

# WorldVision

AUTUMN 2018

After genocide,  
Rwanda is woven back  
together in Christ

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## MADE FOR MORE

DISASTER  
UPDATES

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RICH  
STEARNS'  
LASTING  
LEGACY

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JONATHAN J. GRIME/GENESIS PHOTO AGENCY

Photo: 2012

# Legacy

Though Andrea and Tim Russell are far from retirement, they have good reasons to plan for tomorrow: their kids. And it was their kids' love for their sponsored child that got them thinking about the future of their giving.

**By leaving a gift to World Vision in their will, the Russells are taking steps to provide for their family—and to keep caring for kids in need.**

**Want to know more about leaving a gift to World Vision in your will? Call 1.800.426.5753 or email us today at [plannedgiving@worldvision.org](mailto:plannedgiving@worldvision.org).**



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**ON THE COVER**

Claire, 5, benefits from faith-based economic programs in Rwanda.

EUGENE LEE/WORLD VISION

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“  
**For me, this is the moment to rejoice.**

—ISRAEL NSENGIYUMVA  
Rwandan farmer



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

Robert, right, shows school uniforms he's made as a result of the training he's received.

fundamental truths, it empowers them to take charge of their lives as never before, exploring all the possibilities God has in store.

I saw this during a recent trip to Rwanda. Robert Niyigena, a father of three, showed me his tailoring business in his home, set on the slope of a verdant valley with breathtaking views of the terraced hillsides. Before taking training last year as part of an economic empowerment project, Robert was barely getting by on small sewing jobs.

The training encouraged him to look for his own solutions, so he and his wife, Esperance, decided to sell their cow and invest in a sewing machine and other tools of the tailoring trade.

"My life drastically changed," Robert tells me. With his new business, his income has doubled. He built a new house for his family, adding a solar lamp so he could work at night and his children can study after dark.

"I learned that everything comes from God. When you trust in him, you can do anything," Robert says. "I'm now at another level of faith and believing. A lot has changed in my heart."

As a champion of people living in poverty, you are part of this transformation. Through child sponsorship, you are investing in the potential of children and their families.

In your generosity, you affirm the true value that the blood of Jesus wrote on their lives: *priceless*. 🍎



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

Read a final reflection from Rich and more about his legacy as World Vision U.S. president on page 24. Read more about the new president on page 29.

# Priceless

By Rich Stearns

**ON OCT. 1, 2018**, I'll be handing over the reins as president of World Vision U.S. (see page 29). The best part of traveling the globe these past 20 years has been witnessing positive change. Not just wells drilled, children fed, and loans disbursed, but deep and lasting transformation in people's hearts when they're freed from poverty.

Because you see, poverty isn't only about lacking material things. It's also mental, spiritual, and cultural. We live in a world that places price tags on people. Wealthy, successful, powerful people are highly valued. Poor, homeless, powerless people are not.

But this is not how God sees people, and Jesus proved it. In his public ministry, he went out of his way to embrace every category of unacceptable, undesirable, and undervalued people in his culture. His inner circle was a motley crew of fishermen, a zealot, a tax collector, and even women (taboo at the time). He touched and healed people with skin diseases, disabilities, and demons. He publically interacted with Samaritans and sinners.

Jesus' actions challenged the status quo and spoke to the dignity and value of all people. He changed the price tags. He crossed out the paltry figures and replaced them with one word: *PRICELESS*. He did it for the outcasts of his day, but also for you and me. We're all so priceless he was willing to die for us.

When people once deemed worthless discover how precious they are to God, everything changes—their relationships, their work, their worldview.

That's why World Vision provides the foundation of a biblically empowered worldview in our programs in many places. It emphasizes how God created all people in his image and for a worthy purpose. When people understand these

**FIND MORE**

View photos from the countries where World Vision works at [wvmag.org/photos](http://wvmag.org/photos).

# Embark

COME IN AND SEE THE WORLD

... She was always doing good and helping the poor.

—ACTS 9:36



**Armenia**

Metaksya Kureghyan participated in World Vision-led parenting training classes, which helped her understand the value of spending quality time with her daughters. One of her girls, 3-year-old Mara, has cerebral palsy. Metaksya says that through the training, she learned she needs to take a little more time with Mara: “She needs extra patience. I try to be aware of how she’s feeling to keep her calm. When she gets nervous, it’s hard for her to do things, and she is discouraged.”

—LAURA REINHARDT/WORLD VISION



**India**

A crowd gathers in a South Delhi street to watch a World Vision children's club perform a skit about the dangers of child labor. A public show is an easy way to educate a lot of people about community issues. "Awareness is the main purpose," says sponsored child Amir, 16. "We usually perform in an open area so people can see."

EUGENE LEE/WORLD VISION







## Rwanda

In many parts of the developing world, girls do not have the supplies they need for menstrual hygiene. In the struggle to keep girls in school instead of running home when they start their periods, World Vision recently built this sanitary room for girls at Bihinga School in eastern Rwanda. Inside this tidy brick building is a private bathroom and bed where girls can rest. More than 3,000 students attend the school, including World Vision sponsored children.

JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

• Embark

**Honduras**

A boy (above) races into rush-hour traffic to perform a trick. He breathes in lighter fluid, lights a match, and breathes out fire in order to collect small change from drivers. That's why World Vision is reaching out to the children of Tegucigalpa through teachers like Carla Isaula (below). World Vision staff teach Carla and her colleagues to interact with students in a different way—choosing kindness and empathy over harsh discipline—to encourage children to stay in school instead of dropping out to live on the streets.

JON WARREN/WORLD VISION



COVER STORY | 12

Sponsorship and economic empowerment work are creating a new landscape in Rwanda.

# Discover

EXPLORE THE ISSUES FACING PEOPLE IN POVERTY

“My command is this:  
Love each other as I  
have loved you.”

—JOHN 15:12



Rich Stearns, outgoing president of World Vision U.S., spends time with sponsored children in Nyarutovu, Rwanda, during his trip to the field. Rich and his wife, Renee, visited projects and are asking donors to help “finish the job” in Rwanda by bringing clean water everywhere World Vision works in the next five years. Read more about it on page 19.

JON WARREN/WORLD VISION



LAURA REINHARDT/WORLD VISION (2)

# One year since historic storm season: 2017 disasters update

By Chris Huber

The 2017 hurricane season brought historically powerful and damaging storms to the United States and the Caribbean islands.

Between September and December 2017, World Vision provided initial emergency relief to almost 200,000 people in Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico. Here are some updates on our work since then.

# 50"

of rain in six days



## Hurricane Harvey

Hurricane Harvey dumped more than 50 inches of rain in six days in August 2017, causing about \$125 billion in damage. It's the second-costliest hurricane to hit the U.S. mainland since 1900.

"I've lived in Texas almost all my life, and I've never seen anything like Harvey," says Stephanie Reed of Vidor, Texas, one of the worst-affected areas.

World Vision delivered relief supplies from our emergency response warehouse near Dallas and, in partnership with Ecclesia Church, opened a warehouse in Houston to serve families in the surrounding area with building materials. Since the Houston warehouse opened in October 2017, we have provided construction materials and other supplies to an additional 93,000 people. Learn more at [wvmag.org/harvey](http://wvmag.org/harvey).

## Global Briefs

By Kathryn Reid



### LEARNING BY FARMING

Groups of farmers are going back to school in South Sudan and many other countries where World Vision works. But instead of studying in classrooms, they are heading outside to Farmer Field Schools. New seed varieties and crop storage techniques are in the curriculum, but so is peacebuilding, nutrition, and gender- and child-protection training. **With the help of World Vision facilitators, men and women test new ideas to produce more and better grain, vegetables, and fruit.** At the same time, they learn to work together and support each other for the sake of their children and communities.



### READ ON

Reading camp is a popular Saturday morning activity for children in first through third grades in Nepal's Sindhuli district. They show up bright and early in their school uniforms to enjoy songs, dances, art, and games that spark a love of learning and literacy. **World Vision started the program in Nepal to help kids who are still recovering from a devastating 2015 earthquake.** "This excites young minds and captures their interest," says teacher Bimala Ale Magar. Reading camps are a key component of World Vision's Unlock Literacy initiative in many countries.

