

WorldVision

WINTER 2012

GIFTS OF LOVE

Shine

THROUGH

7 WILLIAM AND KATE'S ROYAL VISIT

8 DEBBIE MACOMBER KNITS FOR KIDS

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- Help children celebrate their birthdays
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PHOTO:
ORECKS, A SPONSORED
CHILD FROM MALAWI.
MEET HIS SPONSOR
ON PAGE 9.

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experience, share.

WORLD VISION

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a story of delight
and despair.

JON WARREN/WORLD VISION



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

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Repaid in Joy

BY RICH STEARNS

The Bible calls God's people to be generous, but isn't exactly clear what precisely God expects. How much

should we give? The Old Testament set the standard of a tithe, giving 10 percent as an offering to God. In the New Testament Jesus asked the rich young ruler to sell all he had and give it to the poor. Zacchaeus gave half of what he had. Jesus praised the widow who gave pennies, though it was all she had.

So, which is it? Does God want 10 percent, 50 percent, 100 percent, or just whatever we have to offer? The apostle Paul said we should give with a cheerful heart. So, should we wait to give until we feel happy about it?

Actually, I think we miss God's desire when we try to pin down his commands and find precise guidelines. After all, whatever we have is already a gift from God. As author Andrew Murray said, "How different our standard is from Christ's. We ask how much a man gives. He asks how much he keeps."

I think God's prescription for giving is found in the Gospel of Luke. "Give, and it will be given to you," Jesus said. Theologian Scott Rodin calls this "a beautiful arrangement." When we see a need and respond out of obedience and joy, Rodin says, we receive "an eternal reward for this act of faithfulness."

A few years ago, my wife Reneé and I were astounded by the reality of this truth. We decided to send funds for a special gift for each of our sponsored children during Christmastime. Since I became president of World Vision in 1998, I have accumulated more than a handful of sponsored children. This Christmas gift wasn't going to be cheap.

Over the next few months, however, Reneé and I laughed and cried with joy as we learned what these children and their families did with their gift. One by one, letters with photos



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

Rich joins in a playful moment with some of the Bolivian children World Vision serves.

*"Give, and it will be given to you.
A good measure, pressed down,
shaken together and running over,
will be poured into your lap.
For with the measure you use,
it will be measured to you."*

—LUKE 6:38

came to us full of thanks and appreciation. What gave us the most joy was to see how meaningful these gifts were to those children and their families.

One boy received his first mattress to sleep on. Another sent us a hilarious picture of himself in plaid shorts, a plaid sports coat, a new hat, and new sneakers. He stood next to a large cow, and wore an enormous grin. In the letter accompanying the photo, he wrote about his new clothes and "this fine bull."

Those letters provided Reneé and me with tremendous joy as we discovered how our sponsored children used the gifts they received. It was also addictive—we wanted a little more of that joy. For me, those letters illustrated Jesus' words in Luke 6:38, "A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over."

In this issue of World Vision's magazine, you'll read about how others here in the U.S. have found joy in giving. For many, it's become so addictive they're encouraging others to joyfully join them. Everyone featured has discovered what so many World Vision supporters, like you, have also learned: "Give—and it will be given to you." ●



TO LEARN MORE about how you can provide funds for a special gift for your sponsored child and his or her family, call our Donor Services team toll-free at 888.852.4453.

FRONTLINES



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

HER FRIEND DIED FROM **MALARIA.** DON'T LET HER SUFFER THE SAME FATE.

You can help Marita and others like her stay safe from this deadly disease by donating a bed net that will keep mosquitos at bay.

Read more about Marita's story and how World Vision is working in communities like hers on page 14.



'THE BEST

Life with HIV is a challenge. Emily walks miles to health clinics and hospitals for monthly checkups and waits hours to see doctors for life-saving anti-retroviral drugs. She also faces the pervasive social stigma aimed at those with HIV.

