

WorldVision

WINTER 2017

'LET
YOUR

Light

12

How one
gift inspires
a brighter
future

Shine'



Shine bright

SHE NEEDS YOU

This Christmas, the simple act of showing a child they're loved can light up their life, and their entire community—and ignite generosity and kindness among your own family and friends.



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*Special Gifts must be \$100 or more. Any amount beyond \$200 will be used to help the child's community. A Special Gift should not exceed \$1,000 per child. If you don't see the option to send a Special Gift to one of your sponsored children after signing in, it means their country is not currently able to fulfill Special Gifts. Delivery time of Special Gifts varies and cannot be guaranteed by Christmas due to the many gifts given during the holiday season.

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World Vision, a free quarterly publication, affirms people responding to God's call to care for the poor by providing information, inspiration, and opportunities for action, linking them with children and families in nearly 100 countries where World Vision ministers. In an effort to be careful stewards of our resources, this publication costs 47 cents a copy to produce.

We welcome your comments or address changes. Contact us at: *World Vision* magazine, P.O. Box 9716, Federal Way, WA 98063-9716. Email us: wvmagazine@worldvision.org. To request to be taken off our mailing list, email us or call toll-free 1.877.596.0290.

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ON THE COVER

Animals have transformed 1-year-old Beauty's family and community in Zambia.

JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

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Once we pass on the goats, we know it will ease the lives of the next family just like it has happened to us.”

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JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

A Gift We Must Share

By Rich Stearns

HAVE YOU EVER received a gift that changed your life?

I have. It was a book, *Basic Christianity*, by John Stott, given to me by a Christian friend in high school. I was an atheist at the time, so I stuck it in a box and forgot about it. But six years later, after I met my future wife, René, I wanted to understand more about this Jesus she loved. So I picked up John Stott's book. Idle paging turned to voracious reading, and I stayed up all night devouring it.

Through that book, I received the gift of the gospel. And I've spent the rest of my life passing it on—to relatives, through my church, and as president of World Vision U.S.

That's how the gospel works. Jesus is the free gift God gave to the world he so loves. We receive it, and our lives change. But it shouldn't stop there. The gift is just too good to keep to ourselves. Our Christian faith began to spread when a small group of disciples shared their firsthand knowledge of Jesus, and it continues to ripple out today from 2 billion believers around the world.

The mission Christ gave to his early followers was nothing less than to change the world, and that's our mission too. We are to love our enemies, be generous with our money and possessions, live with integrity, and seek justice for all. We're called not only to proclaim the good news but to be the good news, demonstrating Christ's love and mercy in tangible ways.

When our deeds align with our words, people see Christ in us. That's what Jesus is saying in Matthew 5:16: "... let your light shine before others, that they may see your good

deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Rich Stearns speaks with Jackson Ole Sapit, a former sponsored child who now serves as archbishop of Kenya.

deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Child sponsorship is that kind of world-changing good deed. Over the years, I've met former sponsored children who say their sponsor's support was a significant turning point. It's the reason they're fulfilled in a promising career instead of stuck in a dead-end manual job. It's the impetus for putting their children through school. It's the spark that ignited their faith in Jesus Christ, now shining for all to see.

In 1974, a little boy in Kenya was sponsored by a family who wanted to do their part to change the world. Today, that boy has grown up to become Archbishop Jackson Ole Sapit, leader of the 5 million-member Anglican Church of Kenya (read about him on page 30). When I met Jackson in Nairobi this summer, he told me, "Without that initial support, I would not be the person I am."

Jackson's sponsors thought they were helping only one child, but God multiplied their gift. That one child now influences millions of believers.

Another example of one gift multiplying into many is World Vision's Pass On livestock program (read about this on page 12). Families I've visited around the world are excited to show me the animals they've received through World Vision's Gift Catalog. A goat or a pig is a true game-changer for families living on poverty's unforgiving edge. As they tell me about the benefits, they often proudly add that they value the chance to help other families in need by passing on their animals' offspring.

To me, this is a microcosm of the kingdom of God—offerings of love changing hands, over and over, to the glory of our Father in heaven. 🙏

World Vision U.S. President **Rich Stearns** is the author of *The Hole in Our Gospel* and *Unfinished*. Follow him at twitter.com/richstearns.

FIND MORE

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

Embark

COME IN AND SEE THE WORLD

ONLINE

Read more about World Vision's response to the hunger crisis in East Africa at wvmag.org/hunger.

Rwanda

A girl dashes home from school in Nyamagabe, southern Rwanda. During the 1994 genocide, this area was hard hit, especially the nearby Murambi Vocational School where as many as 50,000 people died in a day. World Vision began relief and peacebuilding efforts in Nyamagabe shortly after the genocide ended. Today, through child sponsorship, the community is experiencing continued healing and growth.

JON WARREN/WORLD VISION







Mongolia

All is calm, all is bright as stars swirl over the vast central Mongolian plain where a ger (or yurt) sits under a twinkling night sky. For centuries, semi-nomadic families who herd yaks, camels, sheep, goats, and horses have relied on the ger for shelter against extreme winters—known as the *zud*. Temperatures can drop to minus 50 degrees, killing millions of livestock and driving families into cities and, likely, poverty. But through the World Vision Gift Catalog, gers and animals help families survive these winters or resume their livelihood after they've been driven off the plain. A ger and other Gift Catalog items will be featured this year at the World Vision Give-back Gift Shop in New York City's Bryant Park Nov. 27 to 29.

JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

Texas, USA

Lilly Rosales hoped her nearly 4-month-old son, Alexavier, would grow up in her childhood home. Then Hurricane Harvey flooded their neighborhood and destroyed almost everything inside. Every package of relief supplies that Lilly receives—including some that World Vision provided through a nearby church partner—means a little more money that can go toward rebuilding her home. World Vision partners with local churches by providing relief supplies for volunteers to distribute when disasters strike.

