

WorldVision

SUMMER 2018

Q&A: **24**
BIG DADDY
WEAVE

OUR SUMMER
READING
PICKS

32

12

FULL OF WONDER

Strengthening families so kids
are seen and heard

World Vision®



Childhood



011728_0418 © 2018 World Vision, Inc.

**HELP PROTECT CHILDHOOD.
SPONSOR A CHILD TODAY.**

Show God's love to a child in need as you encourage them and their entire community to stand tall, free from poverty and exploitation.

worldvision.org/protectchildhood

World Vision



President Richard E. Stearns

Editor Sevil Omer

Managing Editor Kristy J. O'Hara-Glaspie

Associate Editor Heather Klingner

Copy Editors

Sandra Boedecker, Denise C. Koenig

Contributing Editors

Rachael Boyer, Chris Huber,
Eugene Lee, Marilee Pierce Dunker,
Laura Reinhardt

Photo Editor Jon Warren

Design Journey Group

Print Production Betsy Grabinski

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.

Scripture taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. www.zondervan.com The "NIV" and "New International Version" are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.™

Member, Evangelical Press Association
and Association Media & Publishing



1.866.952.4453

Copyright © 2018 by World Vision, Inc.

World Vision

ON THE COVER

Aida, 2, benefits from World Vision's child protection programs in Armenia.

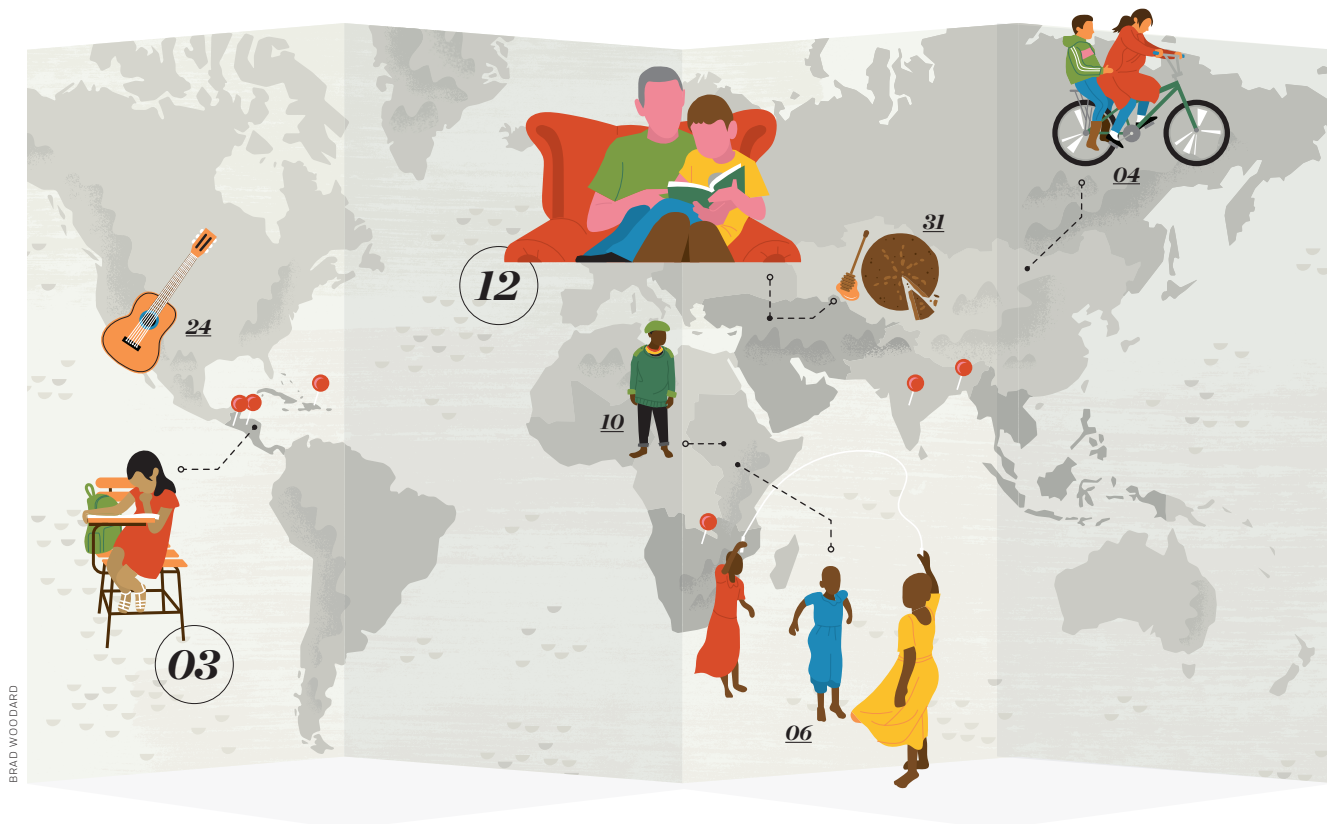
EUGENE LEE/WORLD VISION

Contents

WORLD VISION MAGAZINE | SUMMER 2018 | VOL. 21, NO. 3

PRESIDENT'S LETTER | 2

Rich Stearns shares how we can all be superheroes.