A decade ago, her status would have pushed her to the margins of society. But today Emily is just like many in her community—people living meaningful lives with the disease, not dying from it.

On World AIDS Day (Dec. 1), pray for Emily and others for whom living with HIV is a daily reality—and watch for her full story in the Spring 2013 *World Vision* magazine. ●

Repaid in Joy

BY RI

The Bible calls God's people to be generous, but isn't exactly clear what precisely God expects. How much

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*"Give, and it
A good mea.
shaken togeth
will be pou
For with th
it will be r*

GIVE ONLINE!

www.worldvision.org/ReadandRespond

PLEASE REMOVE BEFORE MAILING

YES! PROTECT CHILDREN FROM MALARIA AND OTHER DEADLY DISEASES!

- I want to provide bed nets and protect families from deadly mosquito bites. I'm giving:
 - \$18 TO PROVIDE BED NETS FOR ONE FAMILY.
 - \$54 TO PROVIDE BED NETS FOR THREE FAMILIES.
- I want to sponsor a child for \$35/month.
 - GENDER: GIRL BOY
 - LIVING IN: AFRICA LATIN AMERICA ASIA MIDDLE EAST/EASTERN EUROPE
 - I WANT TO PAY FOR A FULL YEAR OF SPONSORSHIP NOW FOR \$420.
- Multiply my gift 12 times to provide medicine and supplies to children and families. I'm giving:

AMOUNT: \$ _____

Check payable to World Vision | Change my gift to my debit card/credit card
 VISA | MASTERCARD | AMERICAN EXPRESS | DISCOVER
 USE MY CARD NUMBER ON FILE

CARD NUMBER
 CARD EXPIRES
 NAME ON CARD
 SIGNATURE
 EMAIL

TO RECEIVE PERIODIC UPDATES ABOUT THE IMPACT OF YOUR GIFT

SOURCE 129313159

FRONTLINES



EUGENE LEE/WORLD VISION

f

BELIEVING THE BEST

Standing on her friend's patio after a flurry of chopping lettuce, cheese, and vegetables, Bikeledi Emily Mphahlele, 43, tastes the fruit of her labor. After completing vocational training through World Vision and receiving a microloan to start a catering business in Botshabelo, South Africa, Emily spends her day-to-day life serving others.

Emily is also HIV positive, and knows her husband gave her the virus. He denies it and refuses to get tested. He blames his wife for the disease and has threatened to kill her. Emily is just one of the 5.6 million people in South Africa who are infected.

Life with HIV is a challenge. Emily walks miles to health clinics and hospitals for monthly checkups and waits hours to see doctors for life-saving anti-retroviral drugs. She also faces the pervasive social stigma aimed at those with HIV.

A decade ago, her status would have pushed her to the margins of society. But today Emily is just like many in her community—people living meaningful lives with the disease, not dying from it.

On World AIDS Day (Dec. 1), pray for Emily and others for whom HIV is a daily reality—and watch for her full story in the Spring 2013 *World Vision* magazine. ●

WORLD WATCH

AFRICA'S AGONY | MILLIONS HUNGRY AS FOOD SOURCES SHRIVEL



WEST AFRICA FOOD SHORTAGE

A deadly combination of low rainfall and rising food prices has led to poor harvests and declining food supplies. In addition, recent conflicts, the return of hundreds of migrant workers, and a flow of refugees from Mali into Niger have strained an already stressed food supply. More than 18 million people are facing food shortages, and more than 1 million children are at risk of severe malnutrition. World Vision aims to assist more than 1 million people in the five countries where we are providing nutrition programs for children, food, livestock, seeds, and new wells.

SUDAN AND S. SUDAN CONFLICT AND CHAOS

In July 2011, South Sudan celebrated its independence as a country from Sudan. But since that time, a series of crises and conflicts have afflicted the nations, leaving more than 4.7 million facing food insecurity. In the last two years, more than 350,000 South Sudanese have returned to their homeland, putting pressure on scarce resources. Border disputes and tribal skirmishes have hampered relief efforts, but World Vision has provided food, improved healthcare infrastructure, and drilled wells in South Sudan, assisting more than 250,000 people.

