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A Gift of Goats
Creates a Path
Out of Poverty

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AN INTERVIEW WITH
MELINDA GATES

FAMILY ACTIVITIES
WITH A GLOBAL
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SHARE BIG DREAMS *this Christmas*



... with a **Special Gift**
for your sponsored child.

Two thousand years ago, the wise men shared some special gifts with a very special child. Today, **you can share a Special Gift** just for your sponsored child!



Rosemary, age 9, Zambia

HOW IT WORKS



1

Go to **myworldvision.org** to send your Special Gift.*



2

Staff in your child's community work with the family to decide what's needed most.



3

Gifts are purchased locally and delivered by World Vision staff.



4

You get a personal thank-you note and photo from your sponsored child!

Send a Special Gift today at
myworldvision.org/specialgifts

or call 1.800.423.4216.

*Special Gift minimum is \$100. When gift amount exceeds \$200, the portion beyond \$200 will be used to benefit the entire community. Special Gifts are not available as an option for Armenia, Cambodia, Chile, China, Indonesia, Lebanon, Mozambique, Myanmar, Rafah Community in Gaza, and Vietnam.

World Vision®



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World Vision

ON THE COVER

Rosemary, 9, has gone from hunger to dreaming of becoming a chef.
 JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

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EDITORS' NOTE

You might have noticed things look a little different around here. We refreshed *World Vision* magazine with a new look, keeping pieces you love like inspirational essays, stories about former sponsored children, beautiful photography, and rich storytelling from the field. We also added a few new things we think you'll like, including a regular in-depth interview. Let us know what you think—email your comments to us at editor@worldvision.org.
 —The Editors

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JOHN WARREN/WORLD VISION

Rich Stearns holds Sreyva, then 5, at a World Vision night outreach program for street children in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, in 2012. There, World Vision staff care for children living in the margins of society.

Love's Pure Light

By Rich Stearns

ON CHRISTMAS EVE, my church holds a candlelight service, as many churches do. It begins with a single candle glowing in the darkened sanctuary. From this flame, the congregants light their own candles, one bright wick igniting another, until the radiance of hundreds of candles fills the church. The service concludes with us leaving the church, carrying our light out into the dark world.

The symbolism is obvious yet breathtaking.

Jesus is the Light of the World. And he conferred this same title on his disciples, and on us, when he said, "You are the light of the world." In Matthew 5:16, he told us: "... let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

In his book *For All God's Worth*, New Testament scholar N.T. Wright said: "Christmas is God lighting a candle; and you don't light a candle in a room that's already full of sunlight. You light a candle in a room that's so murky that the candle, when lit, reveals just how bad things really are."

When Jesus was born 2,000 years ago, the world desperately needed his light. And it still does today, with 65.3 million people—half of them children—displaced by conflict around the world; 16,000 children dying every day of preventable causes; and 27 million people trafficked in the sex trade.

These miseries recede to the murky corners of our consciousness when we're busy decking the halls. But Jesus came to save the people trapped in those tragedies. And he sends us to love them as he does.

He calls us to comfort the blind mother in war-ravaged South Sudan who cannot see how emaciated her child has become. He asks us to extend compassion to the hardworking father who fled violence in his Iraqi village, carrying his disabled

“

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'"

—JOHN 8:12

teenage daughter in his arms. Jesus asks us to love the Syrian grandmother in a tented settlement in Lebanon, who grieves for lost loved ones while struggling to care for her three grandchildren.

Even a small match lit in total darkness gives off a blinding light. At World Vision, we believe that's what the love of Christ can do in the darkest places. That's why we go to the margins, where human suffering is greatest, and where children grow up in extreme poverty. These are not easy places to serve, but if one act of love in Jesus' name can spark a flame that spreads and glorifies God, it's worth the effort.

Your loving act of sponsoring a child shares Christ's light, too. Sponsorship helps children to become who God created them to be. You've lit these children's candles, and now they sparkle brightly in their communities.

Even better, sponsored children grow up to shine where they live as parents, teachers, doctors (like on page 26), pastors, and leaders. It's my Christmas wish that someday, these adults of tomorrow will light up the whole world. **vv**

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

ONLINE

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

Embark

COME IN AND SEE THE WORLD

BELOW

Read more about how World Vision brought clean water to Ruth's community at wvmag.org/Ruth.



Zambia

Six times a day, Ruth, 11, trekked up and down this hill to fetch water from a dirty pond. A month after this photo was taken, World Vision drilled a borehole near Ruth's home. Now, she can go to school and pursue her dream of becoming a nurse.

JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

● Embark

Bangladesh

A colorful tangle of wires, rickshaws, and people, Dhaka is home to World Vision's largest development project in Bangladesh. Poverty looks different here than in rural areas, as rapid urbanization creates dangerously dense living conditions. Sponsorship in Dhaka anchors work in education and child protection, and partnership with community-based organizations.

JON WARREN/WORLD VISION





● Embark

Ecuador

During a routine visit to Miriam Alvarez's home in Otavalo, midwife Mercedes Muenala, 53, gently examines Miriam, who is 34 weeks pregnant with her second child. One of 50 midwives who serve the area, Mercedes has been a midwife for years, supported by World Vision to provide care for expecting mothers. She also provides guidance to both mothers and fathers to develop in their roles as parents.

CHRIS HUBER/WORLD VISION



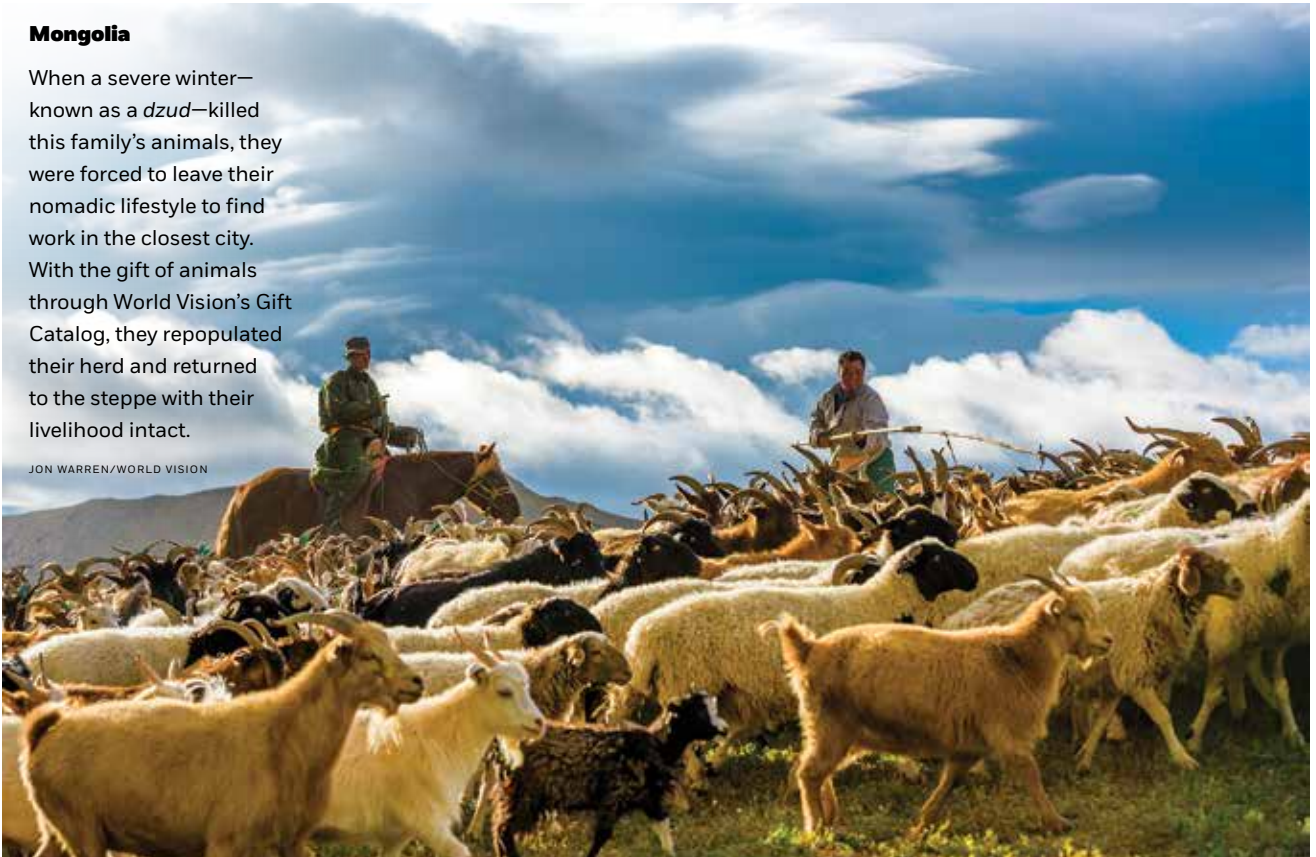


● Embark

Mongolia

When a severe winter—known as a *dzud*—killed this family's animals, they were forced to leave their nomadic lifestyle to find work in the closest city. With the gift of animals through World Vision's Gift Catalog, they repopulated their herd and returned to the steppe with their livelihood intact.