BRAD WOODARD

3

Embark

NICARAGUA | 3

MONGOLIA | 4

UGANDA | 6

HONDURAS | 8

9

Discover

IN THE FIELD | 10

What does child protection look like around the world? Find out how protection varies in different contexts and how World Vision works in each one.

COVER STORY

BUILDING HAPPY CHILDHOODS | 12

In Armenia, children face many challenges to growing up safely so they can thrive as adults. World Vision is working along with them to overcome those barriers from conception through adolescence.

23

Inspire

Q&A WITH BIG DADDY WEAVE | 24

The band has traveled to four continents to see World Vision's work. Learn how their time overseas has rocked their faith.

PAINTING SYRIA'S CHILDREN | 28

A group of artists felt called to help the refugee crisis but were unsure how—until God inspired them to use their talents to raise funds.

MEANINGFUL MOMENTS | 30

As the lazy summer months arrive, don't let your spiritual life go on hiatus. Try these tips to keep it sharp this season.

31

Delight

IN THE KITCHEN | 31

Beekeeping is helping lift families out of poverty in Armenia. Try out this recipe for honey cake.

YOUR 2018 SUMMER READING LIST | 32

Looking for an inspiring read this summer? Search no further—use our flowchart to find the perfect poolside book.

LIFE FRAMES | 33

A photographer captures the joy of a child playing with a toy made from scrap in Zambia.

“

We believe that we are able to change something.”

—Tovmas Vardanyan, 16, who participates in World Vision's IMPACT club in Armenia



Defin, 3, looks at a Christmas card her brother, Joshua Ogwang, 10, received from his sponsors, who live in California.

God's superheroes

By Rich Stearns

MANY PEOPLE ARE surprised to learn that I'm a big fan of superheroes. I see all the Marvel movies, and I love to troll through eBay looking for vintage superhero comic books to add to my collection.

This fascination started in my childhood when I was growing up feeling like an underdog. My dad was an alcoholic who went bankrupt twice. The bank foreclosed on our home, evicting us. My parents divorced. During those years, I felt deeply insecure, like I could never overcome the odds against me. To cope, I escaped into superhero comic books.

Superheroes had hot cars, cool suits, and powers that a vulnerable kid could only dream about: great strength, super speed, extrasensory powers, X-ray vision. Superheroes fought for underdogs like me, always winning out over the bad guys. The world was a better and safer place when they were around.

It didn't escape my attention that several of these characters had difficult backgrounds. Spider-Man's Peter Parker was an orphan and a weakling who was often bullied. As a child, Batman's Bruce Wayne witnessed his parents' mur-

der. Steve Rogers, who became Captain America, suffered from childhood polio.

Despite their weakness and hardship, these guys became heroes. They were repurposed to fight evil and injustice. That happens in real life, too. But not by radioactive spider bites, special costumes, or science experiments—by God, the ultimate source of power in the universe.

People who are willing to serve our all-powerful God go through a “holy repurposing” as dramatic as that of the characters in my comic books. The Bible is full of examples: Moses, a condemned Hebrew baby, was repurposed to be the deliverer of Israel. David, a shepherd and the runt of his seven brothers, was repurposed to be a king. Peter was a fisherman repurposed to be a fisher of men. Mary, a poor Jewish teenager, was repurposed as the mother of the Messiah. Saul, the persecutor of Christians, was repurposed as Paul, the proclaimer of the Good News.

God wants to repurpose every single person who has chosen to follow him. He repurposed me. He looked at my tough background and saw tools he could use. That comic-book-loving kid from a broken home eventually became, as president of World Vision U.S., a champion for vulnerable children everywhere.

Sadly, there are many children in the world today who need someone to fight against the forces that imperil them: poverty, violence, exploitation, and discrimination. They need someone to stand up for them so they can have a safe and happy childhood like our own children do.

This isn't the work of Superman or Wonder Woman. It's my job and your job. We're the superheroes God wants to repurpose. If we've said “yes” to caring for the precious children he loves, he will infuse us with his power and turn our weakness into strength.