HORN OF AFRICA RECURRING DROUGHT

Last year, the worst drought in more than 50 years affected more than 10 million people, primarily in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia. Crops and livestock died, forcing families to leave their homes, and causing widespread malnutrition. Since then rainfall has been erratic and uneven, causing floods in some areas and leaving other regions parched. An estimated 9 million people are still at risk for malnutrition and need humanitarian assistance. World Vision has reached 1.5 million people in the four countries where we work, providing food, access to clean water, medical care, and Child-Friendly Spaces in displacement camps.

MALAWI FOOD PRICES UP

Lengthy dry spells over the past three years, high food prices, and devaluation of currency have left more than 1.6 million southern Malawians without enough food. The price of maize has more than doubled, and many families are eating only once a day. Some are selling household items to buy food and seeking jobs in urban areas. In collaboration with the World Food Program and the Malawi government, World Vision is providing food aid and supporting alternative livelihoods for families. ●



TEN WORST PLACES FOR MOMS

Nine of the 10 countries considered the world's worst places for Moms are in Africa, according to the 2012 "State of the World's Mothers" report. Countries ranking as the 10 worst are:

Niger*	Eritrea
Afghanistan*	Chad*
Yemen	Sudan*
Guinea-Bissau	South Sudan*
Mali*	D.R. of Congo*

The report, released by Save the Children, considers such factors as child health, maternal mortality, and child malnutrition.

The United States moved up from 31st to 25th place, largely due to improvements in children's education.

(*indicates where World Vision is working to improve child and maternal health)



WORLD VISION NOW

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» To download, search "World Vision Now" in the Apple App Store or scan this QR code.





UNITED STATES | GRUMPY GOATS

A Facebook-based game called *Grumpy Goats* sets out to provide livestock to impoverished families around the world. The game features a group of disgruntled goats who seek to overcome a flock of callous sheep. Players have opportunities to donate goats, sheep, and other animals through the World Vision Gift Catalog. Verge Games, which developed *Grumpy Goats*, believes this is the first game of its kind to have a charitable mission.

Visit www.grumpygoats.com. ●



William and Kate meet Cain Whitney and one of his pigs.

SOLOMON ISLANDS ROYAL VISIT

British royals William and Kate visited World Vision projects in the Solomon Islands on their tour of Southeast Asia and the South Pacific in September. After a parade through the community of Burns Creek, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge met with Cain Whitney, a pig farmer and participant in World Vision's youth empowerment program. The couple also learned about World Vision's savings projects and efforts to reduce gender-based violence in the Solomon Islands. ●



YEAR-END GIVING TIPS

With a little planning, you can help ensure your 2012 tax-deductible charitable donations go to worthy causes. Larry Probus, World Vision's chief financial officer, shares these tips:

1 CONSIDER A CHARITY'S RECORD

Experience and innovation matter when tackling difficult problems. Look for a local or global leader in those efforts.

2 LOOK BEYOND OVERHEAD

Effectiveness is even more important than efficiency. Identify fiscally responsible charities, and pick those that can show how donations are making a difference.

3 ASK QUESTIONS

Don't write the check until you have enough information. Visit the charity's website, send an email, or pick up the phone.

4 SEE WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

Social media gives voice to fans and critics. Check out charities' Facebook pages, Twitter feeds, and blogs.

5 WATCH FOR SCAMS

As giving climbs at the end of the year, so do scams. Be wary of emails that ask for your credit card or other personal information. When in doubt, check it out.

RECOMMENDED SOURCES

- » Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (www.ecfa.org)
- » Better Business Bureau (www.bbb.org)
- » Charity Navigator (www.charitynavigator.org)

LOVE IN EVERY STITCH

Best-selling author Debbie Macomber leads the charge to knit for kids.