LAURA REINHARDT/WORLD VISION



Bolivia



Zambia



Peru



Bangladesh



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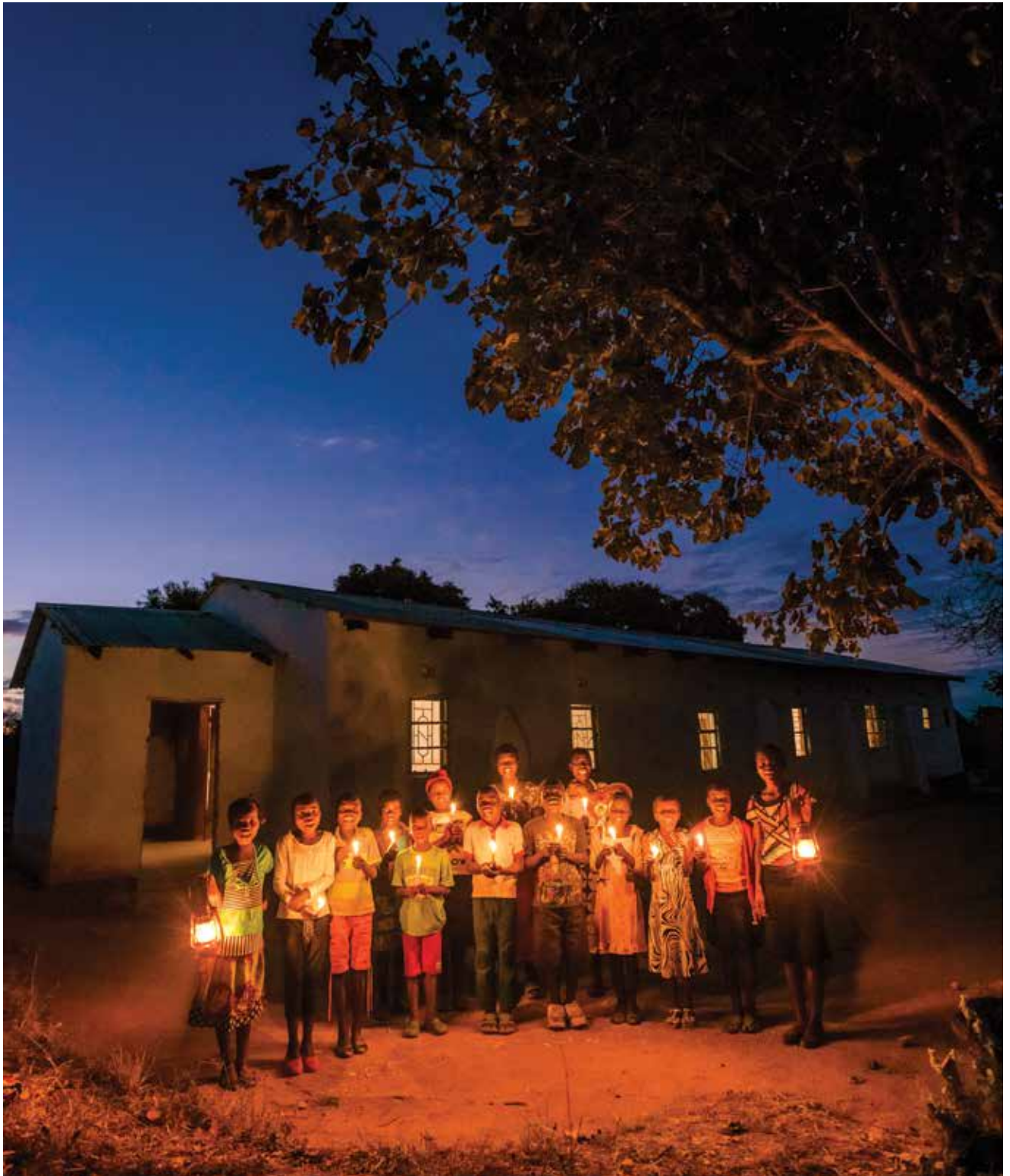
Learn how Rosemary and her
Zambian community, below
singing “This Little Light of
Mine,” shine their light.

Discover

EXPLORE THE ISSUES FACING PEOPLE IN POVERTY

“In the same way, let your light
shine before others, that they
may see your good deeds and
glorify your Father in heaven.”

—MATTHEW 5:16



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION



HEATHER KLINGER/WORLD VISION

India: Hope Bracelet by Patricia Heaton

By Heather Klinger

After seeing the impact of global poverty firsthand, Emmy® Award-winning actress Patricia Heaton partnered with World Vision to create a wearable reminder of the power of hope this Christmas.

With every donation of \$100 or more to Where Most Needed in the Gift Catalog, donors can choose to receive the Hope Bracelet by Patricia Heaton—made by fair-trade artisans in India—as a meaningful memento of their gift. The fund addresses specific, urgent needs in World Vision’s humanitarian work that might otherwise go unmet.

“The Hope Bracelet by Patricia Heaton reflects my personal style and keeps my World Vision sponsored child, Gracious, in mind,” she says. “When I met Gracious in Zambia, I saw how one act of generosity can light up an entire community. My dream is that the bracelet will ignite that fire in others.” +

10

About 10 male artisans worked to bend the brass wire, weld it together, and file it smooth.

8

About eight female artisans checked the quality of each bracelet and reshaped as necessary.

6

After the bracelet was plated and lacquered by the artisans, about six women packed them for shipping.



COURTESY OF GIFTS WITH A CAUSE

Hope From Fair Trade

SHAMIM JAHAN says she’s lucky—she learned how to be an artisan in India’s male-dominated culture.

Her father was an artisan, and because she was an only child, she often watched him work as she was growing up. When Shamim married, her artisan husband encouraged her to help with his work and become his partner.

When Shamim started working with her husband, they worked for a mainstream exporter who purchased large quantities of their products but paid less money for each piece. There was also a long lag between payments. Now they work for the India Fair Trade Artisan Organization, which provides them with a steady income, advance payment, and most importantly, fair wages. World Vision partnered with Gifts with a Cause, a fair-trade business based in California, to find artisans to create the Hope Bracelet by Patricia Heaton. Shamim was selected.

The money she earned from cutting and bending the wire on the bracelet is paying for her father’s medical bills and also sent her daughters on a school camping trip over Diwali, a Hindu festival of lights celebrated every autumn.

Today, she’s more confident about her skills and more independent because she can help provide for her family, especially her aging parents.

Shamim, in blue in the photo above, says that since their work is now fair trade, they were able to buy a house and became more open about sending their daughters to school, an opportunity she never had. The India Fair Trade Artisan Organization also provides them with insurance, a share of profits, and the cost of their children’s education. +

DONATE \$100 or more to Where Most Needed in the World Vision Gift Catalog between pages 18 and 19 and receive the bracelet designed by Patricia Heaton with our thanks.

When Disaster Strikes

By Heather Klinger

This year has been especially terrible as multiple hurricanes and earthquakes have rocked the Caribbean, United States, and Mexico. World Vision works with churches, volunteers, and local staff to deploy initial relief supplies and assess long-term development needs. Additionally, World Vision is working to address the needs of refugees in different parts of the world. Here's how we're responding to recent disasters.

Mexico Earthquakes

More than 400 people died in **two different earthquakes that struck Mexico** in September. World Vision is working in 20 evacuation centers providing hygiene kits as well as helping with long-term recovery needs. Learn more at wvmag.org/mexico.

Hurricane Harvey

When Hurricane Harvey made landfall over Texas Aug. 25 as a Category 4 hurricane, it became the **country's first Category 3 or higher hurricane since Hurricane Wilma** hit Florida October 2005. Texas Gov. Greg Abbott says it may cost as much as \$180 billion to rebuild the state after catastrophic flooding, which

would make it the costliest natural disaster in U.S. history. Some parts of Houston received more than 50 inches of rainfall — so much that the National Weather Service had to update the colors it uses on its weather charts to properly account for it. World Vision, in partnership with local churches and community partners, is mobilizing to reach 300,000 people with relief supplies. Find out more online at wvmag.org/harvey.

Hurricane Irma

After hitting numerous islands in the Caribbean, Hurricane Irma hit Florida as a Category 4 storm Sept. 10, ripping off roofs, flooding coastal cities, and knocking out power to more than 6.5 million homes

and businesses. At one point, Hurricane Irma was the **strongest hurricane ever recorded** by the National Hurricane Center in the Atlantic outside of the Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico. World Vision is assisting survivors in Florida, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic. Read more online at wvmag.org/irma.

Hurricane Maria

Puerto Rico is devastated and struggling to recover after Hurricane Maria pummeled the territory Sept. 20 as a Category 4 storm. Maria was the **strongest hurricane to hit Puerto Rico in more than 80 years** and destroyed hundreds of homes, knocked out power across the entire island, and triggered heavy flooding. World Vision is helping in Puerto Rico as well as in the Dominican Republic and Haiti, where widespread flooding affected communities. Learn more at wvmag.org/maria.