JON WARREN/WORLD VISION



Recipe For a Dream | 14

Despite their hard work, Rosemary's family was stuck in poverty. Then everything changed.

Discover

EXPLORE THE ISSUES FACING PEOPLE IN POVERTY

BELOW

Tiness, Rosemary's stepmother, keeps 3-month-old Loydah warm with a hat donated through World Vision's Knit for Kids program.

JON WARREN/WORLD VISION



• Discover

On the Ground

Ashton Eaton and Brianne Theisen-Eaton

By Elizabeth Hendley



LINDSEY MINERNA/WORLD VISION

YOU MAY KNOW them as the track and field power couple who both medaled in the Rio Olympics—Ashton won the gold in the decathlon, and Brianne took bronze in the heptathlon—but 10-year-old Philemon knows them as his sponsors. Last year, Ashton and Brianne traveled to meet Phil, as they affectionately call him, at his home in Bartabwa, Kenya. Here's what they learned about what sponsorship looks like on the ground.

The gift of opportunity: “You are providing opportunities to another human, and they’ll provide opportunities to another human, and it’s this [domino effect] down the line. There’s probably not much else you can do in your life that will have that significant effect on the world.” —Ashton

The real impact of sponsorship: “Yes, it costs money every month—and the money helps—but it’s more about letting your child know that somebody else cares about them. Someone in the world has taken the time to write to them and let them know, ‘You can do whatever you want to do.’ To me, that’s the biggest piece of child sponsorship.” —Brianne **WV**

READ MORE about Ashton and Brianne’s trip to Kenya at wvmag.org/eatons.



GUY VITAL-HERNE/WORLD VISION

In the News

Haiti

HURRICANE MATTHEW’S rains and 145 mph winds dealt a devastating blow to Haiti in early October. Hundreds died and more than 1.4 million people were left in immediate need of humanitarian relief. World Vision’s initial response included assisting 50,000 families in some of the hardest-hit areas with food, household items, shelter, fresh water, and Child-Friendly Spaces.

A snapshot of World Vision in Haiti:

- » Working in Haiti since: 1959
- » Number of sponsored children in 1959: 27
- » Children with American sponsors today: 26,900
- » Top priorities: education, agriculture, healthcare, and long-term recovery following the 2010 earthquake and Hurricane Matthew

Sponsorship enables World Vision to:

- » Help rebuild after natural disasters.
- » Repair primary schools, educate teachers, increase parent involvement, and provide school supplies.
- » Train thousands of farmers in new agricultural techniques.
- » Equip health institutions with medicine. **WV**

In the Field

Rwanda

A new toll-free **child helpline system** makes it easier for children to call police and report child rights issues. A fundamental part of World Vision’s child protection systems in Rwanda, the helpline links children instantly to resources and emergency assistance. “There is no way children can enjoy life in all its fullness when they still face abuse and violence,” says George Gitau, World Vision’s national director in Rwanda. World Vision conceived the helpline and developed it in partnership with the Rwanda National Police.

Brazil

Paulo Uchôa, who runs the Children of God ministry in Fortaleza, Brazil, won the **2016 Bob Pierce Award**. For 20 years, Paulo has worked in Fortaleza—which has the highest adolescent homicide rate in Brazil—to engage youth in sports, arts, culture, and Christian values. The Bob Pierce Award, named for World Vision’s founder, recognizes those whose work combines humanitarian service with Christian mission. “It’s like a mission that God gave me, and I accepted,” says Paulo. “This is a tiring and dangerous job, but it’s not in vain.”

South Sudan

In Memoriam: On Sept. 6, Silvano Garisano, a World Vision staff member in South Sudan, was killed along with his wife, one of their children, and another family member. Silvano worked on health projects in the embattled country. Join us in thanking God for his life and the lives of others killed, and pray for Silvano’s two surviving children, his extended family, colleagues, and those he faithfully served. **WV**

Melinda Gates on:

Empowering Women and Girls

By Kari Costanza

Melinda Gates attended a Catholic high school whose motto is *serviam*—I will serve. The Ursuline nuns taught students like Melinda that serving even one person makes a difference. “That’s what faith in action means to me,” says Melinda, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. “It’s when we turn toward our neighbors instead of away and use our lives to lift up others. And it’s something everyone can do—it doesn’t matter who you are or what kind of resources you have. It’s something that comes from the heart.” World Vision interviewed Melinda about how that outlook has fueled her work with women through the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and its partnership with World Vision.

In your recent 2016 annual letter you wrote about “time poverty.” Can you explain what this means and how it affects women in the developing world?

IN EVERY COUNTRY on the planet, women spend more time than men on routine household chores like cooking, cleaning, and caring for children. In the U.S., that time gap is about an hour and a half. But it gets bigger in places where there’s no running water or electricity since fetching water and chopping firewood are time-consuming tasks that usually fall to women. In India, for instance, women spend five hours more than men do taking care of their families and their homes, every single day.

This gap in unpaid labor is the gender gap no one is talking about, even though, if you look closely, most of us can see it playing out right in our own homes. Most of us know families where the chores tend to default to the mom just because society assumes it’s her job to make sure the cooking and cleaning and laundry get done. That’s why TV commercials only show men doing laundry, cooking, or running after kids about 2 percent of the time. And this is carrying over into the next generation, too. American girls do about two hours more chores per week than boys do, and they’re less likely to get paid for them. I’ve actually caught myself asking my daughter Phoebe to tidy up the living room while letting my son off the hook.

The good news is that once we start recognizing these hidden norms, we can start changing them. So I want to make sure we shine a light on this issue.



Melinda Gates

• Discover

A few years ago, you and your daughter lived for a few days with Anna and Sanare in their family's hut in rural Tanzania and got to see "time poverty" firsthand. What stood out about that experience for you and your daughter?

WE BOTH NOTICED right away that Anna worked very long days and was busy almost every waking moment with chores like building fires, cooking, cleaning, fetching water, chopping wood, milking the goats, and taking care of her kids. I kept thinking that if she just had running water in her house, it would have saved her hours each day. She was so hardworking and entrepreneurial; I know she would have put that time to good use.

My daughter Jenn and I were also both really moved by our interactions with Anna and Sanare's 13-year-old daughter, Grace. Anna and Sanare told us that they were concerned about the fact that Grace was falling behind her twin brother in school—and unfortunately, it wasn't hard to see why.

Because women and girls are the ones society expects to do the majority of household chores, Grace had responsibilities around the house that her brother didn't. By the time she was done with her chores, it was usually dark outside—and in a house with no electricity, studying in the dark is all but impossible. It was just a really clear example of the way that these expectations about how women and girls spend their time can limit their prospects for the future.

What have women in the developing world told you about how life would change if they had more time?

WHEN WE WERE in Tanzania, Anna was just about to start a small poultry business for extra income. The family talked about it nonstop. She and Sanare were so excited about what that income was going to mean for their kids. I know that if Anna had more free time, she'd be growing that business and investing the proceeds right back into her family. And I know the same is true for a lot of other women who have similar ideas they'd like to pursue but no time to do so.

“

Both World Vision and our foundation believe that every child, everywhere, deserves an equal chance to live a full, healthy, and productive life.”

—MELINDA GATES

Some women would use that time to start businesses or work outside the home, some would use it to take their children or themselves to the doctor, some would just use it to read a book. But it's pretty clear that extra time would help women be healthier and more prosperous and put families on the path out of poverty.

In addition to time, what else have you learned about women and their health that is important to understand?

I MET A NURSE in Tanzania who put it so clearly when she said that the most important part of her job is taking care of women's health because when a mother is sick, the whole household suffers. We were at a vaccine clinic in Dar es Salaam, surrounded by mothers who had been waiting on hard benches for hours and hours to get their kids vaccinated—so I didn't have to look far to understand exactly what she meant. In developing countries, women are often the ones who set the next generation up for success by prioritizing things like vaccines, nutritious food, and education for their kids. They play a crucial role in their households and communities—and when a woman falls sick or dies in childbirth, there's often no one to fill that role.

So to answer your question, it's important for all of us to recognize that maternal and child health are interconnected, and that, together, they form the cornerstone of healthy, thriving communities. Healthier women give birth to healthier babies. Healthier babies grow into healthier children. Healthier children learn better in school and grow up to be more productive members of their community.

When you improve health outcomes for women and children, you improve life for everybody. For all these reasons, investing in maternal and child health is one of the best investments we can make in our future. A healthy mom can do the world a lot of good.

What was the biggest surprise you've learned about health through your work?

WHEN BILL AND I started our foundation 16 years ago, I began making learning trips to the world's poorest places. I knew that by talking to the people who lived there, I was going to learn a lot about the everyday reali-

ties of extreme poverty. What I didn't predict was that women were going to keep bringing up a topic I hadn't expected to discuss: healthy timing and spacing of pregnancies. It's a central part of keeping mothers and their children healthy but one that is often overlooked. In places like Africa and India, for example, when a woman spaces her births by at least three years, her newborn child is twice as likely to survive their first year of life. That's a very different reality than what we face here in the U.S.