## Hurricane Irma

Hurricane Irma hit Florida Sept. 10, 2017, killing at least 80 people along its path and knocking out power to more than 6.8 million people across the state. Irma is the fifth-costliest hurricane to hit the mainland United States, causing an estimated \$65 billion in damage.

Since World Vision's initial relief supplies distributions, we have continued to help local partners as needed. Learn more at [wvmag.org/irma](http://wvmag.org/irma).

# 16,000

Puerto Ricans provided with disaster-preparedness training



CHRIS HUBER/WORLD VISION (2)

## Hurricane Maria

Since Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico Sept. 20, 2017, residents have lived through food and water shortages, lack of access to the banking system, water-related disease outbreaks, generators running out of fuel, and hospitals and schools closed due to extensive damage.

In addition to providing relief supplies and cash assistance to more than 100,000 people through June, we provided more than 16,000 Puerto Ricans with disaster-preparedness training, which is helping communities build back better with more resiliency. Watch a video of how World Vision responded to Hurricane Maria at [wvmag.org/maria](http://wvmag.org/maria).

 **Want to learn more about hurricanes, how they form, and how World Vision responds? Visit [wvmag.org/hurricanes](http://wvmag.org/hurricanes).**



EUGENE LEE/WORLD VISION



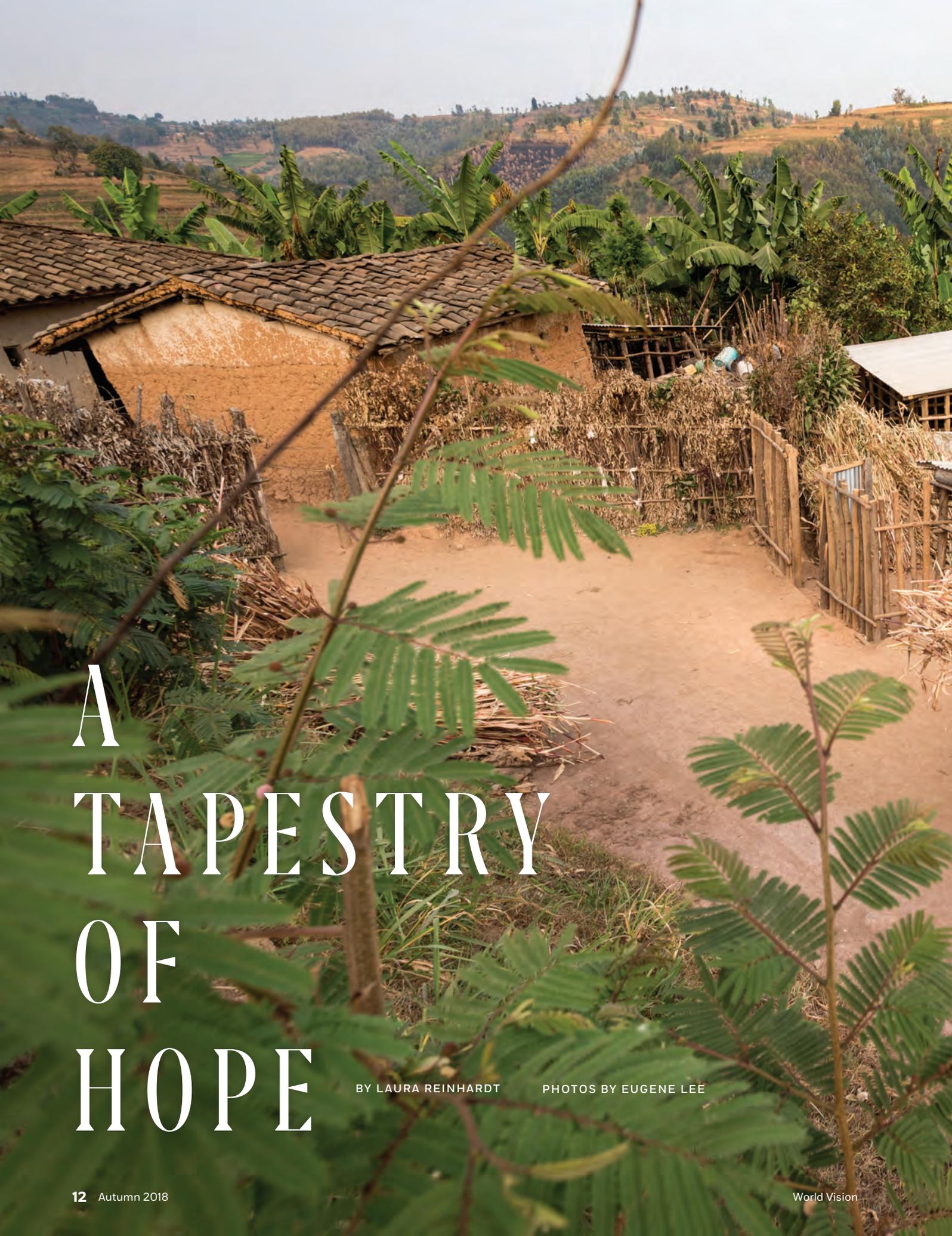
### ONE-STOP CENTER FOR RECOVERY

Forty-seven percent of Zambian women report having experienced physical, emotional, or sexual violence by an intimate partner. That's one of the highest rates of gender-based violence in the world. But things are changing. **World Vision is participating in a program to end gender-based violence that includes One-Stop Centers in health facilities where victims of abuse can see a doctor, a counselor, a legal advocate, and a police officer.** Prevention is part of the project too, with outreach to young men through sports teams and to everyone through radio programs.



### WITH CASH, YOU CHOOSE

Humanitarian organizations, including World Vision, are increasingly using e-cards—like debit cards—to provide aid to refugees and disaster survivors. In 2017, World Vision assisted 2 million people in 28 countries with cash-based aid. Cash-equivalent cards are not only efficient and cost-effective, they give families more independence and choices. They also support local markets, creating a sustainable business model. In Lebanon, Syrian refugees can use the cards for basic needs, including food, shelter, health, and hygiene. **World Vision works with the World Food Program to distribute e-cards to refugees, monitor shops that honor the cards, and handle refugees' concerns.**



# A TAPESTRY OF HOPE

BY LAURA REINHARDT

PHOTOS BY EUGENE LEE



Vedaste Nyumvira and his wife, Beata Bajyanama, lost everything when they fled during the 1994 Rwandan genocide. But they rebuilt their lives. Now their home is a place of abundance and optimism.



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**NYARUGURU, RWANDA, 1994**—A visibly pregnant woman makes her way home, desperate to retrieve baby clothes and food for her toddler son. Her family has been sheltering with neighbors, moving from one location to another, after fleeing the Hutu uprising against the ruling-class Tutsis.

Suddenly she runs into members of the militia—the *Interahamwe*, which loosely translated means “those who work together.” “Work” is code for using machetes to kill Tutsis.

The young men make the woman get down on the ground. They tell her they’re going to cut her belly and rip out the baby she’s carrying. Then another group of young men arrives. “She’s not very important,” they say. “We have some other job to do. Let’s go kill other people.”

That “not-very-important” woman was Beata Bajyanama, now 52. She and her husband, Vedaste Nyumvira, and their son Emmanuel were displaced for two months as violence spread across the country.

Today, an unprecedented 68.5 million people around the world have been forced from their homes, according to the U.N. refugee agency, UNHCR. The stories World Vision hears are of people at a low point—driven from their homes, fleeing for their lives. But what happens after the crisis?

In Rwanda today, 24 years after the genocide, people have moved beyond trauma, beyond mere survival.

Now they’re weaving a tapestry of hope through empathy and shared knowledge as they work together to improve the lives of current refugees, displaced people, and others in need.

## SEWING HOPE

Beata and Vedaste lost everything in the genocide but their lives and their son. But Beata sees God’s mercy at the moment that saved her life and that of her unborn child, and in other events along the way, like little Emmanuel’s silence when they were hiding. “When he heard the first gunshot, he stopped crying,” she says. “It was like he was aware of what was happening.”

Beata believes God saved her for a purpose: to become an agent of change in her community. In 2011, government ministers from the repatriation program approached Beata about providing sewing training to returning refugees. She jumped at the opportunity to help.