Myanmar Refugees in Bangladesh

Insurgent attacks and

resulting crossfire triggered a **mass movement of more than 420,000 people from Myanmar to Bangladesh** since Aug. 25. The U.N. has predicted that the exodus may reach 1 million people by year end. As of press time, World Vision is planning its response to meet the immediate needs of refugees in coordination with the government, other international humanitarian organizations, and local partners. Read more at wvmag.org/myanmar.

South Sudan Refugees in Uganda

The U.N. Refugee Agency announced Aug. 17 that **Uganda now hosts more than 1 million refugees from South Sudan**. After decades of civil war, South Sudan became the world's newest country in 2011—and is also one of the poorest. More than 5.5 million South Sudanese don't have enough food to sustain themselves, some are on the verge of famine, and food insecurity continues to rise. Learn more online at wvmag.org/southsudan. +



LAURA REINHARDT/WORLD VISION



EUGENE LEE/WORLD VISION



Seven-year-old Nathan Muzyamba takes care of his family's goats, which were provided through World Vision's Pass On program. His mother, Eunice Siamooya, says that when Nathan learned they would get the goats, "He was very happy because he knows that the goats will help him in the future."

A
Gift
THAT
KEEPS
Living

A goat from the Gift Catalog may seem like a simple gift. But around the world, the gift of animals is creating a domino effect of generosity to help families living in poverty.

BY LAURA
REINHARDT

PHOTOS BY
JON WARREN

MM

Maybe it was on Black Friday, when they were still feeling a bit stuffed with Thanksgiving goodness. Instead of braving the bargain-hunting crowds, a family cozied up on their couch and shopped through World Vision's Gift Catalog. They settled on a goat and placed an order.

On Christmas, their gift recipient opened a card and read the words, "A gift has been given in your honor." And as the giving glow of the holidays drew to a close, that could have been the end of the story.

But not really. With a Gift Catalog gift, the story has just begun. Like a growing light, a single act of generosity can cascade into more gifts that enable families to climb out of poverty and children to walk into a brighter future.

In a place called Moyo, Zambia, the effect of that American family's generosity was just beginning to grow. There, in 2011, a couple named Patricia and Danford received five goats through the World Vision Gift Catalog—their granddaughter Rosemary graced the cover of the winter 2016 *World Vision* magazine with one of those goats, which brought newfound freedom to her family.

Now 10, Rosemary isn't growing up feeling the gnawing hunger that plagued her father—Danford and Patricia's son—from an early age. Instead, the family sold some of the goats' offspring to buy fertilizer, which increased the yield of their garden. Now Rosemary is excelling in school and still working toward her dream of becoming a chef.

But the story still didn't end there.

The same year Rosemary's family received the goats, World Vision started the Pass On program. It works the way it sounds: When a family is enrolled and receives goats, they agree to pass on the same number of goats in

the future once the animals have reproduced. World Vision relies on a committee comprised of community volunteers to ensure Pass On runs smoothly.

"I'm happy that my family is now living well, that we are healthy. It is exciting," Danford says. "But most importantly, that excitement should not just end up at my household. That excitement—I have now a responsibility that I pass it on to someone else."

In 2015, Danford passed goats to a new group of vulnerable families, including John Nalukobo and his wife, Belita Malambo—continuing a ripple of generosity that still hasn't finished.

Danford says, "The way we struggled is the way others also struggle. So once we pass on the goats, we know it will ease the lives of the next family just like it has happened to us."

Before the goats: The struggle

FOR THE PAST six years, John and Belita have been caring for seven grandchildren. Late in life, they had been dealt a harsh hand. One of their daughters died, leaving four orphaned children. Another daughter separated from her husband and had no means to provide for her children, so she went to Lusaka, the capital, to look for work and left the children with her parents. The children's father doesn't offer any assistance.

John is 74 and Belita is 64, so neither of them has as much energy as they used to, especially to run after young children, but he

Top: Ten-year-old Rosemary still dreams of being a chef. She even dons the chef outfit she received last year when she plays with other children in her village. *Bottom left:* Rosemary and her family now own 22 goats. They started their journey with just five. *Bottom right:* Rosemary's family had a bumper crop of corn. Her family continues to improve their crop yields thanks to goats they can sell to buy better seeds and farm tools. Now they can afford to pay people to help them in the field. Read their full story online at wvmag.org/rosemary.







John Nalukobo and his wife, Belita Malambo, can now dare to dream of a happier future for the grandchildren they're raising thanks to agriculture and hygiene training, savings groups, and goats—all provided by World Vision.



says, “No one [else] was going to look after them.”

It hasn't been easy. The grandkids would often cry for food or become listless.

“Sometimes they would just stop playing,” says John. “And I would truly know that this child is very hungry.”

Arguments broke out over meals. “I want to be full,” the children would cry as they fought for every scrap.

John and Belita tried to make sure their grandchildren had food and would themselves go without. But they also needed to keep up their strength for farming.

Sometimes the only food available was *nshima*—a polenta-like Zambian

staple made from corn. Other times they could supplement with a meager selection of cabbage or onions from their home garden.

“I used to feel very bad knowing that I was unable to provide for my grandchildren,” John says. “And sometimes I would feel embarrassed because I would look everywhere and could not find anything to give to my grandchildren that would sustain their stomachs.”

When there was nothing else, they would go into the bush and scrounge for tubers, which if not cooked correctly can be bitter or even harmful.

“That’s how the day would pass, and

we would look to another day,” he says.

John grew a few vegetables and bananas in their garden and sometimes he had extra harvest to sell, their only income. But he says, “I couldn’t manage to take care of my family only selling vegetables and bananas.”

Besides feeding the grandchildren, he faced regular payments on their school fees, uniforms, and school supplies; that’s a big bill with five children in school.

He often missed payments, and if he missed too many payments, the children were no longer welcome in class. Missing school meant missing a chance at a better life.



Left: Eight-year-old Nature (center) listens to a school lesson. Goats provide a means for John and Belita to afford all the fees related to their grandchildren's education. Right: John takes time every day to sing songs, read the Bible, and pray with his grandchildren.



Sponsorship provides a strong foundation

IN 2011, WORLD VISION started sponsorship in the Moyo area, and things began improving. Families in the U.S. sponsored three of John's grandchildren: Kizwell, Tesha, and Reward. Another of his grandsons, Nature, is registered and available to be sponsored.

John also joined the village hygiene committee in 2012 and learned many ways to improve his family's health. Now they dry their dishes on an elevated drying rack. They have a pit latrine, a hand-washing station, and a designated hole for garbage. He says that since this

training, the children haven't gotten sick because of unsanitary practices.

John appreciates all that sponsorship has meant for his grandchildren, himself, and his neighbors. It forms a foundation for the good work from which the entire community benefits.

In 2014, World Vision drilled borehole wells that are only about a 15-minute roundtrip walk from their home. Before, they spent 30 to 40 minutes walking for unclean water.

Agriculture training improved his garden harvest.

Kizwell's sponsor sent a Special Gift, which they used to buy shoes, clothes, a

school bag, and to pay school fees.

The family received two bicycles. Tesha uses one to go to school. John rides the other to the hospital, where he's a committee member in charge of caring for the hospital's physical surroundings.

Goats provide a new outlook

DESPITE ALL THE improvements, John longed for something that would allow him more control over his own destiny.

In 2015, a member of the Pass On committee contacted John's family saying that five goats were on the way.

"After receiving that news, I was not calm. I was so excited. I really wanted





the goats,” John says. “I knew my problems would be lessened.

“The goats are kind of like a savings account. If I take very good care of them, they reproduce, so that means more money.”