Through those conversations in the field and my subsequent research, I learned that there are an estimated 225 million women in developing countries who don't want to get pregnant right now but don't have access to contraceptives. So many women have told me that they want to be able to plan their pregnancies to protect their health and their children's health and to make sure that their families don't grow bigger than they can afford to care for. I'll never forget Sadi, a woman I met in Niger, who pleaded with me, "It wouldn't be fair for me to have another child. I can't even afford to feed the ones I have. Can't you see we're suffering?"

That suffering is absolutely real. And the benefits to a woman and her family when she gains access to contraceptives, or fertility awareness-based approaches also known as natural family planning, are real, too. When women can plan and space their pregnancies, they're more likely to survive childbirth in the first place, and afterward they are healthier, and their children are healthier, better-fed, and better-educated since their parents are more likely to be able to afford to pay school fees. And that's an incredible thing.

Research shows that the healthy timing and spacing of pregnancies is key to keeping mothers and children safe in the developing world, but terms such as "family planning" can be polarizing. What are some of the big misunderstandings about this topic, and how can those misconceptions be corrected?

I HAD A GREAT conversation with a young woman in Kenya who told me we shouldn't even call it "family planning"; we should call it "future planning." And she had a good point. Because family planning is almost too narrow of a term to describe what's at stake here.

As a mom of three, I know that pregnancy and childbirth should be times of great joy—but in the poorest places in the world, it's an incredibly vulnerable time for both mothers and children. Despite great strides to save women's lives, 800 women still die every single day from causes related to pregnancy and childbirth. And children whose mothers die in childbirth are less likely to live to age 5.

But on the other hand, when women are able to wait at least three years between the births of their children, their children are twice as likely to survive their first year and 35 percent more likely to reach their fifth birthday. And as I've already mentioned, the mothers themselves are much more likely to survive childbirth. So when we talk about ensuring women have access to contraceptives, what we're really talking about is giving women the ability to make the best possible decisions for themselves, their families, and their families' futures.

In the summer you met with faith leaders in Kenya about the work being done with women and girls. Why are faith leaders critical partners to bringing about change?

BECAUSE FAITH LEADERS hold a position of moral authority in the communities they serve, people look to them for guidance on issues like home life

and marriage, so these leaders can play a huge role in helping shift cultural norms. What's more, faith leaders are able to get a message out to the people who worship with them through the sermons they preach or the prayer sessions they lead.

When I was in Kenya in June, I met a man named Pastor David, who grew up in Western Kenya and was against contraceptives until he learned about the enormous impact they can have on the health of women and their children. Now, he preaches about the benefits of healthy timing and spacing of pregnancies all the time and quotes passages from Genesis and Timothy to support his case. A few years ago, I met with imams in Senegal who had also started teaching their congregations about contraceptives after one of them lost a wife in childbirth. When people hear these messages from faith leaders that they trust, that really goes a long way.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is committed to ensuring that people survive and thrive. How does your partnership with World Vision help achieve that important goal?

BOTH WORLD VISION and our foundation believe that every child, everywhere, deserves an equal chance to live a full, healthy, and productive life. And to help make that vision of our world a reality, we've supported World Vision's work to strengthen community understanding about healthy timing and spacing of pregnancies by engaging with local religious leaders and faith-based communities to make sure that women have the information they need to make the best decisions for themselves and their families.

For example, we know that the risk of potentially deadly complications from labor and delivery increases when women are under 18, over 34, or when the pregnancy is within six months of a miscarriage or two years of a previous full-term pregnancy. By working together to get that information out to women and their families, we're empowering women with the knowledge they need to keep themselves and their families healthy and thriving. **WV**





RECIPE

— FOR A —

DREAM

For 9-year-old Rosemary, a gift of goats, her family's hard work, and sponsorship is a winning combination.

BY LAURA REINHARDT | PHOTOS BY JON WARREN

Patricia Mudenda sits on a hand-fashioned wooden stool outside her home in Moyo, Zambia, with her 9-year-old granddaughter, Rosemary. The evening sun streams through the trees and the field of sunflowers behind them. Turkeys stroll around, and every so often, one will make what sounds like a heavy sigh and then puff up, showing off its beautiful plumage.

A few feet away, Rosemary's grandfather, Danford, works on a bicycle while his solar-powered radio plays in the background.

For now, Rosemary stirs the family's corn porridge—called *nshima* in Zambia—in a shiny metal pot over an open fire. As it thickens, Patricia takes over with her work-strengthened arms.

At the age of 44, Patricia is relatively unaccustomed to metal pots. She used to have to make cooking pots from mud and bake them to harden. Her son, Justine—Rosemary's father—remembers these pots being very ugly.

But their ugliness wasn't the worst thing. When Patricia made *nshima* for her family in those clay pots, the force she used to stir the porridge as it thickened would shatter the vessels, sending the *nshima* pouring to the ground. If it was somewhat solid, she would salvage what she could from the dirt—they couldn't waste a morsel.

Rosemary doesn't have to worry about broken clay pots and wasted food. Now, her family can afford the metal pots—in fact, they have a special pot perfect for her petite size. *Nshima* is one of Rosemary's favorite foods and a dish that she especially enjoys cooking for her family.

Making *nshima* is good practice for Rosemary because she harbors an unusual dream for a child from rural Zambia: She wants to be a chef.

"I love it because of the tea. I want to be drinking tea," she says, explaining the allure of her dream career in the kitchen. She imagines that's what chefs do—drink tea, wash dishes, and serve people. "The other thing is because I love cooking for other people."

Patricia and Danford, 54, delight in nurturing Rosemary's dream, but they realize its irony. They used to struggle to feed their family, and now their granddaughter wants to spend her day surrounded by food, cooking meals for others.

Not too long ago, anything about this evening's scene would've been beyond their imagination.

POVERTY OF THE MIND

Poverty takes more than a physical toll. "When you become poor, even your thoughts become poor. You fail to differentiate between where you are and where you need to be," says Patricia.

The family belongs to the Tonga tribe, which highly values animals. Animals provide families with currency and power. Without them, a person might go to community meetings and try to participate, but they have no say in managing community affairs.

Both Patricia and Danford came from poor families in Moyo, a rural community in southern Zambia. After they wed in 1987, their poverty continued. Patricia remembers when neighbors would see her family coming and say, "Look at that thing." They were hardly considered humans.

"We hoped through hard work to transform our children's lives, but things never worked out as we thought," says Patricia.

It wasn't for lack of trying. Danford picked up any day labor he could find. He used a worn blacksmith forge to create hoes and axes. He worked for a small salary at a hammer mill, where the community grinds grain. He tried shoe repair. He even invested in a broken-down sewing machine, which he fixed, then used to repair people's clothing.

Sewing didn't start out as a moneymaking venture. He only wanted to preserve the dignity of his own children and try to keep them properly clothed. Their clothes were so worn.

HUNGER DRIVES A FAMILY INTO 'SLAVERY'

Sometimes during drought, Danford crossed distant mountains if he heard about an area with food. He'd take any day job for a tiny bit of maize to feed his children.



Above: These days, thanks to the family's prosperity, even the adults have time for an occasional game.

Right: "Goats actually change everything," says Rosemary's grandmother, Patricia. "Goats give health to a family. Goats give education to a family. Goats bring food to a family."



Left: After school, Rosemary finds ways to help her stepmother or grandmother with chores. Other days she can be found working in the sugarcane field with her grandfather, Danford.

Below: One of her school's top students, Rosemary eagerly raises her hand in class. She gets encouragement from Princess Kasamba Moyo, World Vision's community development worker in the area and daughter of Moyo's chief.



**“WHEN I RECEIVED
THE GOATS,
I TOLD MYSELF,
‘HERE COMES
THE FREEDOM.’”**

— DAN FORD —



“THIS IS THE END OF THE SUFFERING THAT MY FAMILY HAS BEEN GOING THROUGH.” — DANFORD —

When Patricia wasn't walking a couple of hours to gather water, she helped out with the family income. She went into the bush to dig wild roots for use in a local fermented drink. The roots were about six to eight inches in diameter, and sometimes she had to dig as deep as her waist in order to get them out. For three roots, she would only get a plate of corn. “It was so hard,” she says.

“We were being forced to borrow,” says Danford, and that was just to have any food. The debt kept them enslaved in poverty, he says.

The family farmed a small plot of maize and had about six-tenths of an acre to grow sugarcane to sell. The maize they produced barely filled a small oxcart half-way to the top.

Rosemary's father, Justine, saw poverty derail his future. As his hunger grew, he avoided school. “It was hard to even think of going to school when your stomach is empty,” he says. “When you are seated, you feel your stomach aching and roaring. It was very, very hard because in such a situation, you can't go to class and start learning.”

The hunger, plus his parents' inability to consistently pay his school fees, took their toll. Justine dropped out of school after sixth grade. Danford himself had dropped out of school in seventh grade because his parents saw little value in education. Danford and Patricia knew education was important, but their poverty didn't allow them to provide it to their children.

