose from, World Vision's water engineers can tailor their approach to a specific community's needs. That's good news to the people of Rose, who are waiting for clean water.

"The problem is colossal," says Assefa Alemu, 25, a local administrator. "When we get water, the mother [source] of all our problems will be gone."

And Assefa knows exactly how he'll celebrate the coming of water to his village: He will plant roses. ●

PRAY WITH US

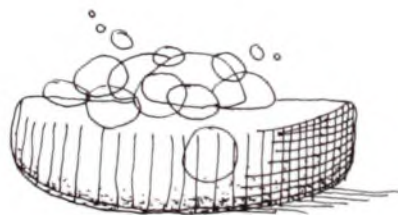
Pray that more communities have access to clean water and better health. Like Tsigereda, thousands of communities around the world still lack clean water, improved sanitation, and good hygiene. When families have access to clean, convenient water, everything changes: waterborne diseases are eliminated, women and girls spend less time transporting water and more time on productive activities, and children have refreshing water at their schools.



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

BRIMMING WITH BENEFITS

When a community has access to clean water, opportunities for transformation abound.



ONE

Better sanitation and hygiene

World Vision introduces sanitation and hygiene practices alongside clean water to further reduce disease.



TWO

Improved health

Waterborne diseases—like typhoid, cholera, and dysentery—diminish, and children are well enough to attend school regularly.



THREE

Healthier livestock

Animal health and longevity improves when livestock no longer are forced to walk for miles in search of water.



FOUR

More life-enriching activities

As transporting water over long distances is no longer necessary, women have time for small businesses, and children go to school.



FIVE

Protection from drought

With convenient access to a reliable water source, the community is safeguarded against drought and its accompanying malnutrition, hunger, and even death.



SIX

Elevated roles for women

Women, whose voices are critical to effective development, are empowered to serve on community boards managing the water system and in other leadership roles.



SEVEN

New technologies

Farmers embrace new approaches, such as greenhouses, once water is readily available, improving economic opportunities as well as food selection and availability.



Forced into the sex trade at 13, Chanty* found new hope at World Vision's Trauma Recovery Center in Phnom Penh. Today she is married, lives by faith in Christ, and plans to one day run her own business.

CHILD PROTECTION

Chanty's New Chance

A young woman recovers from sexual abuse and helps send a pedophile to prison.

BY KARI COSTANZA

Chanty* was 12 when a wealthy foreigner lured her into a trap. She was a street child, collecting garbage and recycling materials to sell, like so many of Cambodia's poor. Her mother was killed by a landmine four years earlier, and her father was ill. "I did not go to school," Chanty says. "I always had to think about food first."

At first, the Russian was kind to Chanty and gave her a treasure trove of empty cans to recycle. He asked Chanty and some of her friends to take a boat ride to an island off Sihanoukville, a popular tourist destination in Cambodia.

There, he raped them.

Chanty did not tell her father, who died the next year. An orphan at 13, Chanty took a job as a waitress. But it turned out to be a ruse; she was forced to become a sex worker. Her body still bears the scars from that nightmare.

A WAY OUT

Freedom came for Chanty in 2007 when the Russian, 46-year-old Alexander Trofimov, was arrested for buying sex from girls. Authorities sought out Chanty as a witness.

She was taken for protection and therapy to World

Vision's Trauma Recovery Center in Phnom Penh. At the center, Chanty was rebellious. "My temper raged," she says. "I threw a clay pot." Learning was a struggle, so she was privately tutored.

Her housemother, with whom she battled ferociously, introduced her to a Baptist church. Though she had no interest, Chanty went just to escape the confines of the center.

And then she had an epiphany. "I realized that one day the preacher was preaching my own story," she says. "That's how I became a Christian."

Now 21, Chanty looks back on her time at the center with gratitude. World Vision helped her find the perfect job at an upscale bakery in Phnom Penh. She bakes and decorates beautiful cakes. And at church, she met the man of her dreams. "He is a kind person," she says. "He supports me emotionally."

A FLY IN THE OINTMENT

In 2008, Chanty's testimony helped put Alexander Trofimov behind bars in Cambodia's largest-ever pedophilia case. In 2010, he was handed an eight-year prison sentence.

MISSION

For Every Child is preventing child exploitation, abuse, and neglect, and protecting and restoring children through programs reaching more than 2.6 million people worldwide.



THE NEED

Approximately 20% of women and 5-10% of men report being sexually abused as children, while 25-50% of all children report being physically abused.

115 million children are exposed to the worst forms of child labor, including the sex trade and working in hazardous conditions.

Criminals make an estimated \$32 billion annually by exploiting trafficked victims.

* Name changed to protect identity.

But a year later, Alexander Trofimov was pardoned. Soon he returned to freedom in Cambodia, visiting his development on a tourist island called Koh Pos, or Snake Island. He was chairman of a Russian-led investment group that built a \$300 million resort there in 2006.