That “savings account” has already yielded dividends. As the goats reproduced, John sold some animals to raise money for school costs. “I may delay [payment] a bit, but I can’t compare it to how it was before,” he says.

He also expanded his garden from 500 plants to 1,000 by buying fertilizer and renting a plow. For the first time, he grew corn because he could afford to pay people to work the land alongside him and his wife. They grew enough corn to fill 21 50-kilogram (110-pound) bags and used the bicycles to carry that load to the mill for grinding.

John now believes he has the opportunity to improve his family’s life. He and Belita no longer have to search for every scrap of food. Their grandchildren are slowly putting on weight.

The goats provided John with a renewed motivation to work hard. They’ve also given him more respect from others. He says that families facing severe poverty all experienced the same thing: “If you tried to give an opinion in [community] meetings, people condemn—[they] would make you feel like you are nothing. So in the end, a lot of people in our communities would just sit back and watch and hold on to their opinions.”

Now his opinions are heard and valued.

John’s not finished yet. He hopes that as his goats multiply, he’ll earn enough to buy a cow. That means easier plowing and greater crop yields. He’ll need 12 goats for that purchase, and he has nine now.

Belita joined one of World Vision’s new savings groups in March 2017. She’s managed to save 40 kwacha, or US\$4.50, so far. They’ve never had this amount of money in their savings. Before, any money went to immediate needs.

John wants to build a home big enough to house everyone. He would love an iron-sheet roof, which would keep out the rains that now leak through their grass roof. He also dreams

of a treadle pump—a foot-operated pump that creates suction to draw groundwater to the surface—to make watering his crops easier. But at \$200, he’ll have to wait on that a while.

Mostly John focuses on the good things he now has thanks to sponsorship and the goats. He believes the multiplying animals will enable his grandchildren to finish school and achieve their dreams.

A heart of generosity

JOHN BELIEVES THE people who donated goats have good hearts. “I would tell them that I am very grateful for what they have done—for the goats they have donated to me—because they have helped to improve my life. Where I was in the past is no longer where I am today.”

That willingness to share sits at the heart of the Pass On project. As people see that it works and keeps growing, they want to get involved too.

“If everyone exercises generosity, the whole community will move out of poverty,” says Danford, Rosemary’s grandfather. “This program has changed my thinking to continue wanting to help other people, and I’ll continue doing so, so that the next person also lives well.”

John says, “It’s very important to be generous because God himself said it in the Bible that you should love your neighbor as much as you love yourself. Therefore, it is important to share with others.”

Only a year later, in 2016, it was John’s turn to pass on five goats. He says, “I was really excited because I was also helped, and I needed to help another family.”

After John and other families shared goats in 2016, the Pass On program expanded into a new zone with 243 goats for families in need.

Passing on to a hungry family

HIGH IN THE HILLS, an hour from John’s home and up a brush-covered road that seems little more than a footpath, sits the new project zone.

Eunice Siamooya, 32, and her husband, 42-year-old Diyo Choobwe, live here with their six children, who range in age from 15 months to 17 years.

Fifteen-month-old Messiah, or Messi as they call her, cries incessantly. She suckles at Eunice’s breast, hungry. There’s not enough milk, and Eunice has no alternatives to offer.

Top: Grandsons like 10-year-old Kizwell are in charge of tending the goats. Bottom left: Fourteen-year-old Teshu uses one of her family’s bicycles to ride to school. Bottom right: Eight-year-old Miyoba (right) and 10-year-old Matrinda help the family by collecting water at a World Vision-built borehole well. Before the well was drilled, the family had to walk 30 to 40 minutes for dirty water.





Left: Eunice Siamooya carries fresh grass from the field. *Right:* Seven-year-old Nathan excels at his goat-herding duties. His mother says that none of the goats have gotten lost under his watch.



Diyo and Eunice work as day laborers when there is work. But that's usually only available during planting and harvesting seasons. Otherwise, they toil on their land. They have nearly 5 acres, but they can't afford to buy good seed, fertilizer, or to hire people to help clear the rocky soil.

"It all goes back to money," says Eunice.

They grow cowpeas and corn, but not enough to sustain the family. This year, their corn harvest only produced four 50-kilogram (110-pound) bags. Eunice says the supply "will surely be finished by next month." Their small garden holds a few underwhelming cab-

ages and mustard plants.

After a day laboring, Eunice returns home and begins searching for something to cook. "There have been a number of times when I get home, and I find that there is no food," she says.

Then the children cry. "We're hungry. We're hungry. We want to eat."

"It really makes me feel bad when things are just so hard that I cannot do anything, and I see my children crying because they are so hungry," says Eunice.

When they have nothing, Eunice tells her children to "sit, and when night falls, we just go to sleep." Without food, there's little choice.

In 2016, two events began changing their lives: Two of Eunice and Diyo's children—13-year-old Suzia and 12-year-old Trinity—got sponsors. Then the family received four goats through Pass On in September. The children danced upon hearing the news.

They said, "Oh, now we are going to drink some milk from the goats."

Seven-year-old Nathan jumped up and down. "He knows that the goats will help him in the future," says Eunice.

Nathan is the goats' primary caretaker. He leads them to the pastures for grazing and drinking. "He takes really good care of them," says Eunice.



After working all day in the fields, Eunice prepares dinner for her family, but sometimes there's little or no food. She believes that the goats the family received will improve their situation.



Daring to dream

THE GOATS ARE already making a difference for Diyo's and Eunice's family. One goat gave birth, so now they have five.

Now that they're using goat manure as fertilizer, their garden is more fertile. And they're seeing a noticeable difference in their corn crop as well.

Eunice feels her hopes for the future changing.

"I could see my children getting married at a tender age before the goats," she says, because they weren't going to have money to finish school. Her odd-job earnings weren't going to be enough for the children to continue their studies.

Now education no longer feels out of reach. Eunice says, "I know that my children will be better people in the future than we are. So it will be a changed generation."

Weston Hanguandu, 27, the vice chairperson in the goat management committee for this new region, sees Pass On as a program with ongoing potential to lift his community out of poverty. "It is indeed sustainable because for me, it is a seed to the farmers. It's a gift. In fact, it's a life gift," says Weston. "It will be generation to generation."

Eunice has faith that she will be able to share these opportunities with other families just as she received them. She

says, "It makes me think of the goodness that's in heaven."

When an American family picked out a Gift Catalog goat, they probably never knew the ever-expanding impact they'd create. But that impact is rippling outward. Families all over the world can dare to dream, thanks to that simple act of generosity. 🐐

Agatha Mali and Kwenda Paipi of World Vision's Zambia office contributed to this story.

BE A PART of the story by giving a goat today. See the Gift Catalog between pages 18 and 19.

Sonali Akter, 8, dreams of becoming a doctor. Goats, chickens, and sponsorship are helping her work toward that goal.



[FROM SHUNNED] Shining

Child sponsorship and animals change lives in Bangladesh

BY KRISTY J. O'HARA
PHOTOS BY LAURA REINHARDT

A couple years ago, Sonali Akter and her family visited the hospital where her grandmother was having surgery. The flurry of activity and fancy machines was a new world for the girl from a small community near Mymensingh, a city about 70 miles north of Bangladesh's capital city, Dhaka.

But something else caught little Sonali's attention. There, the wide-eyed girl saw women working as doctors.

"It was surprising," Sonali, now 8, says. "It encouraged me to want to be a doctor.

"I would like to do surgeries and give medicine."