HERE COMES THE FREEDOM'

The family seemed destined to continue along the path of generational poverty, but in 2011, World Vision came to Moyo.

The community helped World Vision identify families who faced the greatest need, and through World Vision's Gift Catalog, staff provided those families with the gift of five goats.

Before families in Moyo received goats, World Vision trained them on how to care for the animals, like teaching how to build goat pens off the ground so the animals' waste fell below, keeping the goats clean and healthy.

Danford and Patricia's family were chosen to receive goats. Danford says, “When I received the goats, I told myself, ‘Here comes the freedom.’” He knew he wouldn't have to borrow and place himself in anyone's debt anymore: “This is the end of the suffering that my family has been going through.”

Patricia breaks it down to the basics. “Goats actually change everything,” she says. “Goats give health to a family. Goats give education to a family. Goats bring food to a family.”

The changes started quickly for Patricia and Danford's family.

Right away, Rosemary, who was only a little girl when the goats arrived, benefited from drinking goat's milk, which provided nutritional support so she could be healthy, not hungry.

“The milk does not just [improve] the nutritional status of these children, but actually it brings joy to the children, especially during the milking process,” Danford says. “[There's] lots of laughing and engagement that goes on as they're doing the milking.”

Rosemary loves to mix goat's milk with maize to make porridge—and it's helping her grow up healthy and strong so she can go to school. As she grows, the number of

goats will also grow, so there will be plenty to support her educational needs.

“Without the goats, it was going to be very difficult for the family to help Rosemary,” says Princess Kasamba Moyo, one of World Vision's community development workers in the area.

SPONSORSHIP AT WORK

Soon after the first goat delivery, World Vision began sponsorship in Moyo in 2012. Rosemary's aunt, Loveness, was sponsored that year, and Rosemary was sponsored in 2014.

World Vision sponsorship benefits children by helping families lift the whole community out of poverty. “World Vision has brought a lot of change in our community,” says Danford.

World Vision staff partnered with community leaders to determine how to best meet people's needs. Combined with the effects the goats had on individual families, sponsorship has greatly improved life in Moyo.

“I used to spend much of the day getting water,” says Patricia. She even remembers times when she carried water on her head, a baby on her back, and a baby in her womb. Now, mechanized boreholes powered by solar panels pump water to multiple taps in the village—Patricia and Danford have one just a few steps from their front door. Rosemary won't ever have to walk those long distances to collect water, and she's growing up healthier because she has clean water readily available.

To improve access to healthcare, a nearby clinic is being converted to a hospital so that people won't have to travel for hours by bus to the nearest one. World

Vision also partnered with the Zambian government to distribute mosquito bed nets to families in Moyo. And to further reduce the risk of malaria, there are education efforts around cleaning up garbage and covering standing water to eliminate mosquitoes.

In 2014, Danford received hygiene and sanitation training. Now he embraces his responsibility as a hygiene promoter, and his household acts as a model for the community. Patricia says her family is much healthier since he brought his healthy message home.

He visits neighbors' houses and encourages them to dig rubbish pits and keep the area around their homes clean. He teaches them the importance of a dish rack off the ground and a tippy tap (a foot-controlled bottle of water used for handwashing), and he gives instructions on how to build a pit latrine to prevent the spread of disease.

A FAMILY IN TRANSITION

As Danford and Patricia's goats began multiplying, opportunities opened to them. They sold some goats to buy better seeds and fertilizer for their maize fields. They also diversified their crops to include cotton.

Goat sales brought in money to hire workers in their sugarcane fields. They've expanded their fields to nearly 5 acres, and they hope to increase to almost 7.5 acres this coming year.

Sugarcane sales allowed them to replace their old mud hut with a new home topped with a tin roof and walled with more durable cement. Those sales have also yielded enough money to

expand their livestock to include chickens, ducks, turkeys, and even cows.

And the oxcart that they used to struggle to fill halfway—last year they filled it six times with the maize they grew. They still have dried maize left over from that crop, and they have a full field they've yet to harvest this year.

Last December, Danford planted sunflowers, not only for their beauty but also for sunflower seed oil. They'll use some of the oil themselves, but they'll sell most of it. For a family who couldn't afford salt, cooking with oil is a luxury beyond anything they could've dreamed.

World Vision also offered training in bicycle repair—another opportunity that Danford snatched up. He's added that as a moneymaking opportunity, but mostly as another way to support his community.

The goats act as a bank for the family. It's money in reserve when they need it—like last year, when Danford tripped over a branch and broke his leg. He needed extensive treatment, but thanks to the goats, they had "savings." Patricia sold a goat to get money for hospital fees.

She knows that without the goats, she never could've afforded that treatment, and he might not be walking at all. They would have plunged deeper into poverty. Instead, it's just an inconvenience.

A DIFFERENT LIFE FOR ROSEMARY

Rosemary now sits in her second-grade classroom, her school uniform clean and tidy. Her hand flies up eagerly to answer the teacher's questions. She's ready with a smile for her classmates and friends.

World Vision helps parents understand the importance of education. Once

they're not in survival mode, they're more open—and better able—to send their children to school.

Rosemary doesn't hear her stomach grumbling like her father did. She's one of the top students in her class and especially enjoys science and math. And after classes, she still has energy left over for a game of netball and time on the teeter-totter with Tassy, one of her closest friends.

When she gets home from school, Rosemary usually helps her stepmother, Tiness, or Patricia without having to be asked. Sometimes she goes to the sugarcane field to work alongside Danford.

Rosemary loves wandering through the flower fields and popping a few sunflower seeds in her mouth, but the goats remain one of the most special parts of her life. She herds them just after the morning dew has dried, and she's most often the one who does the milking.

GENEROSITY BORN FROM WANT

Though the family no longer struggles to eat, clothe themselves, or pursue education, they don't forget about the poverty of mind.

One day after church, the family was resting in their yard in the shade beneath the trees when another family stopped by to visit. It was more than a social call.

Drought is sweeping across southern Africa, hitting southern Zambia particularly hard—which spelled disaster for the visitors' crops. This was a family that used to avoid and sometimes mock Patricia and Danford for their poverty. Now they were the ones who were hungry.

Because Patricia and Danford had diversified and no longer depended solely

“WITHOUT THE GOATS, IT WAS GOING TO BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR THE FAMILY TO HELP ROSEMARY.”

— PRINCESS KASAMBA MOYO —



on their own maize fields to feed their family, they have plenty of food even in drought conditions. So Patricia told her children and grandchildren to get food for the visitors.

“I used to be one of those who wished and longed to have what I have [now],” she says. “God wanted to teach me something, which now has enabled me to feel and understand how they would feel if I treated them the same way they treated me. I would not allow myself to make them feel the pain that I felt in the past because of the way they treated me.”

She uses this opportunity to teach her children and grandchildren the value of sharing. They demonstrated this also by participating in World Vision’s Pass It On program, which empowers families who received goats through the Gift Catalog to pass on the gift of goats to another family in need. (Go to wvmag.org/passiton to read more.)

“Our children and grandchildren are now able to dream more and more

because there is a lot of hope in what World Vision has done for us,” says Danford. “My faith has grown so much that I am always made to continue to pray and worship God because he has done it for us through World Vision.”

A WITNESS TO THE WORLD

Rosemary doesn’t know the hunger and hardship that her family did. She knows only the prosperity. She knows about plenty. She knows about learning. She knows about sharing. And she knows she’s free to follow her dream of being a chef.

As she sits stirring the pot over a fire, her young aunts, who are close to her age, sit on the ground playing a game called *nsolo* in Tonga, their local language. They move stones around 24 hand-dug holes.

Infectious giggles regularly punctuate the air at Patricia and Danford’s home these days, which is now a gathering place for many of the village’s children.

Patricia’s voice rises in song as she stirs the *nshima*, and Rosemary’s softer

voice joins in:

*Tanta malundu
a Leza.
Nyika ibone.*

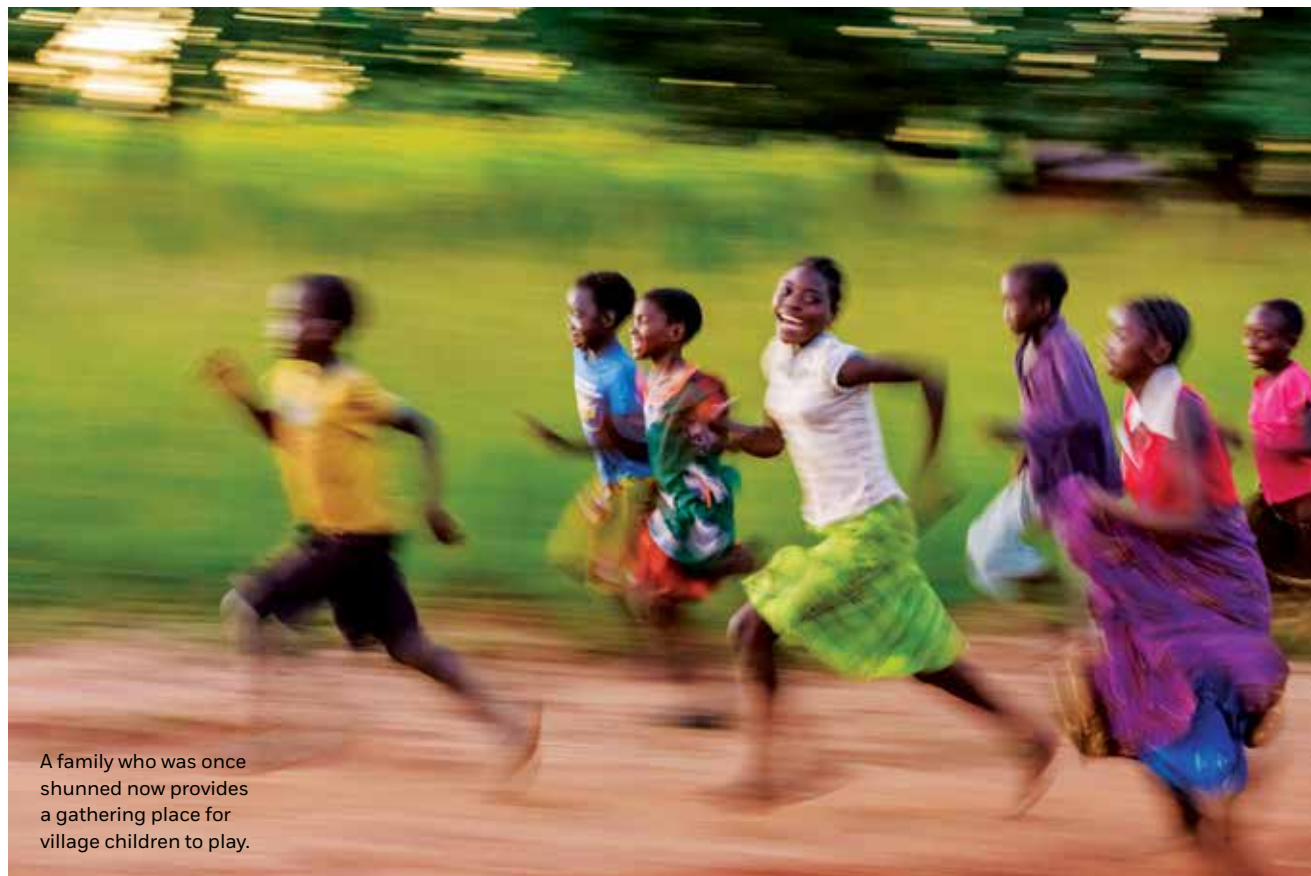
It’s an African hymn, which translates to: *Climb the stairs so the world can know that you are a child of God. Climb the stairs carrying your cross to show the world that you are a child of God.*

Or in other words: Walk in the steps of the Lord to stand as a witness to the whole world.

This family’s present circumstances of plenty and generosity—replacing their history of need—stands as a witness. And it all started with the gift of five goats. **WV**



HELP CHILDREN LIKE ROSEMARY DREAM BIG. Give the gift of animals through World Vision’s Gift Catalog between pages 18 and 19.



A family who was once shunned now provides a gathering place for village children to play.

'Aslan Is On the Move' | 24

A pastor shares why Christians must come together to help Syrian refugees.

Inspire

MOTIVATING YOU TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

BELOW

Malal and her 2-year-old daughter, Khoulood, are Syrian refugees who live in an informal tented settlement in Lebanon.

JON WARREN/WORLD VISION



No Goats, No Glory

By Heather Klinger

A pastor's challenge inspires a Sunday school teacher and her students to give the gift of goats.

Sharon Baker—the “crazy goat lady”—and her children’s Sunday school class have raised money to donate hundreds of life-changing goats.

THREE YEARS AGO, Pastor Larry Heenan of Spring Valley Baptist Church in Raytown, Missouri, challenged every Sunday school class in his church to raise \$75 for goats from World Vision’s Gift Catalog.

For Sharon Baker and her class of 12 third, fourth, and fifth graders, this seemingly simple request felt daunting. They were doubtful they could raise the money for even one goat.

But now with goat No. 238 in the works, Sharon’s husband, Tom, has lovingly dubbed her the “crazy goat lady”—a nickname she has embraced with open arms.

“Goats are one of the cutest animals ever. They’re so precious, and they provide so much for each family,” Sharon says. “We realize there’s a lot of hurt out there. We can’t help everyone, but we certainly can help someone.”

Fundraising really took off once her class started letting donors name each goat—starting with goat No. 47, named “The Old Goat—Russell” by Jaunita Box in memory of her husband.

All of the goats now receive names, each one unique to the situation or the reason for buying the goat. And the children were insistent on going back and naming all of the previous goats too.

After goat No. 50, Sharon says they were planning to quit, but the children wanted to keep going. And an answer to her prayer came quite obviously the next Sunday morning, with Pastor Danny Dyer pointing directly toward her during his sermon and telling her emphatically to never quit doing this good work.

“We do not have a goal any longer,” Sharon says. “We are just going to keep going”



GERIK PARMELE/GENESIS PHOTOS

“

We can't help everyone, but we certainly can help someone. — SHARON BAKER

With help from her fellow teachers, Ed and Peggy Conway and Joe and Kim Biondo, the children in their class have been donating their allowances, doing extra chores, selling donated items, saving aluminum cans, collecting UPC codes, and using their imaginations to create crafts to sell—all to add another goat to their classroom's "goat meter," which keeps track of their progress.

"I am a Christ-centered, biblically anchored world-changer.' I have the children say that every Sunday," Sharon says. "Their eyes light up when you tell them they are a world-changer. Saying that really broadens your view of who you are. It gives me the confidence to be the 'crazy goat lady.'"

Both the church and the community, particularly those in Sharon's line dance classes, have rallied behind them every step of the way. Money periodically arrives in her mailbox with a note to buy another goat, and for Sharon's birthday and Christmas gifts, her friends give a goat in her name. People also donate money in honor of someone or in their memory.

"I could not possibly do this alone," Sharon says. "As we've asked others to come in and be a part of what we're doing, they become part of the team."

Both their team and impact continue to grow, but Sharon gives all the glory back to God.

"Knowledge and prayer bring the passion—the knowledge that there are people out there who are hurting that you can help, and prayer to ask God's guidance every step of the way," Sharon says. "There are doors we never dreamed we could open."

"We never dreamed that we could talk to someone about a goat, and they would hand us \$75. That is purely God working in the hearts of other people. Once you see that happen, your passion becomes like a bonfire. It just grows. You realize that you can do something significant with God's help." **vv**

GIVE THE GIFT OF GOATS

through World Vision's Gift Catalog, found between pages 18 and 19.



JIM MENDENHALL/GENESIS PHOTOS

A Personal Act of Love

By Sarah Krushinski | Wexford, Pennsylvania

CHARITABLE GIVING has always been a priority for my family. We truly believe sharing our blessings in Christ's name is essential to our calling as Christians. It becomes especially meaningful when you know that you are blessing a particular child, family, and community. It is a personal act of love, which is why I think sponsoring a child teaches us to be Christ-like. He touched the lives and faith of individuals.

Even though we are continents apart from our sponsored child, Virginia, in Kenya, we write to each other regularly. She tells us of her life in Africa; her favorite foods; her love of school, soccer, and drawing. She relates how she helps her mother cook and do chores. Virginia is the same age as our son, so we are able to share similar milestones with her, and there is a kinship between the children.