"The man was in jail, but the king provided him forgiveness," says Chanty. "I wanted him to be in jail, as the court says."

Chanty was not alone. Alexander Trofimov also was wanted by Interpol. World Vision and 13 other nongovernmental organizations in Cambodia petitioned the Kingdom of Cambodia to revoke Trofimov's visa. In June 2012, he was arrested at the home of a teenage girl and deported to Russia, where he was arrested at the airport.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Today Chanty and her husband are expecting a child—to be named Elijah if a boy, Manna if a girl. "I would like to raise my child with my belief in my Lord Jesus," she says.

Chanty has career dreams as well. "I would like to start my own little shop." She echoes Jeremiah 29 when she considers her future. "God has a great plan for me," she says. "That's how I became who I am today. I just know I was transformed by Him. The housemother encouraged us with the Word of God. It was revealed again and again."

The headstrong girl of yesterday has transformed from

selfish to selfless. When asked what she would like prayers for, her answer surprises. "Instead of me, pray for the children of Cambodia, that they will have the courage to live and the strength to survive," she says. "That they would know that the Lord is with them."

For Chanty, life is in full bloom, and her greatest desire is to see others blossom as well. ●

'MODERN-DAY SLAVES'



The U.S. State Department's annual report on global trafficking in persons, released last June, paints a grim picture of the lives of trafficking victims, sometimes called "modern-day slaves."

Modern-day slaves haul fish onto Thai boats, scrub floors in Dubai apartments, and paint nails in salons in Boston. They are slaves, not by the nature of their job or its location, but by the fact that they are powerless to leave it.

According to the International Labor Organization, at least 20.9 million men, women, and children around the world suffer in forced labor, though the actual number could be closer to 27 million. The organization estimates that 55 percent of victims of forced labor are women, and that girls comprise 98 percent of sex trafficking victims.

At the same time, the report upgraded the standing of 29 countries that have improved how they handle trafficking.

WHY WORLD VISION

Comprehensive approach | World Vision's child protection programs tackle trafficking and abuse in a comprehensive way—from stopping children from being harmed to helping survivors heal.

Long-term presence | As World Vision partners with communities over the long term through development work, we have opportunities to reinforce knowledge about trafficking prevention and strengthen a community's ability to protect and restore its children.

Advocacy and accountability | Working with key government officials, international aid organizations, and local partners, World Vision advocates for legislation that addresses child exploitation. Once these laws are in place, World Vision works with local leaders to implement the changes and to hold governments accountable.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Children are empowered to contribute to their communities and families instead of becoming victims of violence and exploitation.

Communities are equipped to build protective environments where children can live a full life.

Trafficked and abused children are restored. Counseling services help survivors heal, while life-skills and vocational training enable them to begin new chapters in their lives.

PRAY WITH US

Pray for international will and action to protect all children. Millions of children and young people like Chanty are at risk of being exploited—in developing countries and right here in the U.S. Around the world, children are used in sex trafficking, hazardous and bonded labor, domestic servitude, armed conflict, and more. As individuals, organizations, and nations work together, these intolerable practices can be eliminated.

CAMPAIGN ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

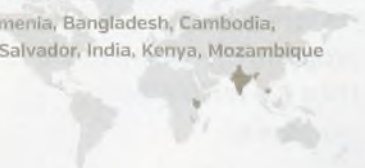
1,031 exploited children received recovery care.

8,168 leaders, parents, teachers, and police equipped and mobilized to recognize, report, and respond to crimes against children.

436,567 children and their families trained in risk awareness to help prevent trafficking of children.

COUNTRIES

Armenia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, El Salvador, India, Kenya, Mozambique





JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

STRONG WOMEN, STRONG WORLD

Worldwide, women account for 70 percent of the world's poorest people and comprise two-thirds of the world's 796 million illiterate adults. Even though women are major contributors to their families and communities, poverty, persistent cultural values, and lack of opportunity fuel widespread oppression against them.

For Every Child's Strong Women, Strong World program is improving the health and well-being of women and girls and providing new opportunities to those who are exploited and abused. When women and girls have the resources they need to thrive, their families also have brighter futures—a change that can bear fruit for generations.

Strong Women, Strong World is equipping women and girls through 16 projects, including:



Empowerment, Respect, and Equality Project | This project aims to benefit more than 1,500 secondary school and college-aged women with improved access to education and equip more than 4,000 vulnerable women to improve the well-being of their families.



Maternal and Child Health in Western Afghanistan | The Herat Midwifery Extension Project supplies training and improved employment opportunities for 24 midwives, providing more than 17,200 expectant mothers with access to critical medical care.



Channels of Hope for Gender and Development | Channels of Hope for Gender equips churches with a biblical understanding of gender, with the ultimate goal of empowering men and women alike to better serve their families and communities.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



"She's a fighter," says Loan Officer Bethania Encarnación, right, of Reyna Peña, who used World Vision loans to lift her family out of desperation.