In a country where less than half of children attend high school, Sonali's experience had given birth to a seemingly impossible dream.

Hard times

A medical career felt like a long shot, given Sonali's family's poverty, which was so deep that they were the laughingstock of their community.

Sonali's father, Shohel Miah, was only able to get work about half the month as a day laborer. Earning only 200 takas—about US\$2.48—a day, the 30-year-old struggled to support his family of four. People would ridicule him for not being "man enough" to support his family.

"Because I was poor and I was not earning a lot, people avoided me," he says. "I thought, 'Maybe one day I will be able to change my situation and people will be good to me.'"

Sonali's mom, Mahfuza, 26, hoped for a change too.

Her children often went hungry. She knew animals would supply eggs and milk, but the chickens and goats she raised would sicken and die. When Sonali and her brother, Maruf Islam, now 4, would ask for things like clothes or school supplies, Mahfuza couldn't afford them.

"I felt Sonali would be dropped from the school," she says. "The teachers were rude with her and scolding her" for not having the right supplies.

Mahfuza felt helpless and frustrated, knowing there were things her children needed that she was powerless to provide. "I felt I was a bad mom," she says. "I was sad for that, and I thought if I could get them what they were asking for, I would be the happiest mom in the world."

Ridicule from neighbors and others in the community compounded her distress. "People said mean things," she explains. They would laugh at her children's torn clothes and scorn her husband for not providing for his family.

Sonali could sense her parents' struggles. Mahfuza remembers that her daughter would try to cheer her up, saying, "Mom, don't be sad. When I'm educated and get a good job, I will give you money, and I will buy you everything."

New opportunities

In late 2012, World Vision identified Sonali's need, and she became a sponsored child. Through sponsorship, she received a bed net to protect her from mosquito-borne diseases, as well as a blanket, school supplies, and other

Top: Mahfuza comforts Sonali, who still cries when she recalls the hard times her family experienced before she was sponsored and before they received goats and chickens. In a reversal of roles, the 8-year-old also used to cheer her mother up when she could see the pain and stress poverty caused her. Bottom: Sonali's father, Shohel, makes money driving a rented auto rickshaw a few days a week. He dreams of buying his own so he can work full time driving.



necessities. Finally, Shohel says, “I felt encouraged.”

The support was welcome, but the family needed more—and they weren’t alone. Fortunately, help was on the horizon. In 2013, World Vision had started the *Sundor Jibon* (“Nice Life”) project, designed to reduce child malnutrition and increase family income and assets.

Sonali’s family was chosen to receive goats and chickens. But the animals weren’t just handed over: To ensure success, families were required to attend training classes about animal rearing and breeding.

Mahfuza was delighted. “Earlier when I raised goats, they were dying, so I was excited to learn how to make them live,” she says.

World Vision determined that families throughout the area equally struggled with raising their livestock. As a result, child malnutrition was widespread, with only about 1 in 10 households regularly eating foods from four or more food groups. Across Bangladesh, nearly half of children are

stunted physically due to a lack of proper nutrition.

Mahfuza knew that the poor diet was affecting her daughter. “Sonali could not talk well,” she says. “She was a slow learner and had a speech problem.”

Having confirmed that Sonali and Maruf were malnourished, Mahfuza eagerly attended nutrition classes, where she and other mothers learned how to prepare balanced meals for their kids. Each woman would bring one ingredient to class—a pumpkin, ginger, eggs, and so on—all items that were grown or purchased locally. Together the women would cook a new recipe and learn how each item supported their children’s nutrition. Then they would enjoy the meal together.

Mahfuza also learned how proper hygiene could prevent illnesses, and the center provided child vaccinations too. Sonali and Maruf were enrolled in an early childhood care and development program, where World Vision staff monitored them to ensure their health was moving in the right direction.

“My daughter was very skinny,” Mahfuza says. “When I started feeding her better, I noticed her health was improving.”

Sagor Marandy, a regional field director for World Vision in Bangladesh, explains that the educational component of the program was a bedrock foundation for the participating families. “Money is important, but mindset and education [are critical],” he says. “It takes time to learn and change practices. If they stay focused, their lives will change.”

Goats and chickens to help

After months of preparation and education, Sonali’s family received three goats and 20 chickens in 2015.

“That day we got the animals, I was very happy,” Shohel says. “... I thought [now] I could change my situation.”

The goats enthralled Sonali. She named the first one





GIVE THE GIFT of a goat or a chicken to help a family like Sonali's. See the Gift Catalog between pages 18 and 19.

Moushumi, which means “season” in Bangla, the local language.

“I was happy when we got the goat because I was able to feed the goat grass, leaves, and rice,” Sonali says. “I played with the goat, and the goat was jumping!”

Sonali shines as bright as her name, which means “golden,” when she talks about nurturing the animals. She enjoys bringing the goats with her as she does her daily routine and even when she takes a bath. She’s clear, though, that she doesn’t bathe the goat “because it could get cold and die—cold is the enemy of the goat.”

Mahfuza shares that this was one of the biggest lessons she learned in her training. “Earlier I was having the goat sleep on the ground, and it would get cold and die,” she says. “Now, it’s on a bed of wood, off the ground, and stays warm.”

Changes

Sagor explains that economic improvements through livestock investments are a process. “You can’t expect

dramatic change overnight, but in six months, there are more chickens; in a year, one goat becomes two,” he says.

That’s borne out by Shohel’s and Mahfuza’s experience. With faithful implementation of what they’ve learned, the family has seen their animals multiply. They now have five goats and 25 chickens, and Mahfuza has sold more than 60 chickens for a total of 8,000 takas (US\$99). Their brood of 25 produces enough eggs for the whole family to eat, with enough left over to sell for between 500 and 1,500 takas (US\$6 and US\$18) a month. The goats also provide fresh milk for Sonali and Maruf to drink, giving them nutrients they weren’t getting before.

Late in 2016, Mahfuza purchased eight ducks with some of her profits. She’s excited to see even more income, as duck eggs are more profitable than chicken eggs. She’s also participating in a cow-share program with a neighbor, whose calf will soon birth a calf for her to keep.

The change in her family’s life has been steady and encouraging. Sagor says they have “moved from being the poorest [in the community]. In one to two more years, they will likely be middle income.”



Sonali, whose name means “golden,” and her family are now well-respected in their community.

Change has been widespread across their community. In two years, animal and egg production have drastically increased; chicken egg production alone has increased more than 10,000 percent. Thanks to the nutrition training and food production improvements, now more than 3 in 4 households have diets regularly including four food groups, compared to 1 in 10 in 2014. What’s more, before the program began, just over half of participating households were earning a consistent income. That number has skyrocketed to 99 percent.

Thanks to his family’s increased income, Shohel has been renting an auto rickshaw a few evenings a week to earn around 250 takas (US\$3.10) a day. He’s saving to buy his own auto rickshaw so he will no longer have to rent, and he dreams of having a farm with at least 100 goats. Additionally, the family has saved about 10,000 takas (US\$124) for a down payment and secured a loan to buy a small piece of land to call their own.

But sometimes, the best signs of success are the ones that have nothing to do with physical needs and everything to do with the heart.

Shohel says, “Now I feel I have a good life, and the community people honor me, and they try to talk to me. Before, I felt I was isolated, but now I feel I am includ-

ed in the society.” Mahfuza agrees. “I’m not hearing anymore the bad or mean things the people were saying earlier,” she says. “People are encouraging me and saying I am in good hands and earning for my children.”