LAURA REINHARDT/WORLD VISION

It started out as an accident early one morning at the Newark airport, Debbie Macomber remembers. She struggled to balance luggage, purse, knitting project, and a steaming cup of coffee—which soon spilled across the floor. A stranger waiting in the long Starbucks line witnessed her dilemma and bought her another cup.

“All the way home, I just had this really good feeling,” recalls Debbie, *The New York Times* No. 1 best-selling author who lives in Port Orchard, Wash. “I kept thinking about all the little ways we have to be generous without it costing us very much.” The stranger’s simple act inspired Debbie to practice that same generosity herself—including writing a devotional book on generosity, *One Simple Act*.

Now Debbie is extending the concept to crafters in her new role as international

spokesperson for Knit for Kids, World Vision’s program that encourages those who knit and crochet to craft warm clothes for children in need around the world.

In 2011, knitters donated 66,000 sweaters to World Vision’s Knit for Kids. But the need is still great. World Vision field staff report that 900,000 children need sweaters and more than 1 million infants and toddlers need caps and blankets to help them survive their first highly vulnerable years.

Debbie inherited her knack for knitting from her grandmother. Because Debbie had dyslexia, she didn’t learn to read until she was 10. So she pursued non-reading activities, including pestering her mother to take her to the yarn store where local women taught Debbie the craft.

For the past three years, Debbie has led her own national charity initiative, Knit1,

Bless2, encouraging others to donate handmade sweaters, hats, or blankets to those in need. She believes that knitters convey a message of love with each small stitch, and that the gift of hand-knitted clothes is a warm reminder to children that someone thought about them.

The international scope of World Vision’s work appeals to the author, whose books are best-sellers around the globe.

“This has the potential of really reaching a lot more people,” Debbie says. “Knitters by nature are generous. If you’re a knitter you have a heart—a big heart.”

To get involved with Knit for Kids, go to www.knittheworld.org.

—Laura Reinhardt

VISIT www.debbiemacomber.com to find out more about Debbie and her latest book, *Angels at the Table*

PACKING A PUNCH WITH PENNIES



COURTESY JACOB FROATS

A penny may not buy much these days, but that didn't faze Howland High School students Cody Davis, Jennifer Knapp, Destiny Zunic, and Jacob Froats. Challenged with a chemistry assignment of improving the environment, these students in Howland, Ohio, opted to build a pyramid using 500,000 pennies. Team members tapped their own resources, collected donations, and borrowed the balance

from their parents. More than 100 students helped with the 3,000-pound pyramid's construction.

Once the project was completed, the proceeds were sent to World Vision, which will use the \$1,000 gift to improve a developing community's environment through water and livestock projects. The achievement also has been submitted to the Guinness World Records, far outpacing the standing 300,000-penny pyramid record. ●

WHY I LOVE BEING A CHILD SPONSOR



GREG SCHNEIDER/GENESIS PHOTOS

BY **OLIVIA CHIU**, 14, SOUTH PASADENA, CALIF. Six faces smile out at us from our refrigerator door. These faces belong to Olecks, Bezita, Segina, Tezilina, Mudyenso, and Eletina—the six Malawian children we sponsor. Knowing that our sponsorship makes a difference in their lives makes it all the more meaningful for us. It's wonderful for us to know that a simple monthly check to World Vision gives children an education and much more so they can lift themselves and their families out of poverty. God has abundantly blessed our family, and we are excited to use these blessings to bless others. As Christ teaches, "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me'" (Matthew 25:40, NIV). ●

The Chiu family includes, front to back, Frances, Olivia, and their parents, Ada and Peter.

SEE how child sponsorship is bringing new meaning to the Chiu family: www.myworldvision.org/storyofgiving

CHANGE AGENT



GABRIEL TAIT/GENESIS PHOTOS

NAME Jean Estep

HOME Printer, Ky.