We can make the world a better, safer place for all children—no cape or spandex required. ✚

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

FIND MORE

Listen to a spoken-word poem called “Childhood Lost” by Propaganda at wvmag.org/lost.

Embark

COME IN AND SEE THE WORLD

ONLINE

Learn more about World Vision's response to Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico at wvmag.org/maria.



Nicaragua

Belen, 6, was once an underweight, malnourished child who was unable to go to school. Through sponsorship, her mother learned to cook with more nutritious ingredients such as soybeans and fresh vegetables grown in community gardens. Now Belen's health has improved, and she's well enough to attend class.

EUGENE LEE/WORLD VISION



Mongolia

Sponsored girl Dulamsuren, 12, rides her bike with a neighbor boy. Dulamsuren is taking a moment from her chores of caring for the family's animals. The family of seminomadic herders moves four times a year around the Valley of the Painting Pen in central Mongolia's Bayankhongor province as they raise and protect hundreds of goats, sheep, yaks, and horses. Child sponsorship allows children like Dulamsuren to have moments of joy to play and do the things kids are meant to do.

JON WARREN/WORLD VISION





Uganda

Children at St. Mika school in Morungatuny play with a jump rope that Elizabeth Aluka, the World Vision area manager (in orange), braided from reeds near the school. Children in this area often miss school and playtime because they have to walk for water. World Vision is working to bring clean water sources to the community so children have more moments like this to laugh and play—even with a makeshift toy.

JON WARREN / WORLD VISION





Honduras

Ashley, 2, plays peekaboo during a World Vision Youth Development meeting in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, which her mother, 22-year-old Heydi García, attends. As a single mom, she is learning valuable job skills that will help fulfill her dream of owning a restaurant.

JON WARREN/WORLD VISION



COVER STORY | 12

In Armenia, World Vision is working to protect children from conception through adolescence.

Discover

EXPLORE THE ISSUES FACING PEOPLE IN POVERTY

Keep me safe, LORD,
from the hands of
the wicked ...

—PSALM 140:4



Lebanon

Syrian refugees play games outside an Early Childhood Education Center. This World Vision–started and UNICEF–funded project reaches about 200 refugee children from ages 3 to 6 with educational basics like numbers, colors, and good hygiene skills—preparing them for formal schooling. They sing, do art projects, play outside, and eat snacks. Many kids are exposed to deprivation and violence in the tent settlements where they live, and some of them have experienced child labor. The center is an oasis of fun, affirmation, and learning, where they can experience more of what childhood should be.

Child protection around the world

By Chris Huber

More than half of the world's children experience some form of violence every year. World Vision protects children and looks out for their well-being by ensuring communities and faith leaders are actively working to identify and support children in need; advocating for children's rights; and providing for immediate needs, such as emergency shelter and essential care. Here are some of the ways we protect children around the world to help them thrive.



EUGENE LEE/WORLD VISION

Dominican Republic Eliminating bullying

Children who are abused physically and verbally at home may carry out the same behaviors at school by hitting their friends, playing violently, and acting out in the classroom. In the Dominican Republic, **World Vision trains school staff in programs to eliminate violence against children**, including techniques to help teachers lead anti-bullying efforts.



MARK NONKES/WORLD VISION

Guatemala

Reducing violence and unsafe migration

Although violence related to gangs and drugs is a prominent issue in Central America, the primary form of violence in Guatemala is within the family. Nearly one-quarter of the unaccompanied minors who migrate to the U.S. from Guatemala reported that they suffered violence from their guardians and caregivers. **World Vision seeks to reduce the number of people who are victims of violence by 20 percent by 2022.** To do this, we form community-based committees to create safe environments for children to live, learn, and play. We also work with faith leaders and local governments to develop migration prevention plans. We support individual children and their families through scholarships, skills training, connecting them with trustworthy community networks, and other social services.



LAURA REINHARDT/WORLD VISION © 2013

South Sudan

Caring for freed child soldiers

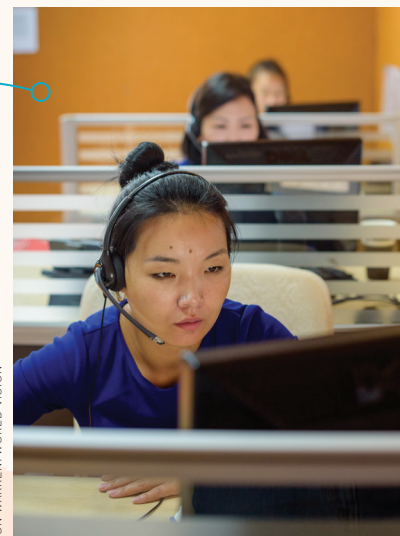
Protecting children in fragile contexts like war-torn South Sudan is complicated but critical. In February 2018, armed groups released hundreds of children they had recruited to fight or work domestically to support the ongoing conflict. World Vision staff were the child soldiers' first line of care. Now, **staff and qualified social workers are walking the journey to recovery with the children and adolescents to counsel and comfort them, reunite them with their families, if possible, and reintegrate them into society** with social and educational opportunities and vocational training.