Sagor says the program has also resulted in changes in how men in the community view and treat women. He says there has been a decrease in domestic violence, and men are more respectful toward their wives.

It’s clear that Shohel is proud of Mahfuza and her efforts. “My wife is doing a lot for the family and the children, and I’m so encouraged by her hard work,” he says.

For her part, Mahfuza now feels hopeful for the future. “I’m very happy to work with World Vision because my children are getting benefits, and so am I,” she says. “Because of that, I can afford food and education for them.”

Thanks to sponsorship and the gift of animals, Sonali is healthy and thriving in school. Her parents plan to do all they can to make her dream a reality. Says Mahfuza, “I dream now that if World Vision walks beside me, I can continue Sonali’s schooling so Sonali can become a doctor.” 📌

SPONSOR A CHILD like Sonali today by filling out the envelope between pages 26 and 27 or calling 1.888.852.4453.

BLESSING THROUGH BUSINESS | 28

An Ohio girl starts a business and raises money for Gift Catalog cows.

Inspire

MOTIVATING YOU TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? | 30

A former sponsored child is now the archbishop of Kenya.



Six-year-old Yenifer in Guatemala holds eggs that came from hens World Vision gave her family. Eggs provide children with nourishment, and families can sell the extras, providing income.

LINSEY MINERVA/WORLD VISION



MARVIN FONG/GENESIS PHOTOS

TWO YEARS AGO, 11-year-old Malina Costello read about a young girl who raised money for the World Vision Gift Catalog, and she had an instant reaction.

“Wait, I can do that!” says Malina, who lives in Richfield, Ohio.

When she was 6, Malina and a friend had started making and selling beaded bracelets. Malina’s friend soon tired of the work, but Malina took it several steps further. At 7, she launched her own business, “Little Miss Rose.” Four years later, after many research trips to the library, her business is still going strong—selling handmade bracelets and bath products, including sugar scrubs, soaps, and bath bombs.

“It’s fun to watch her take the drive and determination and see it through, and she really does see it through. She makes all her products; she puts her fliers together,” says her mom, Marney Costello. “I’m proud of her.”

Marney read a book by the founder of craft store chain Hobby Lobby and learned how business can impact giving.

“God uses people in business to move the charitable arm forward,” Marney says. “I think that’s pretty exciting because if you have a great talent in business, God can really use that to generate income, and then you can give it away, and it can then move forward and encourage others to give more away and help others.”

She shared what she had learned with her daughter, and it inspired Malina to use her business to help others. So when Malina was 9 and saw the story of the child who raised money for World Vision, she set out on her own adventure to give a cow to a family in need through the Gift Catalog.

Marney says she’s shared with Malina that, “making money is one

Blessing Through Business

The gifts of an 11-year-old entrepreneur keep on giving

By Andrea Peer

thing, but using what God has given you, your talents, to help someone else—especially with something like a cow, something that is sustainable into the future—it’s a blessing to their family.”

Malina had other reasons for choosing a cow. Whenever she would visit her grandmother, she saw all the cows on the dairy farm nearby. “I like cows. They’re good pets,” she says. “They’re some of my favorite animals. I like their big ears, and I like how you can hug

them and they won’t freak out on you.”

That Christmas season, Malina, who wants to be a businesswoman or a ballerina when she grows up, designed a catalog for her business, contacted her parents’ friends, packaged and wrapped her products, and successfully raised \$300 to buy six shares of a dairy cow (the price was \$50 per share at the time).

All these hours of work, with time spent praying for their sponsored children and other children in need, “It

makes it personal,” says Marney. “If it’s on a personal level, you think about it more often.”

Because of her care for others, Malina is planning another Christmas sale this year to help more children. She says, “It makes me happy because each year I make more money so I can give more.” +

SHARE YOUR STORY with us!
Email it to editor@worldvision.org.

A New Connection

How one sacrifice changed everything for a woman and a child who have never met

By Andrea Peer

IT WAS CLOSE to Christmas in 2006, and Leslie Kelly stood ironing while watching TV in her home in Bainbridge Island, Washington.

“I can picture the day exactly,” says Leslie. “One of the commercials for World Vision came on TV. I looked at the faces of the children and wondered what I could give up that was \$30 a month.”

As a newspaper journalist in a small town, Leslie didn’t have an extra \$30 a month, but she knew she had to sponsor a child. Right then, she chose to give up her cellphone. “I just decided—I don’t really need that,” she says.

Leslie picked out a girl named Seraphine, an 8-year-old from Rwanda. She wrote her a letter and got one back. Soon, she was writing regularly, sending small gifts, and treasuring the letters she received in return. “After getting two or three letters you can’t stop because you want to know how this person’s life is working and how it’s turning out,” she says.

Having met her husband in her 40’s,

Leslie never had children. “That’s really one of the things that I’m getting out of being a sponsor,” says Leslie, now 59. “In a certain way, I feel like I have a child. Even though I won’t be seeing them or can’t hug them, I know that I can help them and hopefully make a difference in their lives.”

For more than nine years, Leslie lived without a cellphone but with new meaning and new perspective in her life.

“I feel very lucky that I was born and grew up in a country like the United States where I didn’t really want for anything,” she says. Sponsoring a child “made me realize that many places in the world are not that way. I need to be more thankful for the blessings that I have.”

Some friends question her, wondering why she doesn’t just help children in the U.S. Leslie regularly volunteers at a local homeless shelter, but she says, “A child is just a child. Who cares where they live on Earth. If they need help, you help them. I just see it as God’s world. The borders we put up or the barriers that we put up, that really doesn’t matter.”

One year ago, when Seraphine was nearing 18, Leslie got a notice that World Vision was finishing work in her community.

“How do you say goodbye to someone you never met?” wondered Leslie. She sent a final letter, a final \$100 Christmas Special Gift, and a final package with little items like pencils and



ANDREA PEER/WORLD VISION

stickers. And then she sponsored a new child, a girl from Uganda named Docus.

Leslie has encouragement for others thinking about sponsoring a child: “Just give it a try. It’s not that expensive. Most of my friends spend \$8 or \$10 a day on coffee. It’s \$39 a month, and it goes so far, all the things it can do.”

She says child sponsorship helps you change the world.

“Sometimes in life, you feel hopeless and like there’s really nothing you can do to make a difference, and the world’s too big, and the problems are too big,” says Leslie. “But it’s just one step at a time.”

“It’s true that you can’t save the world, but everybody can do something. Even if it’s just a small thing like sponsoring a child, all the small things add up, and it does result in the world being a better place.” +

As archbishop of Kenya's Anglican Church, former sponsored child Jackson Ole Sapit is active in mediating contentious national disputes such as the recent presidential election and a countrywide doctors' strike.



'Moo' About Jesus

A World Vision sponsored child is now the archbishop of the Anglican Church in Kenya.

By Kari Costanza

TO UNDERSTAND THIS remarkable story, first you need to know a little about the Maasai. For centuries, the Maasai traveled with their cattle along the Great Rift Valley in Kenya and Tanzania. Families were polygamous—men had many wives and kids. Children rarely went to school, instead helping their parents take care of animals and doing chores around the house.

This is the world into which Jackson Ole Sapit, 53, was born—with one father and 11 mothers. He's not sure how many siblings he has but guesses more than 50. Jackson's father died when he was young, and his mother—his father's seventh wife—and her three children were chased away from the family home by shrewd older brothers who understood the value of land. Jackson's mother and her children became destitute.