“As a person that has gone through bad moments, I know how it feels ... to always feel afraid that anything can happen,” Beata says. “Seeing [refugees] reminded me of how I lived, and that is why I wanted to help.”

So far, Beata has taught 82 people to sew, including 15 returning refugees who went on to open their own shops. Brigitte Mukunsanga was one of the 15.

Brigitte, 38, can testify to Beata’s importance. Her face lights up as she greets Beata with a tight embrace.

Brigitte returned to Rwanda in 2012 after years of living as a refugee in the Democratic Republic of the Congo after her family fled the genocide. Her brothers were killed as the family ran. Her parents died in exile.

When Brigitte and her husband learned

*Opposite:* Beata has fulfilled her dream of owning a tailoring business.

She has also shared her new sewing knowledge by teaching returning Rwandan refugees the same skills. *Below, top:* Empathetic to other people’s needs, Vedaste and Beata have been raising 5-year-old Claire, whose mother struggled to feed her children. *Below, bottom:* Brigitte Mukunsanga pays forward Beata’s instruction by training people in her community.

about the Rwandan government’s program to repatriate refugees, they returned to Nyaruguru, where his family originated. Most of the family’s farmland now belonged to others, so what little land remained only provided sustenance for them. They had no income.

Brigitte was eager to try the sewing classes so she could earn money to support her family. In 2014, she took a five-month class from Beata. After that, Brigitte interned with Beata for a month.

“For me, [the training] is a gesture of love, and I am thankful to her because it has helped me a lot,” Brigitte says of Beata.

Brigitte now owns a shop called *Ejoheza*—“bright future”—named for her renewed hope.

She has stitched her thread into that growing tapestry.

In 2015, the government asked Brigitte to train a group of Batwa men and women. The Batwa, a minority



tribe, tend to keep to themselves on the outskirts of society. But this community is eager to engage by learning sewing skills and quick to absorb Brigitte's instruction. So far, Brigitte has trained 14 people, following in the footsteps of her mentor, Beata.

## ROAD TO RECOVERY

Beata's journey to recovery was an arduous one, fraught with heartache.

When she and Vedaste first resettled, Vedaste wanted to farm, but he struggled, only managing meager harvests. During the dry season, he couldn't get water to his crops. When it rained, torrential downpours washed his hard work down the steep hillsides, sending their plants down to the valley below.

"We were working in losses," Vedaste says.

Six more children came along, which meant more mouths to feed. The children would cry from hunger. And after complications during Beata's third pregnancy, which nearly killed her, she couldn't breastfeed her babies.

"It's very painful to see your child crying because they don't have food," Vedaste says. It made him more determined to improve his harvests.

In 2010, he began learning new farming techniques from World Vision through a program made possible by child sponsorship funds. Emmanuel was sponsored, which acquainted World Vision staff with the family's struggles. Vedaste was selected in September 2014 to participate in a new agricultural program called *Inzizi Nziza*—"good dreams" in Kinyarwanda, one of Rwanda's primary languages. This program paved the way for World Vision's signature economic empowerment program, THRIVE—Transforming Household Resilience in Vulnerable Environments.

As part of THRIVE, Vedaste traveled to Yatta, Kenya, to learn advanced agricultural techniques from Bishop Titus Masika. There, Vedaste met farmers earning the

equivalent of 30 million Rwandan francs (US\$38,000) per year. He saw the possibilities. One onion farmer inspired Vedaste to try his hand with the bulbs; after the training, he was so eager that he stopped on the way home to buy onion seedlings.

He applied the farming techniques he'd learned—improved fertilizer and drip irrigation (see page 32). Through THRIVE, Vedaste learned about the importance of diversifying income sources, so he planted a variety of crops.

Beata diversified too—starting a tailoring business she'd dreamed of for years. She began by renting a sewing machine from a friend. With her early earnings, she bought her own machine. Then she connected with VisionFund, World Vision's microfinance subsidiary, and took out her first loan of US\$125. She bought another sewing machine.

VisionFund staff trained her to use the money efficiently. The team also prayed with her that the loan would result in a positive impact on her family.

After four loans and repayments, Beata has purchased 10 machines. Now, most days she's inside her shop. The whirl of sewing machines fills the air. Colorful fabrics line the shelves. Three of her grown children work alongside her, embroidering patterns on women's dresses or sewing school uniforms. In months that include orders for 100 school uniforms, the shop can earn up to US\$590.

Another of her sons runs a newly purchased photo printer as the family continues diversifying their economic opportunities.

Beata has become a successful entrepreneur. She and Vedaste have secured a better future for their children, and they are also sharing their success with others in need.

## A REAL-LIFE OZ

*Mudasomwa, Rwanda, June 2017*—A dapper, snowy-haired 60-year-old man pets his full-grown pig. He whispers gently, "Don't be scared. These are visitors coming to see you."

He opens a rusted metal door behind the cow and pig pens. The view is like the one Dorothy sees when she opens her front door into the wonderful world of Oz.

The land is covered with a bounty of fruit trees—banana, orange, avocado, apple, and lime—as well as crops of sugar cane, pumpkins, spinach, peppers, and passion fruit, to name a few. The plots are pieced together



*Opposite, top:* During the genocide, Israel Nsengiyumva and his wife, Margaret Nyirahuku, hid in the forest while their home was looted and trashed. They returned to nothing. *Opposite, bottom:* Israel expresses his tenderness and gratefulness by talking to his animals while he cares for them. *Left:* Now Israel has more than enough to provide for his daughter Marry Grace Kabatesi, 24, and granddaughter Tessy, 2.





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One of the most important things is World Vision opens my mind. Now I know what to do with my farm.

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/ ISRAEL NSENGIYUMVA



like a patchwork quilt of chartreuse and sage, forest and kelly green.

Just off the main path, a few workers weed and clear rocks from an area freshly planted with carrots, onions, and cauliflower. They can earn money doing this job, but they also gain knowledge they can apply to their own fields.

Eucalyptus trees line a steep, switchbacking path to the valley below where sweet potatoes grow.

Everything stretching from the house to the sweet potato fields belongs to the farmer who talks to the animals.

Things didn't always look so colorful for Israel Nsengiyumva, his wife, Margaret Nyirahuku, and their seven children, who range in age from 24 to 38. During the 1994 Rwandan genocide, they spent a month hiding near the outskirts of the Nyungwe Forest. They returned

home to discover that all their possessions had been stolen, leaving them to start from scratch.

But when World Vision child sponsorship began in Mudasomwa in 1999, their lives began to improve like Vedaste's and Beata's. Now, Israel and Margaret have plenty for their golden years. By selling fruits, vegetables, meat, and eggs to local restaurants, Israel has provided a nice nest egg for their family.

"One of the most important things is World Vision opens my mind," Israel says. "Now I know what to do with my farm." He wants to share that mind-expanding knowledge with other farmers, so they can improve their families' lives too. As a model farmer, he does just that—opening his home and fields twice monthly so others can learn.

Israel is also involved in two local ventures. He sells





his corn crop to the Akezakanyamagabe Corn Processing Plant, which began operations in September 2016. World Vision helped Israel's savings group start this commercial venture so the community would no longer have to spend money every month renting a car to go buy corn flour. Now, they produce it from their own crops.

At first, the cooperative produced three tons of corn flour per week. Now, they make that amount in a day. Members earn US\$3,660 per month, and they hope to increase their output to five tons per day soon.

They're expanding outside their own community, too, selling corn at Gasarenda Market near Kigeme refugee camp. Established in 2012, this camp of small homes roofed with iron or plastic sheets is home to thousands of Congolese refugees. In December 2017, the UNHCR reported the camp was home to more than 20,000 inhabitants.

The corn-flour cooperative benefits the Kigeme refugees because they no longer have to spend money traveling long distances to buy this staple food. And they know that because of the processing plant's association with World Vision, the flour is of reliably high quality.

As someone formerly displaced, Israel is happy to be able to assist refugees. He says, "As a blessed person that has been helped by God, I am obligated to help these people."

## HOPE AND HEALTH THROUGH MILK

Another opportunity for Israel to offer support is through the sale of milk to the nearby Tare Milk Collection Center.