Mongolia

Children seek help through national hotline

World Vision Mongolia, working with the National Authority for Children and the country's major mobile carrier, Mobicom, set up a **24/7 national hotline to report abuse of children**. In addition, a national advertising campaign publicizes the phone number, especially to children. The Mongolian government set up a call center, and they soon realized they needed to help the helpers—so they offered stress management training to 108 operators who take the calls and respond to stories of abuse.

JON WARREN / WORLD VISION



Bangladesh

Combating child labor

Nearly 1.7 million children ages 5 to 17 in Bangladesh are engaged in illegal child labor. **World Vision focuses on encouraging the withdrawal of children from labor, increasing children's access to school, improving parents' incomes, and training older children for jobs that are legal and have decent earning potential (learn more online at wvmag.org/tania).** A key intervention is the formation of Child-Friendly Learning and Recreation Centers, which provide children at risk of child labor or already engaged in labor with childhood education and help in transitioning to public primary school.


Uganda

Alerting communities to thwart child sacrifice

World Vision's Amber Alert-style program has created a profound partnership between leaders of all faiths, law enforcement, local government, child-protection committees, and traditional healers. When a child is abducted, communities are ready. **Villagers are taught to intervene, and, if that doesn't work, to sound the alarm.** Seventy-three villages are equipped with drums and megaphones. Motorcycles block off exit routes, and people lay logs across pathways to stop the abductors. Faith leaders and traditional healers have also created radio programs that air messages about child sacrifice, good parenting, and taking care of one's neighbors. Find out how the program is working at wvmag.org/sacrifice.

India

Fighting child marriage and child sex-trafficking

Poverty, lack of education, poor gender relations, and dysfunctional families make children in India vulnerable. Here, **World Vision sets up community-managed Child-Friendly Learning and Recreation Centers to give children safe places to learn and play (learn more online at wvmag.org/india).** We also form Men Care groups that educate and equip men on the inherent value of women and girls. Transformed attitudes in men are crucial not only to decrease the demand for prostitution but also the supply of children to traffickers. Communities with Men Care groups are seeing reduced instances of child marriage too. In addition, World Vision's Girl Power groups teach adolescent girls about personal safety. 

BUILDING HAPPY CHILDHOODS

BY LAURA REINHARDT

PHOTOS BY EUGENE LEE





What conjures up your fondest childhood memories? Playing outside with friends late into warm summer evenings? The scent of freshly baked cookies? Performing in school plays? Reading your favorite bedtime stories with a loved one?

The memories are different for each of us, but most likely, they started with a caring parent or another adult—someone who loved you, affirmed you, and kept you safe.

These special people encouraged you to develop your skills and talents, to speak up, and to share your opinions. They weren't perfect, but they knew they could turn to helpers—spiritual leaders, teachers, doctors, and nurses—to help ensure your journey to adulthood was healthy and life-giving.

This is why World Vision aims to equip parents, teachers, and church leaders in Armenia to nurture children. The ultimate goal is to protect childhood, allowing kids to be kids. That work begins before children are born—especially for girls, who, even in modern societies, can be unwanted. Prenatal sex selection is one of the most widespread forms of gender-based violence in Armenia. World Vision's child protection work continues through adolescence and young adulthood, meeting children at their current life stage with programs designed to create healthier environments and greater opportunities.

CHANGING ATTITUDES ABOUT GIRLS

Nearly 30 years after a devastating earthquake in Gyumri, Armenia's second-largest city, some crumbled buildings remain. The rubble is a silent monument to the terrible destruction and loss of 25,000 lives. But elsewhere, old stone buildings are being refurbished, turned into hotels or museums. High-rise apartment buildings dot the skyline. Rebuilt churches stand tall in the main square, a testament to the faith of this country's people.

It's in this city, this mix of old and new, that newlyweds Mikael Tutoyan, 23, and Gohar Avetisyan, 20, live.