ABBY STALSBEIN/WORLD VISION

New Dreams from Ashes

Economic development helps a family nearly ruined by a tragic fire.

BY KARI COSTANZA

Reyna Peña's home in Sabana Perdida, Dominican Republic, is a place of imperfection. Her teacups are chipped. An armchair is missing an arm. Her china cabinet lacks two glass panes. Her glass-topped coffee table is missing its glass top.

But while Reyna, 41, lives in a sea of secondhand items, she fairly glows with joy. Small loans have made these used items useful—and helped Reyna climb out of a valley of despair.

Reyna's slide into that valley began unexpectedly on Jan. 17, 2005. Reyna and her husband, Luis de Jesus Rosario, 39, lingered at home before going into work at the

family bakery. "My father-in-law came knocking," she says. "He said, 'Something happened at the bakery.' We ran."

They arrived at a frightful scene. The bakery's gas tank had exploded. One worker was fatally engulfed in flames; five other workers were seriously injured. Two children outside the bakery were killed as well.

Reyna's life changed. She was disconsolate about the accident and feared retribution from her neighbors. "I had to send my children to the countryside," she says. "I was afraid. When I went out to the street, I was like a walking dead person."

Reyna and her husband lost their business—all their equipment and 35 sacks of flour worth \$1,600. The family's furniture and appliances were taken away. They had no possessions, but a lot of debt—half a million pesos, or U.S. \$35,000.

PREYING ON THE VULNERABLE

Reyna was forced to move her family to a home so decrepit that the front yard was a pool of raw sewage covered in green algae.

"I thought I should go back to my old business," says Reyna, whose husband couldn't find work after the bakery explosion. "That's when I started up with the loan sharks."

In Sabana Perdida, a rough community where violence and HIV rates are high, loan sharks take advantage of poverty and the inability of women like Reyna to secure bank loans. "[Commercial banks] won't lend you money because you are nobody," says Bethania Encarnación, 33, a loan officer with FIME, World Vision's Investment Fund for Microenterprise in the Dominican Republic. "You have no history."

Loan sharks charge 25 percent interest, they don't allow late payments, and "they always carry a gun," Reyna says.

When the family's truck stopped working, they fixed it by using \$400 from a loan shark. A month later, the truck broke down again.

The rainy season came. The home's rusted tin roof let water in. The water and the sewage outside attracted mosquitos.

TAKING A CHANCE

Reyna was at her lowest, beyond asking for help. She prayed, "Oh, God, what is going on?"

And God replied.

One day amid the rains, the mosquitos, the sewage, and the despair, a friend told Reyna about Bethania and World Vision's FIME loan program.

"We start small,
but then we
grow big."

—BETHANIA
ENCARNACIÓN

Bethania met with Reyna. "In the beginning," Bethania says, "I thought she would be a very bad client. When I saw her home and how poor she was, I thought she would be a risk."

So Bethania recommended a group loan for Reyna and her friends. With her share of the U.S. \$200, Reyna bought secondhand dishes, utensils, and clothes she'd found on clearance. She displayed these in her house, reselling the items for a small profit.

Bethania was by her side, providing counsel as Reyna paid back her initial loan. Her second loan was for U.S. \$385, which she used to buy more household items and inexpensive clothing to resell.

Her third loan was for U.S. \$512. "That was the loan she'd asked for in the first place," says Bethania. "Now we trusted her. We want to protect the client. They have big dreams, but they can get highly into debt. We start small, but then we grow big."

With subsequent loans, Reyna bought land. The family built a house, and in May 2012, they moved in.

NEW DREAMS

Today the family lives a different life. This home has lush vegetation in the front yard. There is no sewage. The roof does not leak. World Vision constructed a bathroom so the family no longer has to use the facilities at their church. Meanwhile, Reyna is paying off the family's debt.

Stories like Reyna's are taking place throughout Sabana Perdida. Here, FIME serves 700 clients with a portfolio of \$1 million. Ninety percent of the loan recipients are women.

Reyna's mother, Milenne, gestures toward the high ceilings of the new house and declares, "This is the glory of God."

New dreams are being born in this home filled with secondhand items—by a woman who deeply understands what it means to be broken but believed in again. ●

MISSION

For Every Child is supporting microfinance institutions and strengthening community-based programs for enterprise and market development, benefiting more than 1.3 million children.



THE NEED

Less than 20% of the world's 3 billion poor have access to economic development opportunities.

30 million more people worldwide are unemployed compared to before the 2008 global financial crisis.

2.7 billion people in developing countries have no access to banking services.

WHY WORLD VISION

Deep experience | Having worked in economic development for two decades, today World Vision serves alongside affiliated microfinance institutions in 40 countries and supports market development programs in many others.

Broad strength | As child sponsorship provides communities with improvements in education, health, water and sanitation, and food security, the ground is simultaneously prepared for successful economic development.

Accelerated approach | For Every Child is designed to intensify the efforts of child sponsorship over five years, allowing World Vision to reach more people faster.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Families have sustainable means of earning income.