In 2014, World Vision worked with a community group to build the collection center. This sponsorship-funded venture gives farmers a place to sell their milk that assures them of fair compensation and timely pay. Before, they'd struggled with dishonest middlemen who often cheated them or didn't pay on time.

## Leaving a legacy

**Rwanda is on** World Vision's water radar for good reason. Globally, World Vision has committed to reaching everyone, everywhere we work with clean water by 2030. The first country expected to cross the finish line is Rwanda. World Vision U.S. President Rich Stearns, who will retire at the end of this year (see pages 2 and 24), personally committed to the goal, aiming to raise \$50 million to reach 1 million Rwandans in 2,000 communities with clean water.

Why Rwanda? It's a small country, only about 10,000 square miles—a drivable distance that eases project implementation and monitoring. World Vision already has a strong track record in water programming there, investing \$22.6 million to reach 340,000 people between 2012 and 2017.

Also, Rwanda's government is similarly committed to providing clean water for all citizens. Its national strategy calls for universal access by 2024. The government recognizes World Vision's role in providing clean water and has even helped fund some water systems. "Our goals are your goals," Prime Minister Edouard Ngirente told Rich when they met in Kigali, the capital, in March.

After two decades of healing and rebuilding since the 1994 genocide, Rwanda is focused on eradicating extreme poverty. It's likely to be the first country in the developing world to solve its water crisis—a stunning achievement. And World Vision wants to ensure it. Watch a video at [wvmag.org/rwanda-water](http://wvmag.org/rwanda-water).

—Jane Sutton-Redner

Opposite: Israel sells some of his livestock's milk to a nearby World Vision-supported dairy collection center where staff serve coagulated milk to malnourished children. Top, left: The UNHCR reports that about 20,000 people—mostly from Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)—are living in the Kigeme refugee camp. Top, right: Angelique Furaha, 32, sells milk that is processed and delivered from the collection center at her shop in the refugee camp.



World Vision helped the staff secure a contract with the refugee camp. As with the corn flour, refugees knew they could count on the milk's quality and a reasonable price.

Collection center workers in white overcoats line up silver milk containers on a sparkling white tile floor. They're marked for delivery to Kigeme.

Angelique Furaha, a 32-year-old mother of five, has lived in Kigeme camp for five years. Before she fled the encroaching violence in the DRC, she sold milk from her own animals.

So when they arrived here, she opened a milk shop inside the camp. Without her own animals, she needed to find milk suppliers, and she heard about the Tare milk. "This center plays a very big role," says Angelique. "[I can] get milk easily without having to go far. It's a good quality milk."

Knowing some of the milk she sells comes from people once driven from their

Top: Bags of corn flour from local farmers, like Israel, are sold in markets near Kigeme refugee camp. *Opposite, top:* Israel checks his corn crop before sending it to a local processing plant. *Opposite, bottom:* For long-term sustainability, Israel's community now processes their own corn flour from locally grown corn crops.

homes encourages Angelique. "Seeing what they're doing, we [believe we] can go back home and also be able to help others," she says. "It gives us hope."

The Tare staff also wanted to find a way to give back to the community. Seeing many malnourished children around the center, and knowing World Vision focuses on children's well-being, they came up with a great solution.

They decided to serve coagulated milk—a cross between buttermilk and yogurt—as a way to provide nourishment to the children.

On any given day, the same staff members who receive the farmers' milk can be found serving the nutritious drink to malnourished children identified by World Vision staff.

The children line up on a bench, their feet dangling in the air. They each drink eagerly from a colorful cup, giving them a charming milk mustache.

As a father once powerless when his children cried out in hunger, Israel feels fortunate to be able to braid a thread of hope into the lives of vulnerable children.

"For me, this is the moment to rejoice," he says. "I've



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For me, this is the moment to rejoice. I've reached the highest level of happiness because I'm not in need anymore. I'm able to help those in need—those who are hungry.

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/ ISRAEL NSENGIYUMVA

reached the highest level of happiness because I'm not in need anymore. I'm able to help those in need—those who are hungry.”

### **RENEWED FAITH**

The foundation of World Vision's economic empowerment program is a biblically based empowered worldview. People learn that they are created by a loving God who has given them much potential and responsibility for themselves, their families, and the environment.

Israel expresses this through his tenderness. “When you show love even to the plants and the animals, it will give back that love, and it will respect you, and it will produce,” he says.

For Vedaste, that foundational teaching first bore fruit when he returned from his Kenya training with a renewed belief in the power of prayer.

“When we were there, we were told how people change because of prayer and applying the Word of God,” he says.

Emmanuel—the baby who stopped crying when the



genocide bullets began flying—remembers his father also came home from the training encouraging the family to treat each other with love and respect.

Vedaste pulls out a well-worn Bible and begins to read: “Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, ‘He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust’” (Psalm 91:1-2).

Those verses are favorites for Beata. They remind her of God’s faithfulness during the genocide, through the hungry years, and now as they serve others.

At church, they met a single mother who struggled to feed her children. They sympathized and offered to raise her youngest child, Claire, who was showing signs of malnutrition.

Now 5, Claire is growing stronger and is in school. She’s learning English greetings and numbers. Claire’s life would be very different had Vedaste and Beata not been there with bounty to share.

“I’ve been through painful situations. I know what it means to be hungry. I know what it means to have a child when you don’t have food or drink to give to them,” says Beata. “I feel compelled to help people because God restored



*Top:* Like the sun bursting through the darkness, Rwanda has moved beyond the trauma of the genocide. There is now renewed faith and triumph in the people who have suffered. *Bottom:* Vedaste’s faith guides his family’s values to share the fruitfulness that was given to them.



my life when I was almost dead. The second chance was given to me to live. I want to use it to help people.”

The pain and heartache of being driven from their homes make Beata, Vedaste, and Israel uniquely empathetic to the struggles of refugees and displaced people. They’ve taken their suffering and transformed it into beauty by helping others.

They offer hope that the world’s millions of currently displaced people will one day sew their own patterns of giving and love into life’s tapestry. +

*Jimmy Gahima, Anaïs Nyiramahogazi, and Charles Rwomushana contributed to this story.*

 **Help empower families like Israel’s and Vedaste’s.** Give through the envelope between pages 16 and 17 or online at [wvmag.org/give](http://wvmag.org/give) or call 1.866.962.4453.



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I feel compelled to help people because God restored my life when I was almost dead.