For Mikael, their new life together has been filled

Previous spread: Father Psak Mkrtchyan helps Hayk, left, make his move in a game of chess—Armenia's national sport—with his older brother, Vache. World Vision's Celebrating Families program equipped Father Psak to make a lasting change in the lives of struggling families. Below: Single mother Hermine Mkhitarian has learned to manage her stress, which has led to more loving communication with her three children. Her 12-year-old daughter, Tatev, says, "The friendship is inside our relationship."





with anxiety—particularly this morning, when he and Gohar had an ultrasound to learn the sex of their baby. “I was impatient for that. I was expecting to have a boy,” says Mikael. “When she told us it was a girl, I felt like boiled water was on me. I was shocked.” It wasn’t that he wouldn’t have eventually welcomed a girl into his family, but in Armenia, the societal pressure for a boy—especially as your firstborn—is high. “It’s okay to have a girl child later,” says Mikael.

The United Nations Population Fund reports that, of all the girls conceived in Armenia, about 1,400 are not born each year. For such a small country—with a population of about 3 million and just over 40,000 babies born annually—this is considerable. Armenia is third among countries with the most highly skewed sex ratios at birth. Only China

and Azerbaijan, Armenia’s neighbor to the east, rank higher. The normal sex ratio at birth ranges from 102 to 106 males for every 100 females. But in Armenia, between 1993 and 2010, the ratio was 110 to 120 boys for every 100 girls.

Ironically, Mikael’s job as a social worker has him working with other families to change deeply ingrained gender biases—to advocate for the girl child. But the yearning to have a boy runs deep, even in this younger generation.

World Vision research also shows that Armenian men and women strongly emphasize the role of boys in carrying on the family name. Parents typically regard sons as assets, viewing males as breadwinners and caregivers for aging parents. Daughters

Vache, 11, and Hayk, 4, play outside their family’s home. One result of World Vision’s child protection programs is allowing children this precious time to just be kids.

are commonly viewed as liabilities who will leave the family after marriage.

The afternoon of the ultrasound, Mikael ran into fellow social worker and World Vision staff member Arpine Sargsyan, who could tell the results from his crestfallen expression. Rather than commiserating, though, she scolded him, saying he shouldn't fall victim to societal pressures.

She then invited him to attend a World Vision Caring for Equality training session with Gohar. Over the span of 15 weeks, with the support of World Vision staff, couples and youth in this program examine their beliefs about gender and power. The workshops encourage shared decision-making by couples and look deeply at the ingrained bias favoring boys in Armenian culture.

One Caring for Equality session particularly rattled Mikael. Arpine talked to the group about the statistics in Armenia around prenatal sex selection

MANY ADULTS IN RURAL ARMENIA SUBSCRIBE TO THE BELIEF THAT CHILDREN ARE BEST SEEN AND NOT HEARD.

and the bias against girl children.

"For me, that was something unrespectable ... and unacceptable," Mikael says.

He began to think back to the neighborhood where he lived as a child. There was only one girl. Now he thinks he knows why.

Gohar is more empowered and outspoken as a result of the training. Before, she never talked to others about the value of women, but now she feels encouraged to speak out more and try to change others' mindsets. And she wants to tear down gender walls.





When Hovsep returned from working for two years in Russia, he felt distant from his son, Mickael. He learned about the importance of spending quality time with Mickael. Now they read together, which has built a bond between the two.

“I would like my girl to become a police officer,” she says. “I would like this society to be open to that.”

And Mikael? He’s had a change of heart about their pregnancy. He’s moved from the bitter disappointment of the ultrasound to a man now impatiently awaiting the arrival of a precious baby girl.

RAISING HEALTHY CHILDREN

World Vision’s Go Baby Go! program offers parents nutritional and health-related training to ensure children receive the best care in their critical first years. The learnings don’t stop with physical health, though.

Many adults in rural Armenia subscribe to the belief that children are best seen and not heard, an idea that’s been passed from parent to child for generations. But World Vision is changing that view in its sponsorship communities. Along with nutritional advice, World Vision staff teach parents child-rearing techniques that help them understand the value of engaging more with their children—learning how to listen and help them work through their problems.

Satenik Simonyan, 27, and her husband, Hovsep Mirzoyan, 37, are well equipped with these tools thanks to their participation in the Go Baby Go! program.

Satenik Simonyan and Hovsep Mirzoyan were expecting twin girls, but a few weeks before their due date, they learned they were having triplets. The couple is better equipped now to raise healthy children because of what they learned in World Vision’s Go Baby Go! program.

Satenik started with the program two years ago when World Vision offered it in Amasia in north-western Armenia.

“I was interested in information they were going to provide because I had a small child, and I wanted to know how to engage him,” she says. That child was 5-year-old Mickael—a serious, quiet boy with an infrequent but winning smile.

World Vision invited fathers to participate in the program as another way to continue to change thinking about traditional gender roles. This is key because in rural communities, men see the daily care of children as women’s work.