OCCUPATION Retired

PROGRAM Gift Planning

THE BUZZ Back in 1984, Jean heard about the devastating famine in Ethiopia. She wanted to help but did not know how—until her church connected her with World Vision. It was the start of a relationship that has lasted almost 30 years. Currently, she sponsors 14-year-old Salissou Issoufa in Niger—another country currently experiencing serious food shortages. She says the Lord has blessed her, and this compels her to give—even beyond her own lifetime. Jean has included a charitable bequest in her will so that when she passes away, her house will be sold and the proceeds donated to the work of World Vision. She says the Lord gave the house to her, and it's fitting that she can give it back to him. ●

"You know that Scripture where Jesus says to lay up your treasure in heaven? I just felt that would be the thing to do with my estate."

—JEAN ESTEP

WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?

Contact World Vision's Gift Planning team. Call toll-free 800.426.5753



WALLY NELLIGEMIS PHOTOS

Athena runs her last few steps as she reaches the Pacific Ocean.

RUNNING WITH PERSEVERANCE

A Florida woman makes a five-month journey to help others.

After months on the road, 20-year-old Athena Papadopoulos finally ran into the Pacific Ocean.

Back in January, Athena departed from Jacksonville, Fla., on a mission to run 2,460 miles across America to raise money for World Vision water projects. More than five months and countless steps later, she reached Pacific Beach in San Diego on June 13.

But Athena takes no credit for the marathon effort. She feels it was all a work of God.

"I can see the whole picture, and how God provided in every single moment of every day," she said immediately after finishing.

"It blows my mind when I can see that at all the times I may have been worried, or didn't know what was going to happen, but somehow it all worked out."

Athena certainly had her share of difficulties. Athena's mother, Karen, who met her daughter at the finish line, says the mission had problems from the outset; the stroller Athena pushed along with all her gear had a flat tire even before she left Jacksonville.

Then, two sisters who joined her for the big run were forced to drop out after one of them became aware of a heart condition that prevented her from continuing the journey. Shortly afterward, Athena discovered she had a stress fracture in her foot and was forced to resort to a bicycle.

But Athena says the setbacks simply reminded her that she had to depend on God.

Athena developed a passion for helping people access clean water following a mission trip to Kenya. Watching village children as young as 7 or 8 struggling to collect river water from four miles away left her shaken. "I knew that I would not want to live like that, so how could I be happy that they were living like that?" she says.

Along the journey, she shared her passion for water with the people she met, encouraging them to visit her website to help fund World Vision water projects. So far the project has raised about \$17,000, and Athena expects this total to grow as donors make good on pledges.

Now Athena is striving toward her long-term goal of becoming a missionary in Africa. ●

—James Addis

LEARN MORE ABOUT Athena's journey at www.coast2coast4cleanwater.webs.com



THE STORY TOUR

World Vision is pleased to partner with "The Story Tour"—a stunning multimedia experience featuring top Christian artists, including Mark Hall of Casting Crowns, Jeremy Camp, Natalie Grant, Matthew West, Nichole Nordeman, Selah, and Rawsrvnt, along with author and pastor Randy Frazee. This inspirational event will delight audiences in 13 cities throughout November and December. For concert dates and more information, visit www.thestory.com/tour.

BOOKS THAT DESERVE A LOOK *Stories of transformation make great Christmas gifts.*



THE ZAMBIA PROJECT

The Story of Two Worlds Flipped Upside Down

BY CHIP HUBER, *Self-published, 2012*

When a Wheaton Academy high-school student flipped through the World Vision Gift Catalog, he started a chain of events that would radically transform lives not only in Wheaton, Ill., but in Africa as well. Former Wheaton dean Chip Huber chronicles the students' journey to engage the Kakolo community in central Zambia.