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/ BEATA BAJYANAMA

*LEADERSHIP  
LESSONS | 24*

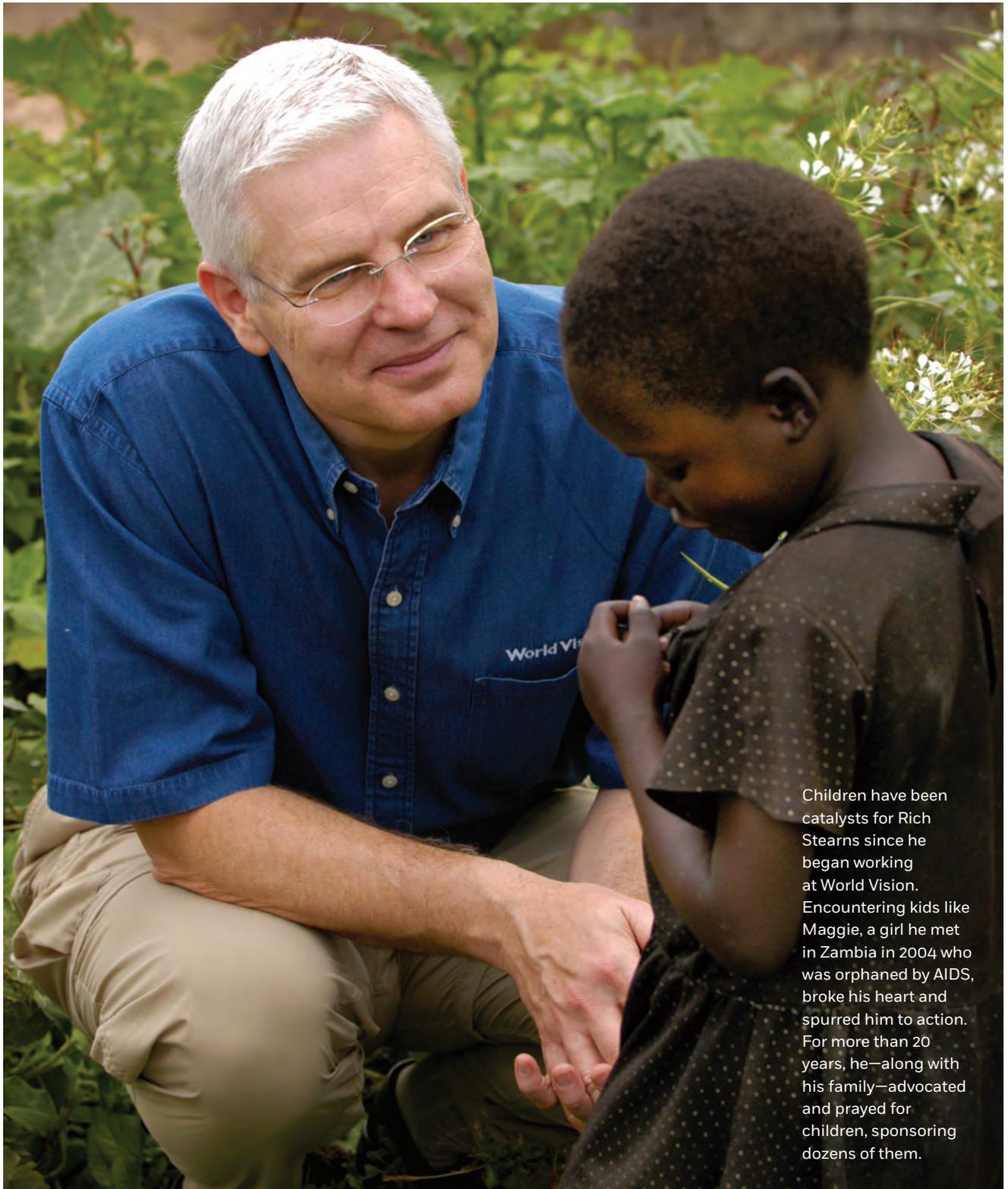
Read Rich Stearns' reflections about 20 years of obeying God.

# Inspire

MOTIVATING YOU TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

*WHERE ARE  
THEY NOW | 26*

One former sponsored child was motivated by injustices around her to pursue a legal career.



Children have been catalysts for Rich Stearns since he began working at World Vision. Encountering kids like Maggie, a girl he met in Zambia in 2004 who was orphaned by AIDS, broke his heart and spurred him to action. For more than 20 years, he—along with his family—advocated and prayed for children, sponsoring dozens of them.

JON WARREN/WORLD VISION



Rich walks with two of his family's sponsored children—Jackson, left, and Morgan, right—in Zambia.

JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

# Lessons I leave with you

By Rich Stearns

**AFTER SPENDING 20 YEARS** immersed in the humanitarian world, I've learned a lot about international development, geopolitical trends, and disaster mitigation. Some might even say I have a Ph.D.-level understanding. But in the twilight of my World Vision U.S. presidency, those aren't the learnings I'm compelled to share. What's on my mind are the timeless lessons of God's truth, recorded in the Bible and borne out in my experience.

The first and perhaps most important lesson came at the very beginning of my World Vision journey before I even accepted the role of president. God powerfully used the story of Moses to teach me about obedience.

In Exodus 3, God told Moses he was planning a dramatic rescue of his enslaved people to deliver them to the Promised Land. He needed a leader, and he tapped Moses for the job. Moses didn't want it. Whining through an exchange with God lasting nearly 40 verses over two chapters in Exodus, he protested, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"



**1998**

On Rich Stearns' first trip to Uganda, "ground zero" for the AIDS pandemic, he met 13-year-old Richard, who had been orphaned by AIDS, and learned there were 12 million children like him in sub-Saharan Africa. This sparked his passionate **commitment to fight HIV and AIDS.**

## Rich Stearns' leadership through the years

When Rich Stearns left the for-profit corporate world behind in 1998, he immediately stepped into the business of poverty, hurricanes, and deadly diseases. And there was much more to come. Over the next two decades, World Vision responded to natural disasters, war, famine, and world-shaking events—and scored some major victories in the war against poverty.

In 1998, I was every bit as insecure as Moses when the World Vision U.S. board of directors selected me as the next president. I was convinced they had the wrong person. I had never been to Africa. I knew very little about global poverty. I had no theological training, and I'd never done much public speaking. I was running a luxury goods company, of all things—selling expensive baubles to the wealthy.

Like Moses, I argued with God and pleaded with him to send someone else. Facing a job offer that to others might seem exciting and important, I was fearful and reluctant.

For me, the key moment in Moses' story comes in Exodus 4, when God asks Moses, "What is that in your hand?" Moses had his wooden shepherd's staff in his hand. God told him to throw it down, and as we know, God then performed a miracle by turning the staff into a serpent. Essentially God was saying, "Moses, I've got this. I am the God of miracles. You don't need to worry about how this will turn out. I can use even a lifeless stick of wood to accomplish my will. I'm only asking for your obedience."

God was saying the same thing to me in 1998. "Look, Rich, I've got this. I know what's on your résumé. I am well aware of your shortcomings. I need your obedience."

Like Moses, I finally said yes to God, trusting he would use what I had in the same way as he used Moses' simple staff to part the Red Sea and perform miracles. The same way Jesus took a few loaves and fish—the simple lunch of a small boy—and fed 5,000 people. God needs far less than we think to change the world, and all of us have something God can use, even if it's only a stick. He

will use what we have, if only we give it.

Now, saying yes to God is only step one. Faith involves long obedience in the same direction. Along the way, it's easy to doubt God's promises when we don't see results. Moses did, questioning God when the going got tough with Pharaoh: "Why did you ever send me?" (Exodus 5:22).

Over my 20 years at World Vision, I sometimes wavered in my belief in what God was doing. At times I felt like I was riding a roller coaster of success and setbacks, record-breaking revenue and poor financial forecasts, progress against poverty and heartbreaking encounters with hurting children.

I learned a lesson in trust from Abraham, another biblical figure with reason to doubt God. It had to have been difficult for Abraham to believe that at his advanced age, and with a wife who couldn't conceive, he would be "the father of many nations." He went years without any sign of these descendants. But as Romans 4:20-21 says, Abraham "did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he promised."

I've come to see the remarkable truth in this Scripture. While leading a billion-dollar ministry that works in some of the hardest places on the planet, I've learned it's God who delivers the results, not me. You see, what God is accomplishing through us *involves* us, but it doesn't *depend* on us.

We see this in Scripture time and time again: Moses was *involved* in freeing God's people and leading them to the Promised Land. Abraham was *involved* in God's promise of a son. Joshua was

“  
God has not  
called me to be  
successful. He  
called me to be  
faithful.”

—MOTHER TERESA

*involved* in toppling the walls of Jericho. The Apostle Paul was *involved* in leading the first-century church. But in every case, the outcome didn't depend on them. They simply obeyed, and God delivered the outcomes.

That's what the past two decades, 2 million air miles, hundreds of church visits, and trips to 60-plus countries have been about for me: obeying God and trusting him for the results.

These are lessons for you, too. God calls each of us to join him in changing the world. But maybe you're feeling underqualified or unready. Maybe you're wondering "Why me?" and focusing on the pieces that seem to be missing. Just look at what's in your hand. God never asks for what we do not have—but he cannot use what we will not give.

Most of all, God wants our obedience. Mother Teresa said it best: "God has not called me to be successful. He called me to be faithful."