Parents are able to stay with families rather than migrate to urban areas in search of work.

Overall security increases as families have income to save for school tuition, marriages, and emergencies.

COUNTRIES

Armenia, Bangladesh, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Honduras, Malawi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia



CAMPAIGN ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

157,758

children benefiting from family access to small loans and savings groups.

11,783 individuals now saving to strengthen their financial security.

16,745 new microfinance clients improving their families' livelihood through loans.

EXPANDING INNOVATION

For Every Child's Innovation Fund equips World Vision to test and scale up innovative methods that empower families in poverty to solve their own challenges. To date, the fund has invested in nine projects, including:



Tablet banking technology greatly increases the number of rural people in poverty who are empowered through microloans. By taking the bank to the borrower, loan recipients have access to lower costs and interest rates as well as faster, more efficient services.



Mobile solutions for healthcare leverage mobile phone technology to bring health services to the rural poor. Data-enabled smartphones provide volunteer community health workers with access to medical professionals and resources, improving how they are able to treat those with malaria and other illnesses.



Portable two-person augers enable project communities to drill borehole wells at a fraction of the previous cost. This simple, new approach also helps create small businesses as participants operate inexpensive drilling rigs in their communities.

PRAY WITH US

Pray that more families have opportunities to thrive. In poor communities, families live day to day with no safety net if they have a setback. Their cupboards aren't filled with food, and they have no savings in case of calamity. As Reyna's story demonstrates, small loans to operate even the smallest business can make the difference between a life of desperate need and a life filled with opportunity and hope.

BE PART OF SOMETHING BIG

Support this faith-stretching, game-changing ministry work. Use the envelope between pages 24-25 to give a one-time gift or a monthly pledge.

Pray for children in need and those who are doubling their efforts to help.

Learn more at www.worldvision.org/ForEveryChild.

HEALTH



Ten-year-old Richard Ntambaazi of Kasagombe, Uganda, sleeps under his insecticide-treated bed net every night to avoid malaria.

STYLING: MARIANORA/WORLD VISION

Taking the Sting Out of Malaria

The promising prospect of ending a centuries-old scourge.

BY JENNIFER ADAMS

Eight-month-old Elkana Ptiyos, sick with malaria, cries uncontrollably as he struggles to pull off an intravenous needle fastened to his tiny wrist. Elsewhere in this crowded clinic in Kenya's West Pokot region, hundreds of children, two to a bed, struggle for their lives.

"Ours is more of a calling to serve the community than a mere occupation," says Collins Chamer, one of the nurses who runs the clinic. "We work day and night."

Grim scenes like this play out in thousands of clinics throughout Africa. Malaria is the third-largest killer of

children on the continent. The World Health Organization estimates an African child younger than 5 dies every 45 to 60 seconds from the disease.

A few years ago, statistics like these launched bold plans—plans that would not only bring the disease under control but would eliminate malaria entirely. In 2008, the Roll Back Malaria Partnership—comprising numerous humanitarian organizations, including World Vision—unveiled a Global Malaria Action Plan. Today, because of this joint plan, the tools to combat malaria around the world are better than ever.

PROTECTING VULNERABLE CHILDREN

One of the most effective ways to tackle malaria is insecticide-treated bed nets. World Vision's initiative ensures millions of children and their families have access to these nets.

Because World Vision already has a long-term presence in many affected communities through ongoing development work, staff members have earned the community's confidence and are able to effectively mount regular checks and training sessions to ensure nets are properly used.

More than 2 million nets already are distributed in malaria-stricken Zambia, Mozambique, Kenya, and Mali. Millions more are planned for these and other African nations. Preliminary results are encouraging. When nets are used correctly, as they are in Kenya's Loima district, malaria cases decline by 73 percent in the first months of net use.

Rose Craigue, a World Vision health specialist, says nets are not just a temporary fix. Each net contributes to the global effort to eliminate malaria. Rose confidently predicts that with an adequate supply of nets and community education, malaria cases will continue to fall, far exceeding targets.

A CRUSHING BLOW

Although nets have served mosquito-infested regions for decades, a revolutionary development was introduced in the 1980s when insecticide was added to the nets. Now the nets provide not only a barrier to malaria-transmitting mosquitoes but kill the insects on contact as well.

In recent years, scientists have developed ways to impregnate nets so that the insecticide steadily migrates to the outer layer, replacing insecticide lost at the surface. These treated nets can withstand repeated washing and remain

effective for several years. The insecticide embedded in the nets is considered among the world's safest and is not toxic to humans unless ingested in very large amounts.

As the nets repel and kill mosquitoes, the local mosquito population declines. When community net coverage exceeds 80 percent, even those without a net obtain a protective benefit.

Even so, Rose warns that simply handing out nets is insufficient. Education is necessary. Community members who do not understand the importance of using the nets correctly are more likely to use a bed net for other purposes, such as a fishing net or a wedding dress.