Hovsep had recently returned from two years working in Russia. In this remote corner of Armenia, the harsh conditions and winters that stretch up to half a year limit agricultural work. A few fortunate men are hired for construction jobs, but many husbands migrate to Turkey or Russia in search of employment.

After working two years in Russia, Hovsep saw that he and Mickael acted more like neighbors than father and son. “I felt that wall that was between us,” he says. “At first I was getting angry more often.” The Go Baby Go! training came at the perfect time for him, since it happened as he was returning home.

New information changed his approach. “I’ve heard a lot of possibilities of other ways of interaction,” he says. One connection for Hovsep was sharing music with Mickael, which he has learned “helps his mental development.” Mickael loves to listen to a CD of his favorite music that his father created for him.

Hovsep and Satenik also learned other imagination-building techniques from World Vision staff—like the fact that when they read a fairy tale to Mickael, they can change it a bit each time.

They’ve also learned not to only lay down the law with Mickael, but to take time explaining rules and decisions. This helps build trust and understanding.

“Now we are paying attention to his opinion,” says Satenik. They see and treat him as an individual who deserves to be heard.

They must have been listening intently when young Mickael expressed his desire for brothers and sisters. Hovsep and Satenik soon learned they were expecting twin daughters.

But they got more than they expected.



Mikael Tutoyan and his wife, Gohar Avetisyan, look forward to their daughter's birth. Traditionally in Armenia, boys are more desired, and Mikael felt that way. World Vision's Caring for Equality program changed his understanding of a girl's value.

One week before the babies were due, the couple got the news there was a third girl who'd been hidden during previous ultrasounds.

"We [were] very surprised," says Hovsep. "We had one week to [adjust to] that idea."

Luckily, they now have all the tools they've learned from Go Baby Go!, and they feel much more equipped for the challenges of suddenly raising four children.

DEVELOPING PARENTING SKILLS

To create a loving environment for their children, parents need to also understand their own importance and feel understood. To enable this, World Vision helps religious leaders learn effective ways to support parents.

When apostolic priest Father Psak Mkrtchyan first came to Chambarak in eastern Armenia, he found people whose hope had crumbled due to war, depression, and the pain of poverty. Seven decades of communist rule had left many people cut off from their religious roots—the church.

In 2011, World Vision started working in Chambarak, and Father Psak found an ally with a mission similar to his own—to help struggling families.

World Vision's Celebrating Families curriculum helped him do just that. First, it gave Father Psak and other priests the tools they needed to engage with vulnerable families. "I discovered the inner soft souls of the people," he says.

The training allowed him to better understand the causes of families' needs and conflicts. "[It is] a way to have glasses to look better on the family," he says. Knowing they were seen and acknowledged helped Father Psak's parishioners understand how important they are to him and to the World Vision staff.

One of the families he sought to help was Hermine Mkhitarian and her three children. Hermine had lived with her husband and family in Yerevan until her husband went to Russia to find work.

Eight months later, she learned he wasn't coming back. Sadly, this is an all-too-common occurrence. Men who have migrated for employment often abandon their families, leaving them without a much-needed father and financial support.

Hermine knew she couldn't continue to pay rent



NORMAL SEX RATIO

102–106 boys : 100 girls

ARMENIA'S SEX RATIO (1993–2010)

110–120 boys : 100 girls

on their Yerevan apartment, so she moved her family nearly 75 miles back home to Chambarak.

From the day Father Psak met Hermine and her three children, he understood their fragility. “I felt a pain, and then I always kept thinking, ‘How I can help this family?’” He told World Vision’s two social workers in the area about Hermine’s family and the struggles they faced.

For Hermine, Father Psak and World Vision’s staff were a lifeline.

“That was a very difficult time for me,” she says. “I felt a responsibility for three children, starting from everything—from coats to winter heating to send[ing] them to the schools.”

Her anxiety often resulted in anger toward her children—an anger that sometimes turned physical.

But Hermine soaked up the care she received from the priest and the social workers. She appreciated having someone else to discuss her problems and seek solutions with.

She took the Celebrating Families training geared toward parents and learned ways to improve life for herself and her children.

“I must say that before I used to not listen to [my children],” Hermine says. “When they used to talk, I would say a rough word and interrupt them.” Now she’s learned how to encourage them to express

“ I REMEMBER THAT BEFORE SHE WAS BECOMING ANGRY VERY OFTEN. ... THERE WERE MANY PROHIBITED THINGS FOR US BEFORE. NOW I SEE THE FREEDOM. THE FRIENDSHIP IS INSIDE OUR RELATIONSHIP.”

—TATEV, 12

themselves. She’s seen her children’s self-esteem blossom under this new approach.