Remember that God always makes good on his promises. You may not always see it or feel it. But you can believe it because God is doing it! +

1999



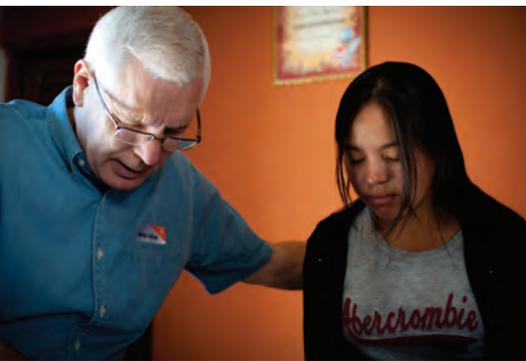
In Ghana, Rich saw the success of World Vision's large-scale water projects in partnership with the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation and visited villages that lacked clean water. After this first exposure to the global water crisis, Rich encouraged World Vision to **accelerate clean water and sanitation programs in all countries where it works.**

2001

The 9/11 terrorist attacks changed geopolitics overnight. On the domestic front, World Vision **provided support to New York victims' families.** Globally, anti-American sentiment hit close to home when a gunman shot and wounded Ray Norman, a World Vision director serving in West Africa, and his daughter, underscoring the increasing risks of humanitarian work.



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

# Seeking justice

Against all odds, a former sponsored child in Bolivia becomes a lawyer

By Kathryn Reid

**SOMETIMES IT SEEMS** there is no justice. Ruth Daneyba Ardaya had every reason to think that.

She was raised by a hardworking but impoverished, single mother. “She had me at 18,” says Ruth. “When [my father] knew my mother was pregnant, he left.”

Abandonment, alcoholism, abuse, unemployment, and poverty were common in her rural community in Tiraque province, Bolivia. But for Ruth and

other children, World Vision sponsorship provided a counterbalance to their families’ burdens.

Perhaps even more important was the hope and healing instilled in Ruth and her friends. Through World Vision, they learned that God is their loving Father and wants the best for them.

“I started with the [World Vision] children’s network when I was 13. We learned about leadership and our rights and how to overcome our own problems,” says Ruth.

Her mother moved to Argentina when Ruth was 15, leaving Ruth with her grandparents, whom she calls mom and dad. Ruth struggled to stay in school while supporting herself doing hard manual labor. One day she was injured carrying heavy weights and couldn’t walk.

“I needed urgent surgery. Mom didn’t have the money for it,” Ruth says. World Vision helped cover the cost. She recovered and graduated from high school in 2009, then moved to Cochabamba to work and take a secretarial course. Determined and supporting herself, she yearned for something more. She set her sights on what seemed an impossible goal: becoming a lawyer.

She applied to university and was accepted. But as she looked at the costs, her glimmer of hope faded into a seemingly impossible dream.

In 2011, Ruth told her story to World Vision U.S. President Rich Stearns when he visited her youth group.

“I want to make justice [for] children, to help children with problems they have, children who are without parents and abused by others,” she said.

“That’s my focus.”

Ruth’s story and her indomitable spirit touched Rich in a very personal way.

“I have a daughter who is 19, but she has an easier life,” he told her. “She has parents who pay for her tuition.”

Ruth’s reply tore his heart out: “I’d like to have the opportunity to ask my parents [for help], but I don’t know how a father loves his daughter. I don’t know that.”

After praying for Ruth and encouraging her, Rich told World Vision local staff that he personally wanted to help Ruth.

“I wanted this girl just once in her life to feel the love of a father,” he said.

A few weeks later, Rich set up an account to help Ruth with her education and living expenses.

As the years have passed, emails and letters between Rich and Ruth have conveyed words of encouragement and blessing, deepening the relationship.

Rich encourages her to seek inspiration in God’s word and always adds, “I am praying for you!”

Ruth writes about her roommates, her family, and finally, achieving her long-sought dream of graduating with a law degree. “I cried with emotion,” she says.

Now she’s starting a new stage of life, and so is Rich (see page 24).

But the World Vision family connection remains strong. And Rich’s legacy of love and caring will be passed on through Ruth and the lives of many other children around the world. +

 [Read Ruth’s full story at wvmag.org/ruth.](http://wvmag.org/ruth)

**Sponsor a child** like Ruth by filling out the envelope between pages 16 and 17.



## 2002

In response to the HIV and AIDS crisis, World Vision’s global partnership launched the Hope Initiative to care for widows, orphans, and vulnerable children. Over the next several years, Rich **spearheaded efforts to change American Christians’ hearts on AIDS** through gatherings for church leaders, trips to Africa for pastors and other influencers, and Step Into Africa—a traveling experiential exhibit.



KARI COSTANZA/WORLD VISION

## 2004

After an earthquake-triggered tsunami devastated Indian Ocean coastlines, World Vision **raised more than \$350 million and mounted the largest disaster response in its history**, providing relief and rehabilitation in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, India, and Myanmar over the next 10 years.

# We stepped out in faith

By René Stearns

When Rich and I began this journey with World Vision some 20 years ago, we had no idea what was in store.

We only knew that as a family, we were about to embark on a great adventure as we sought to follow God. Since then, he has taken us into a feeding center in Niger, an AIDS clinic in India, a refugee camp in Lebanon, and a shelter for war victims in the Congo. What we lacked in skill and courage, we more than made up for in the assurance that as God's children, we had been called by him to serve, and that as we stepped out in faith, he promised to go with us.

After his 20 years of service as World Vision U.S. president, the topic of Rich's retirement is at the forefront of many people's minds. Several have asked me about our



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

plans for the future, but as I think about what lies ahead, it's also helpful to reflect back on our journey and some of the lessons I've learned over these past two decades.

The first thing that comes to mind is that the world is a much bigger place than I ever imagined. I must say that for most of my life, I lived in a very small world, limited understandably by my own personal experiences of family, home, and community. But in the last 20 years, I have come to love and appreciate the richness and diversity of cultures and people I had never known existed. I have had the opportunity to visit almost 30 countries and meet extraordinary men and women, boys and girls who, with World Vision's help, are hard at work making life better for themselves and their families.

And everywhere I travel, I'm reminded that no matter what our circumstances or where we live, we share many of the same hopes and dreams—women who scavenge for food in the local landfill, mothers suffering from AIDS, moms who have lost everything in an earthquake, tsunami, or civil war all long for a brighter future for their children.

The second thing I've learned is that we should never give in to the attitude that if we can't do something big, we shouldn't do anything at all. I know that I can't solve all the problems I see around me in the world today, but that doesn't mean I should sit back and do nothing.

I know that not everyone can travel to the far corners of the world, but in many ways, God has brought the world and its challenges to our doorsteps, and I believe he is calling us all to get involved. It doesn't require that we travel 10,000 miles around the globe to help meet the needs of the people God loves. But it does require a willingness to allow the needs of others to lay a claim upon our lives.

With what skills I have, I can communicate a message of love and concern for the people God places in my path. Mother Teresa is credited with saying, "We can do no great things, only small things with great love." Sometimes the small thing we can do is be present, to show up for a woman alone in a refugee camp or for a neighbor down the street in need of a friend.

Finally, I've learned that God doesn't need my help to fix the brokenness in our world, but that he has invited me to participate with him in this great endeavor. God has a plan for the world, and remarkably, he has invited each of us to play a part. The Creator of the universe, who numbers the stars and calls them all by name, has called our names too, asking us to be his co-laborers. What a privilege!

Time and again, we have seen that in response to our one small act of faith in heeding God's call to join World Vision, the Lord has been faithful, and I am confident that as you say "yes" to God's invitation to be his partner, that will be your experience as well. +

2005



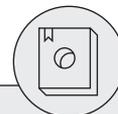
Hurricane Katrina was a game-changer for World Vision's domestic disaster work, **highlighting the need for pre-positioned relief supplies and the value of working closely with local churches.** These lessons have better equipped World Vision to respond to many more natural disasters, including successive hurricanes in 2017 (see page 10).

2008



Despite a recession rocking the U.S., World Vision donors were faithful. **Revenue from private and public sources topped \$1 billion.** Combined with the operational efficiencies Rich initiated—including lowering the overhead rate to historic lows—this was a boost to children and families in poor communities.

2009



Rich **challenged American Christians with his award-winning book, *The Hole in Our Gospel*,** which shared biblical insight about God's expectations for serving the poor, combined with his own story of reluctantly answering God's call to join World Vision.



Grace and Hannah Stearns visit a school in Kenya with their parents.

# Instilling generosity

**THE FIVE STEARNS** children were ages 6, 10, 13, 16, and 19 when they watched their parents give up the American Dream of financial success to serve full-time in God's kingdom. Over the years they traveled with Rich and Reneé, witnessing World Vision's impact around the globe.