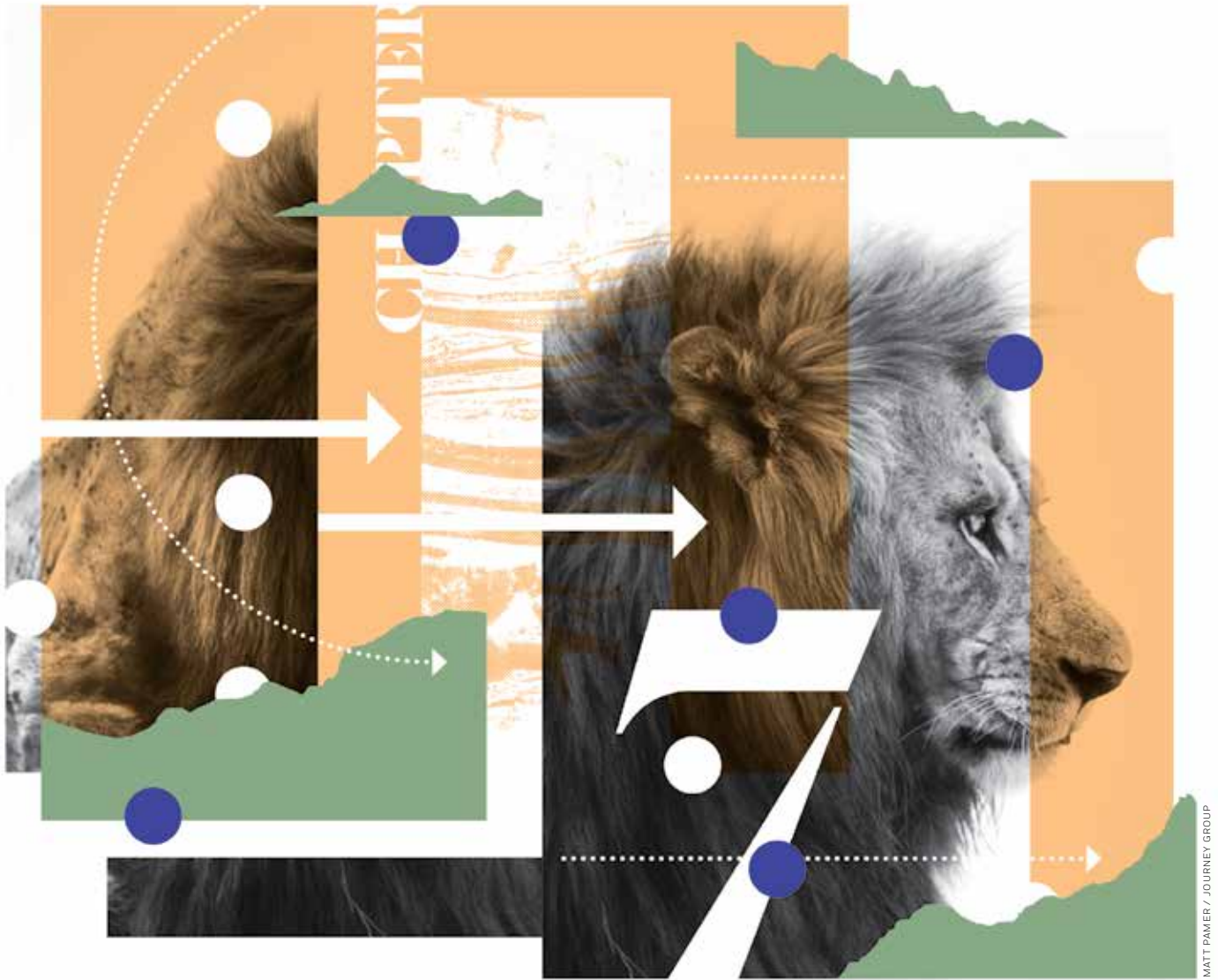
We especially enjoy emailing her, because we know she will receive the translated letter much more quickly than if we sent one through the mail—and we always attach pictures! We love that she can experience God's love and know that there is a family far away who loves and supports her in the name of Jesus Christ.

Last year, I went through hard times with my small business and had to consider where I might be able to make cuts to my budget. Only for a moment did I consider cutting off my child sponsorship. Only for a moment. Instead, I resolved that we would continue sponsoring Virginia, no matter what my financial straits may be, for she is in so much more need—and just as precious in God's sight as my family and I are. **vv**



JIM MENDENHALL/GENESIS PHOTOS

TELL US why you love being a child sponsor at wvmag.org/mystory.



‘Aslan Is On the Move’

By Greg Holder

In an essay adapted from his speech at the Q Conference in April 2016, Pastor Greg Holder encourages the church—collectively and individually—to respond to the Syrian refugee crisis.

IT'S NOT UNTIL the seventh chapter of the first book of *The Chronicles of Narnia* that you even learn the principal character's name. He's the Christ figure; he's the king. But it's only in the seventh chapter you read these words: "They say that Aslan is on the move." And that changes everything in the story.

God is up to something in the Middle East, in a land that is weary with people who are losing hope. Aslan is on the move, and we get a chance to decide how we will join the Syrian refugee response. But if it's going to be a movement of God, it will be you and I, as individuals and churches, figuring out, learning, and growing in awareness.

Some of us will take the first step and move into a place of engagement and learning. Then some of us will actually take the next step to investment—we will invest our time, our money, and our ministry to responding to the needs of refugees. But it will not be a top-down mandate. It has to be the people of God moving into what he is doing.

Until then, we have to create a safe space for difficult conversations around refugees and our role as Christians in this situation, because many people are on a continuum. As I have those conversations, I've found they're getting clouded. It's overwhelming—the faces of the people who are there in Lebanon or Jordan, sitting in a plastic tent five minutes from the Syrian border. You also see it on the faces of those showing up to help—it's too big, it's confusing. Fear can enter into this. Sometimes anger. It's the latest headline. What is it we're supposed to do?

I'll tell you what I've done as a pastor. I preempt these arguments by saying we're going to have them. As I've tried to have conversations with my congregation about this, I've noticed we tend to lump people into categories. We make broad generalizations and assumptions. That's not right.

We have to vow that we will not allow that language to take place and instead say, "We might not arrive at the same place on this, we're not going to agree on everything, but we can agree that we will have a common language and we will not destroy community over this."

In the work that our church is doing in Ferguson, Missouri, there is one thought we keep in mind, no matter what we do: distance demonizes. I first heard that from David Anderson, a pastor friend in Baltimore. From a distance, someone might just look like a problem; they look like someone I don't want to know. But up close, they have a story, they're made in the image of God, and they have a name.

When you begin to move from awareness to engagement, it's people's stories that bridge that distance. So when I'm sitting in a tent in Lebanon

“

This is our chance to show a watching world how the church can work together.”

hearing a refugee family weeping and wondering if Dad is even alive in Syria, now it's not theory. When I'm sitting at a school in a slum in Beirut, and all the kids are drawing pictures of hand grenades and bombs, it's not theory.

I believe people like World Vision can help us bridge the gaps and can help us tell those stories. But if this is going to be a movement that makes a difference over the years, we can't just talk about awareness or engagement. For us to feed, clothe, and provide, it will cost money.

Is this going to make a difference? I'm not naive enough to think that our involvement with Syrian refugees now and in the coming years will make everything in that region of the world better. But if you're telling me that providing a cup of clean water, warm food, a place to sleep, and a school for children won't make a difference—of course it does. We don't know how much. I just know we've been called to this as the church.

I'll remind you of a story you know. On the worst night of his life, after he had a meal with his closest friends, Jesus is on his way to Gethsemane to pour his heart out to his Father, and he prays another prayer. You'll find it in John 17. He prays for himself, he prays for his disciples, and then he prays for us. He doesn't pray that we would be the coolest kids on the block. He doesn't even pray that we would have airtight theological arguments or witty comebacks to the people who disagree with us.

You know what he prays? He says, "Father, may they be one, as you and I are one." So somehow, the way you and I love, worship, work, and dream together,

the way we face this crisis—this could reflect the oneness and love between Father and Son, and the world could take notice. This is our chance to show a watching world how the church can work together. It's a chance to help people in a land that is weary. It's a chance to offer hope where there isn't much.

We're not going to all agree on what we should do, when we should do it, and how much we should do. This will be a movement of God that you and I can't predict. And if we do this together and the world takes notice, then this prayer of Jesus' is answered. The overlooked and forgotten are championed. The kingdom of God is at hand.

You're not crazy for caring. You're not alone, because we will do this together. And we're not alone, because there is One who goes before us. There is One who is already up to something, and he is not intimidated or overwhelmed. They say that Aslan is on the move, and I think that changes everything. **ww**



Greg Holder is lead pastor of The Crossing in Chesterfield, Missouri, and author of the upcoming book *The Genius of One*. In 2015, he traveled to Lebanon to see World Vision's response to the Syrian refugee crisis (above), where he and pastor Steve Madsen (right) met World Vision partner Sheikh Mohammad, who promotes peace among local religious groups. Learn more about Greg at gregholder.com.



EUGENE LEE/WORLD VISION

A Heart for Healing

By Matthew Paul Turner

Now a physician, a former sponsored child in the Dominican Republic developed his interest in medicine through World Vision health programs.

MANY YEARS AGO, an American family made a decision to sponsor a child named Jose Nicolas Ramirez.

At the time, all that family knew about Jose—who goes by his nickname, Jacobo—was what World Vision had printed on his sponsorship folder: a picture, a name and age, and the country in which he lived, the Dominican Republic.

Choosing to sponsor may not have changed that American family's life all that much—certainly not the way it changed Jacobo's. For him, it was the beginning of a life of helping and influencing others.

Sensing a Calling

Though at the time he was much too young to fully grasp the impact of

becoming a sponsored child, Jacobo does remember feeling happy. He became fully engaged in all that World Vision offered—from anti-bullying campaigns to education workshops to community wide holiday celebrations—and his journey began to change. His future could now include bigger and more exciting opportunities.

As a teenager, Jacobo started volunteering as a World Vision health education promoter in his hometown, Batey Altagracia. He credits a World Vision-led workshop for teaching him to wait to have a family so he could pursue education instead of working to provide for a family. Over time, while advocating healthy life choices to his peers, Jacobo discovered an interest in healthcare,

and helping people.

That interest became determination when he volunteered at a World Vision-supported health program for orphans affected by HIV. There, he says, "I saw Dominican kids very sick, and some of them died. They are in my community, and we needed a doctor. So I said, 'I need to be a doctor—that way I can help my people.'"

Pursuing His Dream

Jacobo is now 29 and a primary care doctor. Though offered residency assignments at the major hospitals in Santo Domingo, he turned them down to help people who couldn't afford to make the long trip to the capital's hospitals for treatment; Batey Altagracia has

no clinic or nearby medical center.