Her daughter and oldest child, 12-year-old Tatev, has noticed the change in her mother. “I remember that before she was becoming angry very often. ... There were many prohibited things for us before. Now I see the freedom,” she says. “The friendship is inside our relationship.”

Father Psak has great hopes for Hermine and other Celebrating Families parents. He sees them as pioneers who can pass on what they’ve learned to other families—giving more moms and dads a network of support in facing their struggles.

EMPOWERING YOUTH

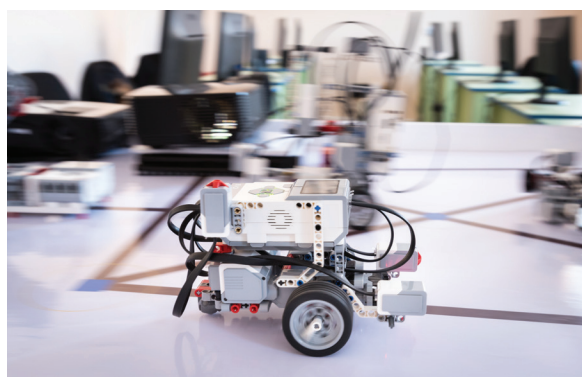
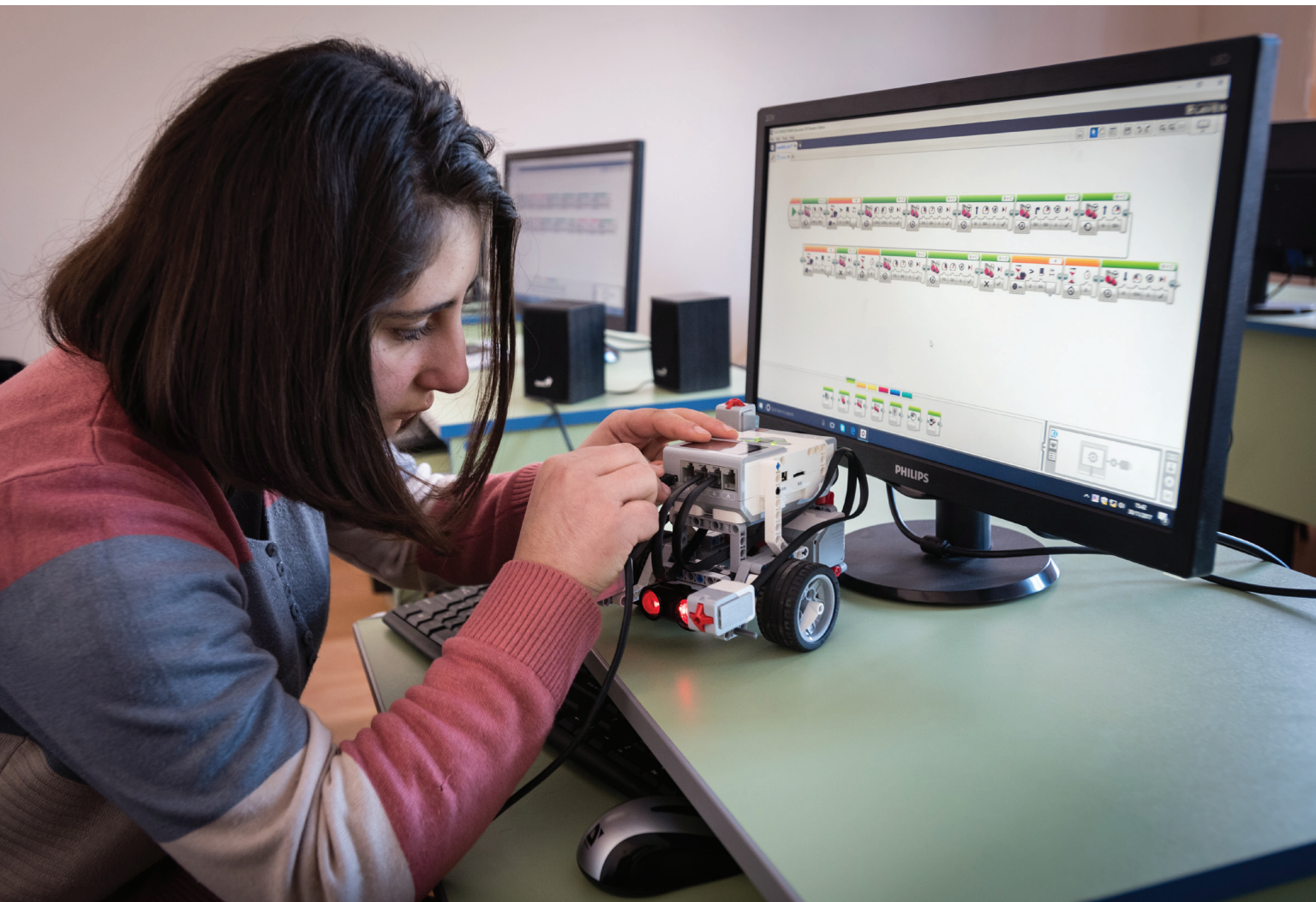
Pioneers is likewise a great word for the teenagers participating in World Vision’s IMPACT club in Amasia. These empowered teens speak out and engage in civic activities. The club, funded by child sponsorship, started two years ago. In that time, the youth have been able to practice public speaking and debating skills.