Rose says providing this critical education piece is World Vision's strength. World Vision targets net distributions where it already has a presence through long-term development work.

"When you are trying to introduce something new to people, you need credibility," says Rose, "and we already have that credibility." ●

"Ours is more of a calling to serve the community than a mere occupation."

—COLLINS CHAMER



KENNETH KIBET/WORLD VISION

MISSION

For Every Child is treating and preventing severe child malnutrition; promoting maternal and child health, safe delivery, and newborn care; and eliminating malaria among 9 million people.



THE NEED

Malaria is the No. 1 killer of children younger than 5 in areas where World Vision works in Africa.

350,000 women and 2.7 million newborns die each year around the time of childbirth.

1.5 million children die each year due to chronic malnutrition.

WHY WORLD VISION

Long-term presence | Because World Vision remains in a community for 12 to 18 years, staff can track and address health issues, supply health centers with essential equipment, train young parents in basics like nutrition, and follow up to ensure children are thriving.

Comprehensive response | Through World Vision's community-based approach, health is addressed in many ways, including drilling wells for clean water, teaching families to dig latrines, and training farmers in new agricultural techniques. All of these interventions contribute to improved health throughout the community.

Gifts-in-kind | World Vision's top-quality resources, supplied by corporations, strengthen its health-care work. Among the items provided to health centers are rapid malaria diagnostic tests, medicine for malaria treatment, drugs to prevent maternal mortality during birth, safe birthing kits, and ready-to-use therapeutic foods to treat severe malnutrition.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Children in the critical years of birth to age 2 enjoy improved nutrition, protection from malaria, and better health through new interventions. Parents and caregivers are equipped with the knowledge to prevent malnutrition in their children.

Healthcare workers are better equipped to care for mothers and children before, during, and after birth with access to essential medicines, mobile technology, and follow-up care.

When families are healthy, parents have more time for productive activities, and children spend more time in school.

PRAY WITH US

Pray for community health workers and interventions. Those who work in rural health centers are often the only source of medical care for local families. They regularly face long hours, large patient loads, and under-equipped facilities. These dedicated servants need strength, wisdom, and refreshing. As health interventions are introduced, such as insecticide-treated bed nets, we pray they will produce the desired effect—no more malaria in communities.

CAMPAIGN ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

3,391,255

long-lasting insecticide-treated bed nets distributed in regions where malaria is severe.

6,186,836 children and adults benefiting from six bed net distributions in four African countries.

14,500 pregnant women received intermittent preventative malaria treatment.

COUNTRIES

Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Uganda, Zambia



LIFE-SAVING TECHNOLOGY



HEALTH EXPERTS



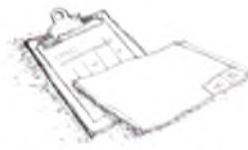
HEALTH CENTERS



MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH



TRANSPORTATION



HEALTH WORKER TASKS

Community health workers often are the only link to healthcare for millions of families in rural regions. Now mobile phones are giving frontline health workers opportunities to consult with health experts, supervisors, and health centers, and at times to stay in touch with patients.

Mobile access is critical for maternal and child health interventions,

including prenatal services, prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, essential newborn care, and immunization.

Health workers also use mobile phones to access life-saving transportation. Meanwhile, mobile health applications support a variety of health worker tasks, including data collection, diagnosis, case management, referrals, and promoting healthy behaviors.

CHRISTIAN WITNESS



Once Francisco Rodriguez discovered faith, everything changed for this father and his family.

Touched by God

A father learns to live out his faith and care for his family.

BY LAURA REINHARDT

Francisco Rodriguez used to have to leave his family to find work in the nearby town of La Esperanza, in western Honduras. He took any work he could find, usually construction.

"Sometimes he would just work and make enough money for the day, so it was really, really a difficult life," says his wife, Carmen Arriaga.

Lack of income wasn't the only difficulty for this family of eight struggling to survive in the Yamaranguila region. When Francisco wasn't working, he often stayed in town drinking. Carmen says she and her daughters never knew

what was going to happen when he came home drunk.

Sometimes she locked him out of the house. She knew this would make him angry, but she was angry too.

In 2003, Carmen was pregnant with the last of the couple's six children. Her doctor thought she was a single mother, because she always came to her appointments alone. When Francisco finally did go with her, the doctor chastised him, asked if he attended church, and wondered why his faith wasn't influencing his behavior.

Francisco replied that he did go to Mass, but only to keep the seat warm. Still, the doctor's





THE NEED

An estimated 30% of the world's people have not heard about Jesus Christ.

More than 1.3 billion Christians live in the less-developed global south, especially Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

Approximately 150 theological colleges serve the entire continent of Africa, compared to nearly 600 in the United States alone.

MISSION

For Every Child is providing spiritual nurture to at least an additional 2 million people, including 1 million children, helping them know the transformative love of Christ.