www.zambiaprojectbook.com



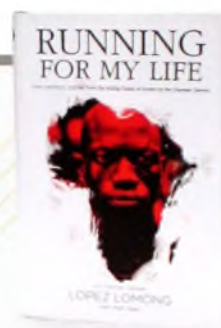
RISK ONLY MONEY

Success in Business Without Risking Family, Friends, and Reputation

BY JACK DEBOER, *Rockhill Books, 2011*

Hotel magnate Jack DeBoer offers insights on business, philanthropy, and living a life of significance. Read about how God placed Jack in Myanmar just at the right moment to enable him to partner with World Vision in the formerly closed Asian country—an investment that grew to 25 sponsorship projects and health clinics serving 10,000 patients a month.

www.riskonlymoney.com



RUNNING FOR MY LIFE

One Lost Boy's Journey from the Killing Fields of Sudan to the Olympic Games

BY LOPEZ LOMONG WITH MARK TABB, *Thomas Nelson, 2012*

Becoming a world-class runner and competing in the London Olympics isn't the most compelling part of Lopez Lomong's story. Kidnapped by Sudanese rebels at the tender age of 6, Lopez clung to his faith despite separation from his family, hunger, and hard life in a Kenyan refugee camp. In high school, his talent for running provided Lopez with a platform to help his people in South Sudan.

www.lopezlomong.com

COMING SOON: World Vision U.S. President Rich Stearns' next book, *Unfinished: Becoming the Person You Were Meant to Be by Embracing the Mission You Were Made to Fulfill*, hits bookstores in May 2013. Learn more in the next issue of World Vision magazine.

HERE'S TO THE

Givers

OF THE WORLD



... givers of all sizes and ages, from different walks of life and various income levels. They give not because of a date on the calendar; they're not yielding to obligation or seeking to impress. They are God's beloved cheerful givers. When they throw a banquet, they invite the poor and dispossessed—and, as Jesus promised, they are blessed (Luke 14: 12-14).

§ The stories that follow show the impact of relatively simple gifts in developing communities. And they put a few names and faces to the many generous people behind these love offerings, which, as you will see, are changing lives around the world. »





NET EFFECT

In malaria-prone Mozambique, two girls live very different lives. One is protected by a mosquito net; the other is not. A handful of gossamer threads treated with insecticide makes all the difference.

BY KARI COSTANZA
PHOTOS BY JON WARREN



Marita, inset top left, and Delfina, above, are two girls with very different stories.



Marita would fetch water and firewood to help Marta's mother care for her best friend.

Marita Adelino is not your average 10-year-old. In a world where children typically want so much, she wants only two things—a best friend and a mosquito net. Yearning for a friend is sketched across her face, a portrait of loneliness.

And the desire for a mosquito net? Marita is terrified of the tiny, sinister creatures that spread malaria, the disease that killed her best friend, Marta João, last year. Marita cared for her sick friend, cradling her head as it burned with fever, lifting cup after cup of cool water to Marta's lips. But malaria won, and now Marita is alone.

Amid the happy warble of learning at Muera Primary School in Mozambique's Zambezia Province, Marita sits quietly at her desk. Headmaster Abrão Salimo Cassamo, 45, says she is a different girl since her friend died.

He, too, misses Marta João. "We really had high hopes for that child," he says. "She would

have changed something."

Malaria, which killed 655,000 people worldwide in 2010, is a major killer of African children.

"The saddest thing is that you lose a person not knowing their full capacity—what might have been," says Chandana Mendis, who directs the Global Fund Malaria Project for World Vision. "These children are the buds which will never flower."

Marta's father, Manuel João, 43, lost four children—three to malaria. Aissa died on the back of Manuel's bicycle as he pedaled madly to get her to the hospital in 2007. Another daughter, Rebeca, lived for one year and five months; she died in 2009.

And then he lost Marta. "She was a very loveable person," he says. "In our African families, the girls, although they are small, they are like mothers. They are so caring." Marta was her parents' helpmate. She fetched firewood and water and cared for her younger siblings.