Maasai parents didn't believe in education, as boys were to herd cows, and girls worked around the house. But in 1973, Jackson and the other Maasai boys in his village were forced to



More About Jesus

By Eliza E. Hewitt/
John R. Sweney

More about Jesus
would I know,
More of his grace to
others show;
More of his saving
fullness see,
More of his love
who died for me.

REFRAIN:
*More, more about Jesus,
More, more about Jesus;
More of his saving
fullness see,
More of his love who
died for me.*

More about Jesus
let me learn,
More of his holy
will discern;
Spirit of God, my
teacher be,
Showing the things
of Christ to me.

More about Jesus,
in his Word,
Holding communion
with my Lord;
Hearing his voice
in every line,
Making each faithful
saying mine.

More about Jesus
on his throne,
Riches in glory
all his own;
More of his kingdom's
sure increase;
More of his coming,
Prince of Peace.

HEAR THE SONG
online at
wvmag.org/moo.

attend. There, he began to hear about Jesus. "One of the songs [they sang]," he says, "was 'More About Jesus.'" But he thought they were singing "moo" instead of "more." He says, "I wondered, 'Are they singing about cows?'" This was something he could relate to as a herder; his curiosity was piqued.

The next year, Jackson became sponsored through World Vision. Through sponsorship, Jackson received his first pair of shoes along with shoe polish to keep them shiny. He loved the smell of the polish so much that he slept with it. He received all the benefits of sponsorship, including medical check-ups. And then, World Vision saved his family's life.

"In 1976, there was a severe drought. People were on the food program," he says. "[World Vision] used to bring white maize—better maize than anyone else, beans—no one else got beans—and cooking oil. Our food became the food for the entire family. Everybody benefited. It took us through the whole drought."

When the rains came in 1977, World Vision helped the family grow their own food. "So again that became food for the entire family," he says. "Every year, I got [school] uniforms and shoes. Even my sisters got presents at December."

Jackson did well in his studies. "My teachers loved me," he says. He loved school but felt he floundered during his final high school exams. Even though he finished in the top 10, he gave up on school and became a cattle trader, walking 10 days to Nairobi to sell cows.

It was during this period that he had an epiphany while resting in a forest with the cows, watching a spider rebuild its web. He realized how much he had been given, starting with World Vision sponsorship. He knew he needed to rebuild. "I went home singing," he says, telling his mother: "I have seen God in an amazing way. He's going to change my life."

With the encouragement of an English missionary and a local pastor, Jackson became a priest. "The pastor said he wanted me to interview to start training to become the first Maasai pastor in the area," he says. But there were two obstacles. "How would I speak in front of so many people?" he wondered. And a bigger fear: How would he officiate at funerals? "Maasai fear death," he

says. "The pastor is the one to conduct burials. I was afraid. How will I see dead bodies?" The pastor insisted, even giving him the money he needed for the interview. Jackson concocted a plan. "I said, 'I will do it roughly so they won't take me.' I was so frank with them. That interested them. I was the first to be taken."

In addition to the priesthood, Jackson worked for Tearfund, a development agency based in England. There he learned about development and running projects. He also studied at St. Paul's Theological College and earned a master's degree in development from the University of Reading in the U.K.

Upon his return from England, Jackson became a bishop. In 2016, he was elected as archbishop of Kenya. Again reluctant to take the position, "I said, 'I can't do this.'" Like Jonah, he says, he has resisted change at every turn, but he surrendered to God's call when bishops all over Kenya texted him, urging him to take the position.

Today, the archbishop lives in Nairobi across the street from the state house where the president of Kenya lives. He has traveled to every county in Kenya preaching peace and has met with Salva Kiir, the president of South Sudan, imploring him to stop the civil war. Through his actions, his background shines: This is a man who combines theology and development in a way that puts God and people first.

He says his time as a sponsored child and experience with World Vision helped shape his vision for Kenya. "World Vision does community empowerment best," he says. "We need to let people discover they are in relation to their environment, in relationship to God. They can envision their future, and World Vision can empower them."

Jackson has now been married for 30 years to Esther. They have seven children who grew up hearing their father sing "'Moo' About Jesus." Although life has led their father on a circuitous pathway from being a Maasai shepherd boy to leading 5 million Anglicans in Kenya, some things never change. +

CHANGE the life of a child like Jackson by sponsoring a child today. See the envelope between pages 26 and 27.

SHINING Light THROUGH PRAYER

BY KRISTY J. O'HARA

Remember the joy and excitement you had as a child on Christmas morning—not being able to sleep in anticipation, excitedly waking your parents up at the crack of dawn, and squealing in joy as you ripped the beautiful paper away to reveal the presents hiding inside.

Now as an adult, you can create that anticipation and joy for your own children or children in your life. And as Christians, we not only get to give good gifts, just as our Heavenly Father has given us, but we get to share in shining God's light by lifting people up in prayer.

This Christmas, we hope your family will shine their lights by joining us in prayer for the people you've met throughout this issue. Focus on one prayer each day of the week every week leading up to Christmas, or choose one prayer to focus on each week.

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

—JAMES 1:17

THOUGHTS ON LIGHT

"You, Lord, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness to light."

—Psalm 18:28

"DARKNESS CANNOT DRIVE OUT DARKNESS; ONLY LIGHT CAN DO THAT. HATE CANNOT DRIVE OUT HATE; ONLY LOVE CAN DO THAT."

—Martin Luther King Jr.

1 Pray for families recovering from Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria.

Loving God, our hearts hurt for those who have lost their homes, belongings, and for some, loved ones. Be with the families across the Caribbean and United States who are rebuilding from the storms. Wrap them with Your peace this Christmas season.

Pages 6 and 11

2 Pray for those who are hungry and have no food.

Bread of Life, we recognize that you have richly blessed us with food. As children and families in East Africa struggle to find food to eat, please sustain and protect them. Guide them to food and water, and provide resources through World Vision and other humanitarian groups.

Pages 3 and 12

3 Pray for families and community members participating in the Pass On program.

Heavenly Father, thank You for the way You're transforming families' lives in Zambia! We ask that You give the Pass On committee wisdom in distributing goats, and that each goat a family receives will provide what they need.

Page 12

4 Pray for families receiving animals and going through training programs that will help them care for those animals and their families in better ways.

Heavenly Father, we rejoice in the amazing work You're doing in Bangladesh! Continue to lead families in learning new things so their children will grow healthier, their animals will multiply, and their relationships will be stronger.

Page 22

5 Pray for sponsored children and for children waiting to receive a sponsor.

God Almighty, we thank You for the sponsor who answered Your call and for the transformation you did in Jackson's life through child sponsorship. Bless all World Vision sponsored children, and bring sponsors to children still waiting to receive one.

Pages 12, 22, 29, 30, 34

6 Pray for families receiving fruit trees and agriculture and nutrition training.

Father, as families receive Gift Catalog fruit trees, bless those plants to grow strong and bear much fruit to provide food and income in the years ahead. Help parents to feed their children healthier food so they can grow up strong.

Page 35

7 Pray for Christians to shine their lights in countries where few people know Jesus.

Light of the World, we ask that people around the globe will shine Your light this Christmas through acts of kindness toward those around them. May those who don't know You see You through these believers and their loving behavior.