WHY WORLD VISION

Christian foundation | As a Christian organization, World Vision desires that every child know and experience the unconditional love of God in an environment that respects rights and freedom. We seek to be the tangible, active, visible expression of God's love to those we serve.

Trusted worldwide | World Vision's 44,000 staff in nearly 100 countries allows us to partner with an estimated 100,000 pastors and engage with 160,000 local churches worldwide.

Long-term presence | World Vision walks alongside communities, making us a trusted partner among the children and families we serve.

words got him thinking.

That same year, World Vision invited Francisco to participate in agricultural training. Francisco had land, but it lay fallow because he traveled so often to La Esperanza for work. Soon Francisco was equipped to grow crops on his land, and he embraced the opportunity to support his family without traveling to the city with all its temptations.

As Francisco participated in World Vision's work in his community, he says he began to see how faith in Christ motivated the staff. As a result, Francisco's own faith began to grow.

TRAINING TO LAST FOR ETERNITY

That same year, Father Lucio arrived to serve in the community and divided his parish into smaller groups to build stronger communities. Inspired by Father Lucio's teaching, Francisco attended church regularly. As Francisco's relationship with Father Lucio grew, the priest asked Francisco to be in charge of a community group. Francisco agreed, but wondered whether he could handle this new responsibility.

In that leadership role, Carmen remembers her husband "was touched by God, so he could change."

In April 2012, World Vision introduced Channels of Hope in Yamaranguila. Channels of Hope is a multi-

"Every day I thank God because this has totally changed every step I take."

—CARMEN ARRIAGA

faceted program that encourages Christians to understand their role as followers of Christ to combat deeply held cultural beliefs that negatively impact their communities, such as HIV and AIDS stigma and gender inequality.

As Francisco attended the Channels of Hope training, he became more open to Carmen's participation. "Now there is no longer any chauvinism," he says. "It's the church that has changed us and shown us that men and women are worth exactly the same in the eyes of the Lord, and that we have exactly the same rights."

Carmen has blossomed and grown more confident. "It's been a transformation that is incredible, and every day I thank God because this has totally changed every step I take," says Carmen. "World Vision has been like a right arm for us."

Now Carmen leads a support group for pregnant women and new mothers, which is part of World Vision's focus on maternal and child health. She speaks confidently, providing other community members with health information she learned from World Vision's training.

A GOOD FATHER AND ROLE MODEL

These days, Carmen is often out in the community working with women. In a surprising role reversal, Francisco frequently is the parent who prepares dinner for his children, something he never would have dreamed of

CAMPAIGN ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

95,254

children participating in discipleship events.

6,968 Christian leaders trained in theology and children's ministry.

1,150 churches partner with World Vision to care for children.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Children are involved in activities that encourage faith.

Church leaders are trained and strengthened to nurture community members.

Children grow up in a community that values Christian principles.

PRAY WITH US

Pray for God to use World Vision's work to draw families and children to him. In everything World Vision does, our staff seeks to reflect Christ's love. As programs like Channels of Hope transform lives and families, we recognize the ultimate transformation in people's hearts comes from God alone.

COUNTRIES

Armenia, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Honduras, India, Uganda, Zambia



"It's the church that has changed us and shown us that men and women are worth exactly the same in the eyes of the Lord, and that we have exactly the same rights."

—FRANCISCO RODRIGUEZ

doing just a few years ago. Their only son, Ever Francisco, 9, was born just as his father's life began to change. He attends many of the spiritual trainings with his father. "I think that he is learning all this, and that is what will make a better man out of him," says Francisco.

The whole Rodriguez family works together in their fields. Francisco looks at his corn, radish, and

bean fields, and says, "I'm really thrilled about this because when you work together, it really motivates you to continue to grow. All this is a result of the training that we have received."

The man who used to disappear and keep his family on edge now spends time working and praying with his family. He even makes time to play with his children.

A single tear of joy slips from Carmen's eye as she acknowledges the amazing transformation that has taken place in her family.

"I'm just happy," Francisco says, "having a life that I have with my wife, with the daughters, and doing what we're doing. There are many people who are tired of life, but we aren't. We all have the drive to continue developing and to continue forth. And so, we're very happy and satisfied." ●



As Francisco, Carmen, and their children work together, they grow together as well.

LAURA REINHARDT/WORLD VISION



SURRENDERING GREAT FOR GREATER

God asks a Michigan couple 'What do you value most?'

The rustic vista was familiar to Stu and Robin Phillips, as comforting as an old and faithful friend. But on this particular evening, sadness mingled with joy as the couple watched light fade across the rugged mountaintops of southeast Wyoming.

They were choosing to say goodbye to the beloved ranch they christened "Moriah," which means "Chosen by God."

For a decade, Stu, Robin, and their two sons retreated to the Pinto Valley, immersing themselves in sunshine and adventure on the gently rolling landscape teeming with elk, fish, and countless other wildlife. The Michigan-based Phillips family looked forward to enjoying many years together at their vacation getaway.