Three times a week for two hours, after finishing a full day's work at a government hospital, Jacobo arrives back in the neighborhood where he grew up. Neighbors greet him: "Dr. Jacobo!" Though exhausted, he smiles and chats with them.

Rather than going home to sleep, Jacobo walks a quarter mile toward a small green building. He unlocks its doors and windows. The building is stocked with donated medical supplies to treat asthma, pneumonia, skin fungus, and parasites.

"I wanted to be a superstar baseball player, but now I will be a superstar doctor in my community," Jacobo says, as neighbors form a line at the door. He examines each person, listens to every story, and offers the people of his town hope and healing—all at no cost.

In addition to providing free medical exams, Jacobo is also a community leader: an advocate for the people of his town and a voice who speaks up on behalf of the needs and demands of those in Batey Altagracia. He is currently campaigning for the local government to pave the gravel road that runs through his neighborhood.

This too was inspired by his participation as a teenager in World Vision programs to eradicate child labor and promote literacy, where he taught children how to read and write. "With World Vision, I learned how to mobilize people and what our rights as citizens are," Jacobo says. "The volunteer work opened my eyes to the reality in my community. This has been useful for everything we have achieved here."

The family who years ago sponsored Jose Nicolas Ramirez couldn't have known that the child in the photo would become "Dr. Jacobo." But their sponsorship was the center of Jacobo's domino effect in Batey Altagracia—one that is changing lives for the better. **WV**

Matthew Paul Turner is a Christian blogger and author. In April he traveled with World Vision to the Dominican Republic, where he met "Dr. Jacobo." Read more from Matthew at matthewpaulturner.com.

CHANGE THE LIFE OF A CHILD by sponsoring today. Complete and mail the form between pages 24 and 25, or visit wvmag.org/sponsor.



Thoughts on Humility

Timeless wisdom and modern inspiration in 140 characters or less.

“Do you wish to rise? Begin by descending. You plan a tower that will pierce the clouds? Lay first the foundation of humility.”

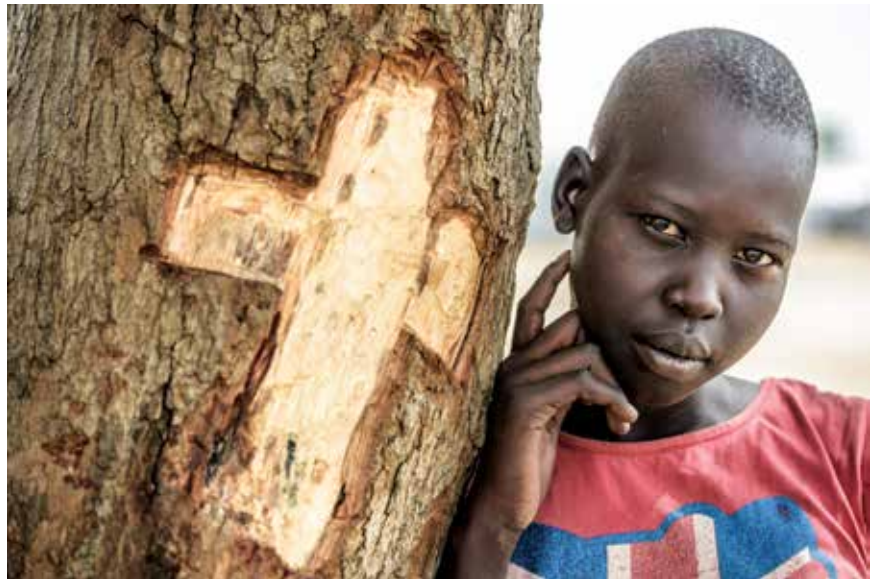
— St. Augustine

“We’ve been invited into a story that begins with humility and ends with glory; never the other way around.”

— Jen Hatmaker,
7: An Experimental Mutiny Against Excess

Peace on Earth?

Our world is full of hurting families and nations torn apart by war and violence, and it can be difficult to know how to help those in need. Through prayer, we can “seek peace and pursue it” (Psalm 34:14). Here’s how we’re praying for conflict zones around the world this season.



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

Nyamal Bush Rambank, 13, leans against a tree in a camp for internally displaced people in South Sudan. The cross was carved in the trunk for an Easter service held under the tree in 2015.

MEXICO

Home to dozens of criminal organizations, Mexico is plagued by drug-related violence. An estimated 85,000 people died as a result of organized criminal violence from 2006 to 2014.

Ask God to keep young people safe from involvement with gangs and drug cartels and to provide them with meaningful employment.

SYRIA

Now in its fifth year, Syria’s civil war has torn apart the country and sent roughly 12 million people—the equivalent of the populations of New York and Los Angeles—fleeing for safety. Its effects have spread to further destabilize the Middle East.

Pray that opposing groups will lay down their arms, and pray for refugees and displaced people to find safety and renewed hope for the future.

AFGHANISTAN

Second only to Syria in its number of refugees, Afghanistan remains mired in conflict between three main armed factions. Heavy civilian casualties have prompted 2.6 million Afghans to flee their homes. Harsh conditions have left 1 million children under 5 with acute malnutrition.

Pray for the protection of children and families who have been affected by conflict, and that food aid would reach children who are suffering from life-threatening hunger.

SOUTH SUDAN

South Sudan has been at war for three years—more than half of the young country’s five-year existence. Political violence spiraled into civil war, killing tens of thousands of people and displacing more than 2.4 million. A fragile peace agreement signed in August 2015 has done little to stop the fighting.

Ask God to give both sides the political will to end violence and for families to be reunited.

BURUNDI

After a decade of relative peace following a 12-year civil war, political violence again erupted in 2015. Fearing escalating tensions, more than 250,000 people have fled to neighboring countries.

Ask God to change hearts on both sides of this political row to prevent another civil war.

IRAQ

Two years of fighting displaced 3.3 million people within the country; about half have settled in camps, host communities, or churches in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI). About 10 million Iraqis need some kind of humanitarian assistance.

Praise God for the church in KRI and leaders like Father Daniel (next page). Ask God to give church leaders and aid groups energy to serve the growing number of displaced people. **WV**



People who fled Mosul receive communion and give offerings at Father Daniel's church. Even though they're homeless, they find something to offer.

KARI COSTANZA/WORLD VISION

In a Cold Cave: Christmas in Iraq

By Father Daniel Alkhory Temathius

Father Daniel Alkhory Temathius, 26, serves with the Ancient Assyrian Church of the East in Erbil, Iraq. Father Daniel studied in Baghdad through 10th grade, when his family fled persecution. They escaped to Ankawa, the Christian section of Erbil in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Daniel studied biology, planning to become a doctor, but in explaining his faith to his Muslim classmates, he discovered a call to the priesthood.

When Mosul fell in August 2014, thousands of Iraqis fled to Erbil, including more than 1,600 Christians who arrived overnight at Father Daniel's church in Ankawa. Today, 700 internally displaced Iraqi Christians live in trailers on what used to be the church's grassy lawn. Father Daniel is both priest and provider for the displaced families. He partners with World Vision to see that they have food, water, bathrooms, laundry facilities, and jobs. Based on his work, he shared some reflections.

EVERY TIME I LOOK into the eyes of an Iraqi child from Mosul—a child displaced by war—I see the baby Jesus. These children and their families face the same challenges as Mary and Joseph did so long ago. The Christmas story of yesterday is the story of the displaced Christians of Iraq today.

Jesus was born in a time when Jerusalem was under Roman occupation. It wasn't a peaceful time. For the displaced Iraqi Christians, the situation is the same—they are living in nonstop wars.

From the time of his birth, Jesus was a refugee. In the Christmas story the Christ child is displaced twice, the first time from his Father's heavenly house and then again from his home in Nazareth. Jesus lived in the middle of danger, being rejected by an innkeeper and running for his life in a place of strangers.

Like Jesus, the children of Iraq have no decent place to live. It's so hard when a child has been living in his own house, in his own room, with paintings on the wall, his own toys, with a good bed, and suddenly his life is changed upside down. Now instead of having his own room, he has no place to lay his head—just like Jesus.

A Cold Cave

Jesus was born among the animals in a cold cave.

He was warmed by the breath of animals and the love of his parents. The displaced children of Iraq are exposed to the heat of the sun during the summer, and the chill and heavy rain during winter. They live with their families in tents or caravans without electricity. But they are comforted by their parents by showing them love and making them feel that they are in a safe place, just like Mary and Joseph did.

These are holy families.

Today, a new generation of Christians is born to us. They live among the fights and conflicts but still have the will to live happy lives with pure faith, rejecting evil and being creative despite the difficult conditions.



The children who live in the camp around Father Daniel's church call him "Papa."

KARI COSTANZA/WORLD VISION

They take their pain to the Great Healer who changes their pain into a cross with flowers. This cross becomes their way to go back to their beloved homelands, just like the cross became the way of Jesus to go back to his Father's glory, becoming victorious over death.