Today Sarah, 39, is a busy mom and blogger; Andy, 36, is a business executive; Hannah, 33, is a prosecuting attorney; Pete, 30, is a pastor; and Grace, 26, directs content for a communications firm. All embrace the lessons learned while growing up—especially the significance of supporting God's kingdom work.

To help the kids understand tithing and develop their own hearts for giving, Rich and Reneé involved them in family giving decisions. All the kids vividly remember an activity around the dining table in which Rich and Reneé laid out index cards with the names of individuals or organizations the family could support. They passed around Monopoly money equal to the total tithing amount and discussed why they would support a particular ministry, using the play

money as pledges.

"We felt like we had ownership of the giving, even when it wasn't our money that we were sacrificing," says Pete. "It allowed us to look forward to that and be excited about giving."

These and other lessons weren't wasted. All members of the Stearns family now serve and give in various ways. Here, they share more of the wisdom they learned from their parents.

## On tithing

Hannah: "Every time you get an allowance, 10 percent goes in tithes. It's not optional. That was always enforced with us: You're giving back, and stewardship is important. They are very good stewards with their money. That has always been something that I admire of them."

Andy: "When I got engaged, my dad sat us down and said, 'When are you going to start tithing together?' We had some answer along the lines of, 'Well, we plan to merge all of our bank accounts once we get married ... and then we'll do it.' He said, 'You can't wait that long. You're engaged for the next year. You need to

start giving together today.' That really set the tone for the next 11 years since then that giving has been a huge part of our life, and we're now teaching that to our kids."

## On worldview

Sarah: "I remember very clearly my dad saying: 'It was nothing you did that caused you to be born in a comfortable living environment and nothing that others did that caused them to be born in an environment of poverty.' It's always been a good reminder that we have been very fortunate as a family and to be generous with those who have been less fortunate."

## On modeling generosity

Pete: "The most valuable resource in teaching your child about empathy, compassion, and generosity is you. You will not find a great devotional study that will change your child's life and worldview if you're not modeling that yourself. It's being vulnerable with your own faith journey, inviting them to be a part of things that we may keep quiet, and being intentional about modeling active faith for them, and teaching them what Scripture has to say about the people around the world."

## On child sponsorship

Grace: "Each of my siblings and I got to sponsor a child that was around our same age. ... It made sponsorship very personal to have a friend halfway around the globe with whom I exchanged letters every month or so. My mom would have us all gather at the kitchen counter to write letters, decorate them with stickers, and choose photos of our family to include with the letters." +

 **Read more at** [wvmag.org/stearns-kids](http://wvmag.org/stearns-kids).

## 2010

Following a catastrophic earthquake in Haiti that killed more than 200,000 people, Rich visited the capital, Port-au-Prince, which he described as "the largest refugee camp in the world." In the first 90 days, **World Vision assisted nearly 2 million people with food, shelter, water, sanitation, and child protection.** Rehabilitation work continued for five years.

## 2013

The Syria civil war had caused a massive refugee flow and destabilized the Middle East. World Vision's refugee response started in 2011 in Lebanon, and shortly after programs began in Jordan in 2013, Rich went there in 2013 on his first of several trips to the region. He met 10-year-old Haya, a refugee girl whose story broke his heart and whose poignant letter became part of many speeches he delivered afterward, **challenging the American church to care about Syrian refugees.**



# Meet the new World Vision U.S. president

By Jane Sutton-Redner



CRAIG LEE/GENESIS PHOTO AGENCY

Edgar Sandoval Sr. has an unstoppable passion to see that every child—especially the most vulnerable—can experience Christ’s promise of life in all its fullness.

Three life-transforming experiences shaped this passion. The first was during his childhood. Born in Los Angeles, Edgar grew up in Central and South America, where he witnessed poverty. The second experience came years later, when Edgar gave his life to Christ at a Christian men’s conference. Third, the blessing of two special-needs daughters cemented his concern for the most vulnerable.

Edgar left the corporate world in 2015 when he and his wife, Leiza, felt a strong call to World Vision, and he became chief operating officer. While directing fundraising programs to benefit children and communities, he traveled overseas to meet some of these children. “The kids are incredible,” he says. “I don’t know that I could survive a week in some of the places I’ve seen. Do their conditions break my heart? Yes. Do I want to change them? Yes. God breaks your heart not just to be sad, but to help you bring your very best, to spur you to action for children in need.”

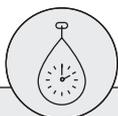
Edgar’s own hardship came at age 18, when he returned to the U.S. alone, with only \$50 in his pocket, intent on a college education. He worked minimum-wage jobs and took courses in English as a second language while working toward his goal, eventually earning two bachelor’s degrees from Rutgers University and an Ivy League MBA.

Career success followed, including 20 years at Procter & Gamble. In his last role as vice president of global feminine care, Edgar was the driving force behind the internationally acclaimed #LikeAGirl campaign that changed a value statement about girls from a negative to a positive.

As World Vision U.S. president, Edgar aims to accelerate the impact of programs reaching vulnerable children, and he will ensure that witness to Christ remains strong.

Edgar, Leiza, and their four children are also personally invested, sponsoring seven children through World Vision. “God has blessed my family greatly through World Vision,” Edgar says. “It is our complete honor to serve the Lord in this way.” +

2015



World Vision completed its Campaign For Every Child, a five-year, \$538 million campaign that helped 26 million people. Among its accomplishments: 12 million people were protected from malaria; spiritual nurture programs benefited nearly 2 million people; and more than 5.2 million people accessed clean water, sanitation, and hygiene. **World Vision, now the largest humanitarian provider of clean water, set an aggressive goal to reach one new person with clean water every 10 seconds by 2020—and accomplished this in just one year!**



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

2018

After announcing that he will retire at the end of 2018, **Rich committed World Vision and his energies to providing clean water to everyone in World Vision’s projects in Rwanda**—the first country projected to achieve World Vision’s goal for universal water access in all project areas by 2030.

Peyton and Mason Fritz are two Lake Center Christian School students who participated in the Matthew 25 Challenge.



# Instilling a vision in future leaders

By Laura Reinhardt

**THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN** Lake Center Christian School and World Vision started when students in the running club signed up for World Vision's Global 6K for Water. When the day arrived last May, Ohio's spring weather wasn't exactly ideal—it was snowing. Despite the less-than-stellar conditions, 40 of the 50 participants who'd committed still showed up for the event.

Dannon Stock, who led the running club at that time, says those tough circumstances contributed to the students' feelings of solidarity with children who have to walk 6 kilometers every day for water.

This year, the fifth-grade classes have embraced World Vision's Global 6K for Water as the service-learning component in their school, which is about 30 minutes outside of Akron. Service to Christ is one of the school's core values, and they look for unique ways to meet the needs of their immediate area as well as the global community. This event seemed tailor-made for them.

The students created soaps, hand sanitizer, and bracelets to raise money for their entrance fees and to donate to clean water efforts. The third-grade teachers wanted another activity

for their classes to do for their service project. Again, World Vision provided the answer with the Matthew 25 Challenge.

Matthew 25:35-36 encourages believers to act on their faith by providing for those in need.

*For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.*

Dannon, now the school's principal, liked the idea of the challenge. "I thought it was a great opportunity for our school to get our kids involved in something outside of themselves, to see the bigger picture of what's going on in the world and to actively participate in it," she says.

World Vision sent daily text messages with tasks for the students. They included skipping snacks, wearing the same clothes two days in a row, and sleeping on the floor. The children and their families embraced the challenge.

"It's an opportunity for kids to get involved in just really understanding the concept of global poverty and what it looks like to be in poverty throughout the world," Dannon says.

Many of the more than 600 students are upper middle-class. Dannon believes the Matthew 25 challenge opened their eyes to understand that there are children in this country and around the world who go without every single day.

"Being uncomfortable is a good thing for our kids to feel too," she says.

As part of the Matthew 25 Challenge, each participant received a lanyard with a picture of a child who lives in a developing country. "They really took ownership of the children who were on their lanyards. They wore the lanyards around all day, and then they had the one that they took home at night, so they could pray," says Dannon. At the end of the challenge, students and their families also had the opportunity to sponsor the children.