During one visit to Moriah, Stu settled in to re-read Rich Stearns' best-selling book *The Hole in Our Gospel*. As he contemplated the book's challenge to reach out to those in need, Stu says, "I heard God speaking to me. He asked me, 'What possession do you value most?' I knew the answer instantly."

God was asking Stu and Robin to sell the ranch. "God was calling me to be actively involved in what I've now come to believe is the greatest social issue of our time—poverty," says Stu. The Phillips, long-time sponsors of several children, are also members of World Vision's For Every Child National Leadership Council (see page 22).

Still, Stu and Robin questioned the validity of the call. Initially they tried negotiating with God. Among other things, they reasoned that the ranch was a legacy for their sons. None of the excuses offered any comfort.

They struggled, then put Moriah up for sale. "I feel pain," Robin says, "but also the pure assurance and confidence that this is the right thing to do."

In April 2012, the State of Wyoming bought the ranch to provide hunting and fishing opportunities for the public. Now many more can enjoy the land's blessings.

These days, the Phillips' dreams are firmly planted in new ground, where hope is sprouting as people in poverty have opportunities to learn new job skills. Already their generosity is changing lives in Rwanda, where the couple and their church are funding a vocational training center. Stu and Robin also participate in World Vision's work in Mexico, Zambia, and Tanzania.

"[God] asked me to surrender something great in order to receive something greater," says Stu. "He wanted to remind me that there is no vista, no place, no possession more beautiful than the face of a child." ●

—Nathalie Moberg

FOR MORE INFORMATION on how you can be involved with World Vision's Campaign For Every Child, see the envelope between pages 24 and 25, or visit www.worldvision.org/ForEveryChild.



WATCH the Phillipses share more about their story of generosity by scanning this QR code.



LE THIEM XUAN/WORLD VISION

CULTIVATING SUCCESS

SPONSORSHIP HELPED EQUIP A YOUNG MAN TO CHANGE FARMING METHODS IN HIS COMMUNITY.

BY LE THIEM XUAN AND JAMES ADDIS

A recent graduate of Quang Nam Forestry College in central Vietnam, Ating Ai (above, third from right) speaks with passion about protecting woodlands and the natural environment.

The 22-year-old's enthusiasm goes much deeper than his academic studies; it also stems from painful firsthand experiences with the effects of slash-and-burn farming techniques, which kept his family desperately poor.

Growing up in Quang Nam province, Ai witnessed these farming methods while camping out with his family at harvest time on land around their home. "They cut trees in deep forests and burned

them to plant more upland rice," he recalls. "Unintentionally, they destroyed their forests and caused soil erosion."

The result was ever-dwindling rice harvests. Although Ai's father could sometimes supplement the family's diet by trapping wild animals, they would go hungry three or four months every year.

To make matters worse, the quest for food compelled Ai's parents to send their children to work in the fields instead of going to school. None of Ai's three older sisters completed more than two years of elementary education. It looked as though Ai might never enter a classroom at all.

A World Vision development program brought dramatic

changes for Ai, his family, and his community. Ai was among the first children in his village to become a World Vision sponsored child.

Soon 9-year-old Ai started attending school. "I would have [remained] illiterate if my parents were not encouraged by teachers to send me to school when World Vision came to my village," he says. "I still remember how joyful I was when I came to my first class—although most of my classmates were several years younger than I."

One of Ai's most vivid childhood memories is running home to show his parents a certificate of merit he earned in school.

Further encouragement came from Ai's Australian sponsor. Ai still treasures the first letter he received from her, a card for his birthday—something that had never been celebrated before. "I still remember the strange joy when, for the first time in my life, I held in my hands such a beautiful greeting card," he says.

Ai corresponded with his sponsor and her family. "I often wrote them about our family, village, friends, and school," he says.

Things began changing for Ai's parents too. The development program taught

"I EXPERIENCED THROUGH MY LIFE THAT MY SPONSOR'S LOVE AND CARE FERTILIZED MY HOPE TO SHOOT UP TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE."

and children's plays. Ai helped carve and color designs on the building's wooden beams. "My favorite subject at school was art. It helped me a lot to give a helping hand in decorating the house," he says.

Ai thrived, but his parents' health deteriorated. Ai's mother died from liver cancer when he was 14; three years later, his father succumbed to the same disease. But by then Ai had sufficient resources to finish school and continue on to higher education.

Having graduated college, he hopes to secure a position as a forest ranger, preferably serving the community where he grew up.

Ai's life experiences have given him a profound respect for those who reach out to help others.

"I wish many more sponsors will join World Vision to support needy children so they are able to change their lives for the better and then become helpful persons in their own communities," he says.

"I learned from my parents' farm that plants grow strong from fertile soil. I experienced through my life that my sponsor's love and care fertilized my hope to shoot up to a brighter future." ●

TO SPONSOR A CHILD see the envelope between pages 24 and 25, or go to www.worldvision.org/ReadandRespond.