Peace is very hard currency nowadays because of conflict and division. Humans are running to destroy the creation of God day after day, and the result is millions of victims of displacement around the world. But King Jesus is coming to prevail with his light of peace over the shadow of wars.

I consider the Christmas story one of the stories that gives strength and hope for the displaced people, because while it consists of so many difficulties, there was a solution for each problem. This story is full of deep meanings, and it talks directly to all the people, rich and poor, happy and sad, with a powerful message of hope and unity.

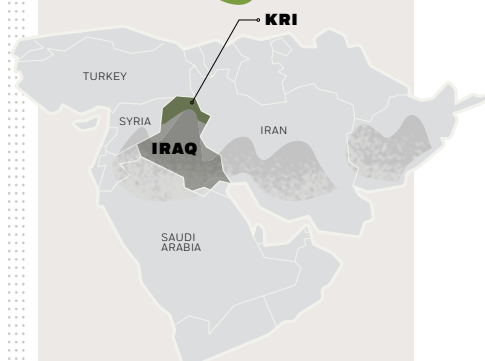
True Christmas

Christmas is not about the tree, the decorations, buying new clothes, special dinners, and gifts. It is about two things.

For people, the story serves to sow hope in the hearts of those who've lost hope. For churches, it is intended to help them unite and look after the baby Jesus and to see him on the face of their people who are suffering.

Through this, all the churches, whether they be in Mosul or Minneapolis, can live together in one cave, forgetting their differences and gathering around the true source of strength and unity—Jesus, the child of Christmas. [wv](#)

WORLD VISION IN IRAQ



POPULATION
36 MILLION

PEOPLE IN NEED
10 MILLION

NUMBER OF DISPLACED IRAQIS
3.3 MILLION

SYRIAN REFUGEES IN KRI
250,000

AREAS OF NEED
Clean water, sanitation, food, shelter, essential items to help face winter, healthcare, education, and emotional support

HOW TO HELP
Help meet the needs of vulnerable children and families by completing and mailing the form between pages 24 and 25.

ONLINE

Find additional recipes to go with *nshima* at wvmag.org/nshima.

Delight

FINDING MEANING IN EVERYDAY MOMENTS

Did you cook *nshima* or make a soccer ball (next page)? Share your photos and email us at editor@worldvision.org.



IN THE KITCHEN ZAMBIA

By Kristy J. O'Hara

Rosemary, 9, loves to cook and dreams of becoming a chef (read more about her starting on page 14). One of the dishes she often makes for her family in Zambia is *nshima*, a cornmeal porridge with Play Doh-like consistency. *Nshima* is eaten with your hands and often dipped in relishes of meat, beans, and vegetables. Whether you make all three relishes (recipes at wvmag.org/nshima) to accompany the *nshima* or enjoy it on its own, bring a taste of traditional Zambian cooking into your kitchen with this recipe.

DISH: *Nshima*

PREP TIME: 30 min.

INGREDIENTS: Cornmeal, water

INSTRUCTIONS: Fill a large saucepan two-thirds full of water and bring to a boil. In a mixing bowl, mix 2 cups cold water and 1 cup cornmeal. Add mixture to boiling water and reduce heat to medium. Cover pot and cook 5 minutes. After 5 minutes, stir vigorously with a wooden spoon to remove lumps. Gradually add more cornmeal, 2 tablespoons at a time, stirring to keep porridge smooth. As it thickens, reduce additions to 1 tablespoon at a time until porridge is Play Doh consistency (about 20 minutes). Remove from heat, cover pot, and let stand a few minutes.

SERVING INSTRUCTIONS: *Nshima* should be eaten with your hands and dipped in the relishes.



Make a Soccer Ball

By Elizabeth Hendley

In rural Rwanda, soccer gear doesn't come from a sporting goods store—and as in many other aspects of life, resourcefulness and creativity play a big part. In the skillful hands of a child, recycled items take shape and transform into a ball, enabling groups of soccer-hungry kids to start a game. Here's how they do it:



Mutabazi Sinayobye, 5, kicks his handmade ball in Mudasomwe, Rwanda.

EUGENE LEE/WORLD VISION



Step 1 / Gather cloth rags, plastic and paper shopping bags, newspapers, and twine.



Step 2 / Crumple one bag into a small ball, which will be the center of the finished ball.



Step 3 / Layer other bags, newspaper, and cloths over the center, taking care to keep the ball round and push out air pockets with each layer.



Step 4 / For the last layer, cover the ball with the thickest bag.



Step 5 / Wrap the ball with twine, pulling tightly and making a web of knots to cover the entire ball.



Step 6 / Bounce the ball on the ground a few times to see if any parts come loose; if so, cover with more twine and knots. **W**

ASHLEY WALTON/JOURNEY GROUP



LIFE
FRAMES

Bangladesh

IF I CLAIM to be an advocacy photographer, a loudspeaker for people who need their voice amplified, I first need to be invited into their lives. I need to hear their concerns, see what is lovely about them, and then find the right moment to share with others through my camera.

Along with some World Vision supporters, I visited youth groups in Bangladesh. Instead of waiting for us inside the building where they gather, the young people from one group ran out as soon as we arrived and pelted us with handfuls of flower petals. I had

a 24mm lens on my Nikon D800, set to aperture priority automatic so I could react quickly. I was happy to trust my camera's meter in the soft evening light, getting off a few frames before the flowers were all gone.

Nothing is more wonderful than to feel a resounding "welcome!" when first approaching a story. The youth in these clubs wanted us to hear their stories, understand their concerns, and share their pride in their accomplishments.

They wanted me to do photography because the pictures were for them. **WV**

Written and photographed by Jon Warren

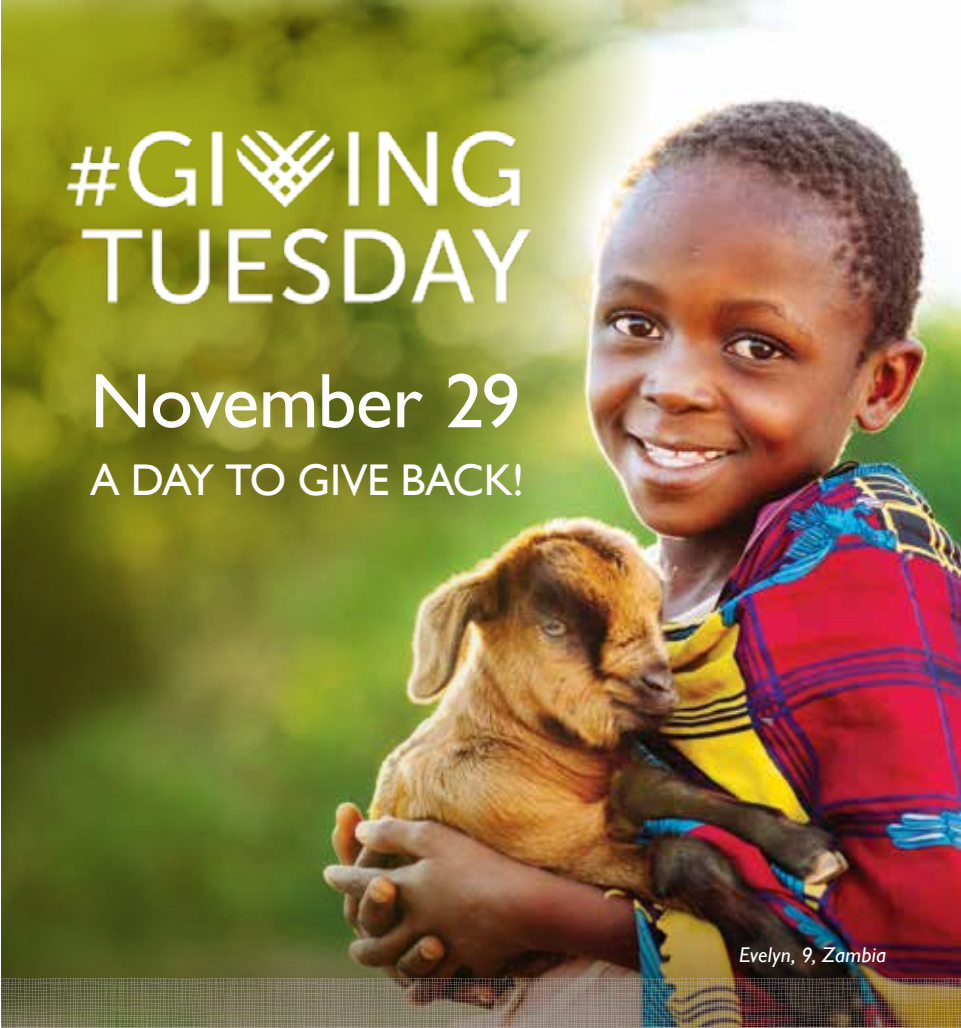
Nikon D800 camera

24mm lens, 1/125th at f5.6, 500 ISO

READ THE REST of Jon's reflection from Bangladesh at wvmag.org/lifeframes.

#GIVING TUESDAY

November 29
A DAY TO GIVE BACK!



Evelyn, 9, Zambia

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