The school is already making plans to participate again next year. They want to expand the challenge to students from the first grade through the third grade.

Dannon says, "I think if we are going to educate and send out Christian leaders, it's important for us to instill—at an early age—a vision for what it looks like for them to go to all parts of the world." +

 [Sign up for the Matthew 25 challenge at \[wvmag.org/challenge\]\(https://www.wv.org/challenge\).](https://www.wv.org/challenge)

**HOW'D THEY  
DO THAT? | 32**

Discover how simple  
drip irrigation is  
changing farming.

# Delight

FINDING MEANING IN EVERYDAY MOMENTS

I will praise God's  
name in song ...  
—PSALM 69:30

## IN THE KITCHEN

### ISOMBE

By Laura Reinhardt

Greens and other vegetables grown by farmers like Israel Nsengiyumva (see page 12) might end up in a popular Rwandan dish called *isombe*. The combination of fresh vegetables and peanut butter blends together into mouthwatering healthy goodness that can be served as a side or main dish.



**Watch** a video showing how to make this at [wvmag.org/isombe](http://wvmag.org/isombe).

## Ingredients

3 cups chicken or beef broth  
1 pound cassava leaves, washed and chopped (can substitute with kale or collard greens)  
1 pound spinach, washed and chopped  
6 green onions, chopped  
2 eggplant, cubed  
3 bell peppers, sliced into strips  
3 tablespoons oil  
3 tablespoons peanut butter  
Salt

## Instructions

**1 /** Bring the chicken or beef broth to a boil in a stockpot.  
**2 /** Add the cassava leaves, cover, and boil until tender.  
**3 /** Add the chopped spinach, green onions, eggplant, and bell peppers, cover, then cook on medium heat for 10 minutes.  
**4 /** Add the oil and peanut butter, and stir to form a smooth paste.  
**5 /** Uncovered, simmer for about 10 minutes or until it thickens. Drain any excess liquid. Salt to taste.  
**6 /** To complete your traditional Rwandan meal, serve with rice and bread.



HEATHER KLINGER / WORLD VISION

# Drip irrigation

By Laura Reinhardt

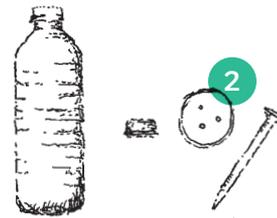
World Vision is taking huge strides to increase the accessibility of clean water for people in Rwanda and around the world. But in a country known as the land of a thousand hills, it's nice for farmers to eliminate a few trips to water their plants.

A drip irrigation system works especially well on small plots of land, such as family gardens. This simple, effective solution frees farmers from frequent trips to get water, and it can also be made using supplies readily available in most African homes. +

Here's how farmers in Rwanda build their own drip irrigation systems.



Find and wash a plastic bottle.



Remove the lid and use a nail to poke a couple holes in the lid. (The more holes, the faster the water will run out.)



Fill the bottle with water, and replace the cap.



Dig a hole next to the plant you want to water.



Insert the bottle cap-side down. When the water runs low, refill.



EUGENE LEE/WORLD VISION

ILLUSTRATIONS BY ASHLEY WALTON/JOJOURNEY GROUP



## Overcoming obstacles

**TRAVELING TO LEBANON** to meet refugees from Syria's civil war, I knew people would share tough stories—of loss, hardship, and sorrow. We strive to represent people's reality, including their struggles. But we also always want to show people's dignity and resilience in the face of hardship.

World Vision's work with Syrian refugees in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley showed me what that grit and determination look like. While there photographing our water work and early childhood education centers, I applied a bit of my own determination to find the shot I want-

ed—people rising above the pain of their circumstances.

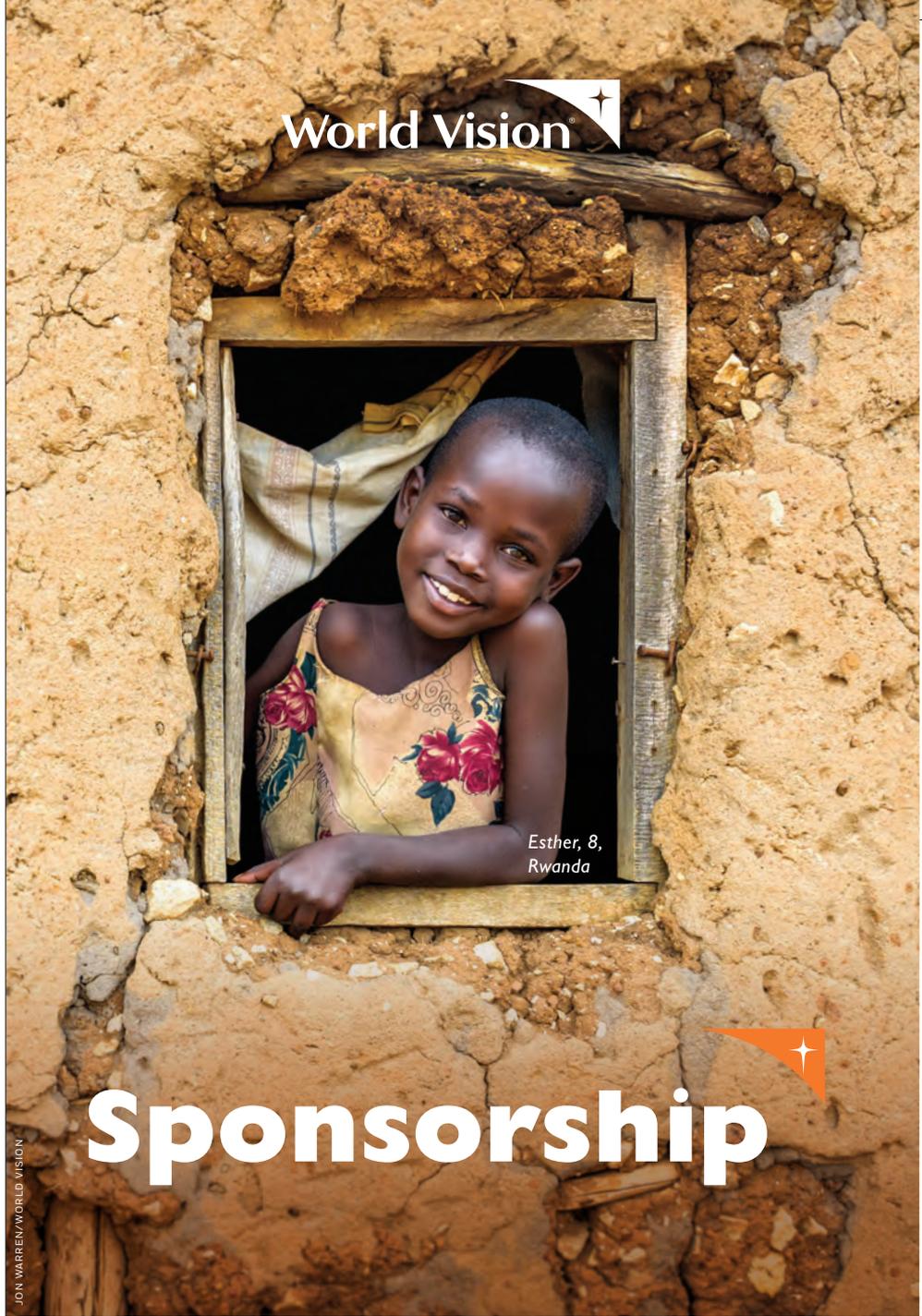
After a bus ride from the education center to the informal tent settlement, where some of the students live, I began photographing two boys jumping across a small puddle. They kept at it, so I did too.

My photography mentor, World Vision photographer Jon Warren, always advises me not to give up on a shot when I feel I'm moving in the right direction. So I kept photographing the boys. Then suddenly, out of nowhere, an older boy came flying through the air.

It was the photo I needed to communicate resilience in dire circumstances. It wasn't planned, but I was there because I heeded Jon's good advice. That boy's puddle-clearing leap seemed to say, "This situation won't contain me. I will rise above it!" +

Written and  
photographed  
by Laura  
Reinhardt

Nikon D750  
31mm, 1/200,  
f/11, ISO 250



Esther, 8,  
Rwanda

JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

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