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

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

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

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

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



LE THEIER KUAN/WORLD VISION

farmers improved agricultural techniques and animal husbandry. As their agricultural yields grew and their income improved, the family began raising cows and growing acacia trees to supply wood chips for the paper-making industry.

World Vision also supported villagers to set up a traditional community center used for meetings, harvest festival celebrations,

Seven Amber Beads

BY SYLVIA PETERSON

In 1980, God called me to serve in Las Dhure, Somalia. World Vision was starting to help 2 million ethnic Somalis driven out of Ethiopia during an oppressive drought. They were a pastoral, Muslim people who had survived for generations without outside contact. Now they had nothing—no food, water, decent shelter, or hope.

Our group of four Western nurses arrived one month ahead of the medical supplies, so at first all we did was measure and weigh the children. They had never seen white skin, and they were terrified. Older children ran up and ripped out our hair as souvenirs of their courage.

But we hadn't seen the real children of Las Dhure. Mothers hid their sickest infants, afraid that a Caucasian touch would result in immediate death. One morning I looked inside the huts. They were full of dying children. Giant eyes looked up, pleading without words. Skeletal bodies barely moved. The fetid air smelled of urine, diarrhea, and death.

Around noon, we rested in the unbearable heat. Something felt different in the camp. Trucks arrived and unloaded Somali men. We were perplexed; usually we saw only women and children. The men began chanting. Then they ran toward us, their faces contorted in hatred, hands clutching jagged rocks and dull knives.

All I could think was, "We're going to die here."

Our translator guarded our compound entrance, shouting, "Somalis angry. They say you no help. Babies dead. They say, 'Go home, ugly white women, or they kill you.'"

As we rushed into our only vehicle, the men stabbed the tires with knives and hit the windows with rocks. Finally, we broke free and headed into the desert.

We agreed: We were leaving. I heard the hysteria in my voice as I said, "We came to help—why would they want to kill us?"

We met with our African project manager. He explained, "Things are different in Africa. Everyone is an enemy until they



Sylvia was called to serve in Somalia.

prove themselves a friend. I only ask one thing: Go to your prayer closets. Ask God to show you a mother's despair when her child dies in her arms."

At our safe house, I entered into a dialogue with God that lasted three days. There was no burning bush, no deep voice from the sky; no angelic beings gave me a word from the Lord. I imagined holding my own dying infant. How long would my baby suffer? How long would I feel the hopeless anguish?

We couldn't change Las Dhure's circumstances, but God changed us. We would stay, love the people "as Christ first loved us," and trust God to use us, regardless of the outcome. Love was the only thing we had to offer; returning was the only way we could communicate it.

When we went back to the camp, the people were shocked. Change was slow,

but eventually our genuine smiles and good-natured banter reached across cultural and linguistic boundaries. Tensions eased. Relationships developed.

My last day, I sat with seven mothers while they coaxed their infants to eat. Next to me was Faadumo, whose baby was dying. Occasionally, we would reach out and pat each other's hands, wordlessly sharing our grief. These courageous women taught me that love never gives up.

When the mothers tied the babies onto their backs and stood to go, something extraordinary happened. Each woman pulled out the dirty string of amber beads she used for trade, untied it, and removed one. As they filed out, each silently placed a single bead in my lap.

They said "thank you" the only way they could—with seven amber beads. ●

Sylvia Peterson spent six months serving in World Vision's camp in Somalia in 1980. Today she pastors a church in Yelm, Wash., and writes a weekly religion newspaper column.



*"Dear children,
let us not love with
words or tongue
but with actions and
in truth."*

—1 JOHN 3:18

RETROSPECT



SOPHEAK KONG/WORLD VISION

CAMBODIA

JOY AND LAUGHTER ENVELOP THESE BOYS as they swing freely from one bar to the next. These friends and other local children participate in a World Vision-run children's club in their Cambodian village. Young people also serve as the club's leaders, helping their peers with writing and math skills. Here in Cambodia and around the world, World Vision encourages children as they pursue all aspects of their development—including the experience of sheer delight that playing with friends can bring. ●



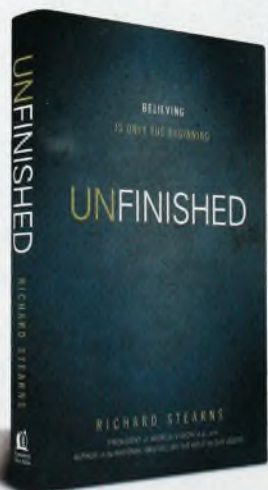
Rich Stearns
 President, World Vision U.S.,
 and best-selling author of
The Hole in Our Gospel

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“God created you intentionally to play a very specific role in his unfolding story.”

—Rich Stearns, *Unfinished*



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Unfinished is an invitation to recapture the urgency of Christ’s revolutionary mission and, in so doing, to experience the life that God created you to live.

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