Page 36 

**"FOR THIS IS WHAT THE LORD HAS COMMANDED US:
'I HAVE MADE YOU A LIGHT FOR THE GENTILES, THAT YOU
MAY BRING SALVATION TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH.'"**

—Acts 13:47

**"Words which do not give
the light of Christ increase
the darkness."**

—Mother Teresa



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

When God Closes the Loop

By John Huddle

I WALKED INTO the kitchen one day to find my 3-year-old daughter, Lucy, intently “reading” a child picture folder from a recent Team World Vision race like she was reading the morning newspaper. My 8-year-old daughter, Sydney, walked in and started talking to her about one of our sponsored kids, and they began getting excited about sponsoring another child. We were sponsoring four already, and I thought, “Man, these kids are adding up!”

But God had another thought for me. He wanted to show me something about connections, how deep his love is for children around the world, and how ordinary folks, like my two young daughters, can be God’s answer to a farmer’s prayers in Kenya. So we said yes to yet another child and got a packet containing a photograph of a girl named Anita in Kenya. Sydney went crazy, writing her a long letter and drawing a portrait of Anita to send with it.

Soon after that, I ran an ultramarathon in South Africa with Team World Vision. Following the race, I went to Kenya to meet Anita and her family. You never know what kind of connection you’re going to have or not have, but we pulled up to Anita’s house, and the whole village was there to welcome me. It was so special. They put this glittery sash around my neck and Anita’s neck.

I met Anita’s father, Abraham—a farmer barely making it. I love people—I love talking to them and hearing their stories. Abraham’s first question was,

“Where does the sun sit in the sky over your city?” As a farmer, he was looking for a way to connect.

Then we walked his farm. I can recognize corn or soybeans, but I didn’t recognize millet, and I accidentally tore some up. When I asked if he took his crops into a market, he said, “No, I don’t take any food to market—that’s the food my family lives on.” It hit me: I had wasted food he depends on for his family. The amazing thing was that he didn’t get angry. He embraced me. His spirit that day was so awesome.

I went with them on their walk for water, which was downhill nearly two miles over rocky terrain. I couldn’t believe that their water source was a river—the water was filthy, filled with snakes and bugs. But Anita filled her jerry can and was chugging that water. Truthfully, I wouldn’t have even washed my car with that water. On the walk back, I carried a full jerry can. It took us over twice as long to get back, and I was drenched in sweat.

Abraham said to me, “It’s an answer to prayer for my family that you are our daughter’s sponsor.” I felt like God was closing the loop, saying to them, “You are loved.” I felt so connected to Abraham and Anita. But it was time to go. Three minutes before we left, Anita gave me a letter she’d written for my daughter. Just as Sydney had drawn Anita, Anita had now drawn a portrait of Sydney. When I got home, that letter was the last gift I handed to Sydney, and she wept because she was so excited.

We feel like our family needs to be making a difference in other people’s lives and filling them up with God’s love. I see in my family a desire to connect with other people. Globalization gives us cheaper labor, but maybe through it, God is also giving us a chance to use what he’s given us and connect families.

I’m pumped for my kids. There’s this temptation in our culture to create a bubble and protect kids from seeing poverty and hard things. I don’t want to do that. I want them to know the world and know real people with real faces in other areas of the world who are poor. We have the opportunity to make an impact on their lives, and they have an opportunity to make an impact on our lives, and it’s all possible through World Vision and our staff in the field. 🙌



COURTESY OF JOHN HUDDLE

John Huddle lives in California and is the West Coast director for Team World Vision. He and his wife have four children and five sponsored children. Team World Vision will host Anita and several other children at churches in the U.S. in November. To learn more about their stories, visit wwmag.org/risingstars.

HOW'D THEY DO THAT? | 36

Christmas stars in India help believers shine their lights. Learn how to make one.

Delight

FINDING MEANING IN EVERYDAY MOMENTS

“All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle.”

—ATTRIBUTED TO FRANCIS OF ASSISI



IN THE KITCHEN FRIED PLANTAINS

By Kristy J. O'Hara

Travel throughout Latin America, and one staple side dish you're sure to find is fried plantains. They may accompany eggs and beans for breakfast or beans and any meat for dinner. Plantains provide nutrients for growing kids, so World Vision conducts nutrition workshops to show moms how to use these and other locally grown fruits and vegetables to better feed their children. The best part of eating plantains? They taste great! Try this recipe with your family to bring a taste of the tropics to your home this winter.

Dish: Fried plantains

Prep time: 20 minutes

Ingredients (serves 4): 4 to 6 ripe plantains (the browner the better), 1/4 cup vegetable oil, powdered sugar to taste

Instructions:

- 1** - Heat oil in frying pan over medium heat.
- 2** - Cut off the tips of the plantains and peel.
- 3** - Thinly cut the plantains in long, flat, diagonal slices (much like the direction of a candy cane stripe).
- 4** - Fry plantains in oil about 2 to 3 minutes each, flipping them every 15 to 20 seconds until they're golden brown on each side.
- 5** - Remove from pan and place on a paper towel-lined plate to remove excess oils and cool slightly. Sprinkle with powdered sugar and enjoy! 🍌

HEATHER KLINGER / WORLD VISION

Make an Indian Christmas Star

By Kristy J. O'Hara

Across India, as Christmas approaches, Christian families craft handmade star-shaped lanterns. These beautiful pieces represent shining God's light to the world, something even more special to Indian Christians, who make up less than 3 percent of the population. Learn how to make these stars, and visit wvmag.org/stars to download a pattern you can use to make them with your family.

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Star pattern (5 copies)
- Scissors
- Markers, crayons, or colored pencils
- Hole punch
- Glue or tape
- Ribbon
- 1 hanging fairy light

STEP 1 / Cut out each piece along the solid lines. Color and decorate each piece however you'd like.

STEP 2 / Fold each along the dotted lines.


STEP 3 / Bring the sides together, and tape or glue them to form a cone-like piece that will be one point of the star. Repeat for the other four points.

STEP 4 / Glue the tabs together so that they'll sit on the inside of the lantern. Leave the last two open to insert the light, if desired.

STEP 5 / Punch a hole about halfway up each side of the two points that will be at the top of the star.

STEP 6 / Cut ribbon to desired hanging length, thread through each hole, and tie a knot at the top where it will hang from, so it forms a triangle.

STEP 7 / Insert the fairy light into the opening between the two top points.

STEP 8 / Hang your star, plug in the fairy light, and enjoy! 



Uganda

I REMEMBER THE happy smiles, the “oohs” and “aahs” at the Morungtuny Health Center in Uganda. A mother had come in with her new baby.

She proudly raised the newborn up to my camera. I dialed the aperture on my 35mm lens to F/1.4 to isolate the baby’s beautiful face from the clutter of the crowded clinic. A few quick frames and then the baby was bundled up again, and the mother stepped back into the waiting line.

What a wonderful gift!

Every opportunity for a good photograph is a gift, of course, but I’m speaking about the baby.

What is it about babies that brings us such joy

when we see them, that makes us cherish them as rare gifts? God sent his ultimate gift of Jesus to Earth as a baby. And Jesus himself couldn’t resist children. He said, “The kingdom of God belongs to such as these” (Luke 18:16). Is it their potential, their vulnerability, their innocence, their tenderness? After all, many of them are entering a difficult world, as was this baby in Uganda.

Even in the hardest of times, we believe the possibilities for a baby are endless. And no matter what the future holds, this baby will always be someone special to God—created in his own image—an image that inspires smiles. †

Written and
photographed by
Jon Warren

Nikon D800
camera

35mm lens,
1/1000th, f/1.4, ISO
640

#GIVINGTUESDAY

November 28

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Mike, age 13,
Zambia

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Published by
World Vision, Inc.
P. O. Box 70172
Tacoma, WA 98481-0172

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U.S. Postage
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