Their club setting may look like a typical classroom with modular desks in vivid reds, blues, and greens, but these passionate young people are anything but typical. They’re here to change their community and maybe even, one day, the world.

“I’m coming here to solve some problems. I wanted to be here to listen to what my peers are thinking about and study something new that I will never have in my school,” says 13-year-old Geghetsik Manukyan. “It will help me later to do good in my community and my whole nation.”

Gohar and Mikael will soon fill a photo album with pictures of their daughter.





Top: Anahit Harutyunyan, 16, uploads instructions to a robot in World Vision's robotics club. Teens learn technical skills along with problem-solving and teamwork at the club. *Bottom:* A robot navigates an obstacle course with the assignment to turn when it detects an object in its path.

This is a huge step forward in a country where children were once discouraged from speaking out.

"We believe that we are able to change something. If we don't believe in that, we can never go forward and solve any type of issues," says 16-year-old Tovmas Vardanyan.

Already these young people, ranging in age from 10 to 18, have improved lives for their neighbors in Amasia. They've organized a field trip for elderly community members, taking them to church and organizing a film viewing. They cleaned up the area behind their classroom building and created a place to play for local children. And last year, they decorated a fir tree in the town square to provide more festive Christmas and New Year's celebrations.

Ani Arakelyan, 14, says, "What I love most in the IMPACT club—here there is no wrong opinion."

One of those opinions led to their current community project. One club member saw a painting of the universe on the internet and wanted to do



Anahit, 16, used to be shy and a loner. The robotics club instructor encouraged her to speak freely and helped the teenager find her voice and be unafraid to share her true self with others.



Of all the girls conceived in Armenia, about 1,400 girls are not born each year.

something similar in the local school.

“We loved the idea. It was approved by the school and the other children,” says IMPACT club co-lead-er Lusine Arakelyan. Club members are now paint- ing a mural of the universe on a wall in the school.

“It will help the schoolchildren to understand the universe and the planet Earth. [It] will ori- ent them toward science,” says Narek Tutkhalyan, World Vision’s youth coordinator for the Shirak province, where the town of Amasia is located.

And it will encourage the growth of the club. Lusine adds, “They wanted to leave something from IMPACT in the school to attract other students.”

BUILDING JOB SKILLS

Armenia’s booming tech industry offers an oppor- tunity to keep youth like these in Armenia instead of emigrating for work. Narek says there are nearly 3,000 information technology jobs available in Armenia, and he wants to prepare youth with the skills to get those jobs. As part of World Vision’s youth projects in the area, he created a robotics club for teenagers, which started over a year ago thanks to a partnership between LEGO® and World Vision’s sponsorship pro- gram.

The teens meet in a room down the hall from the IMPACT club. As many as 26 of them fill the space, working in groups to offer ideas while one person types furiously.

It’s not all computer work. Some build car-like creations out of LEGO robotic components. Today’s

assignment? To create a vehicle programmed to detect walls, then turn to avoid them.

Narek wants to help young people secure sta- ble employment through this training. But he also wants the club to continue to break down gender barriers. He says, “It’s more accepted that boys do [IT work]. We want to show that’s not the way it should be. Girls should be involved.”

Anahit Harutyunyan, 16, joined the club when it opened last year. A couple from Arizona had been sponsoring her for a few years. She’d always loved to draw and would send letters and drawings to them. They responded, encouraging her to keep up with the artwork and to stay focused on her studies.

After watching the “Transformers” movies, she became interested in robotics. One of her favorite

“

IT’S MORE ACCEPTED THAT BOYS DO [I.T. WORK]. WE WANT TO SHOW THAT’S NOT THE WAY IT SHOULD BE. GIRLS SHOULD BE INVOLVED TOO.”

— NAREK TUTKHALYAN

Like Noah waiting for the dove to return, Mt. Ararat rises as a beacon of hope and faith over Armenia's capital city of Yerevan.



characters from the series is Optimus Prime, who leads the heroic Autobots and displays a strong sense of honor, justice, and moral courage.

When Anahit first started in the club, she was too shy to talk to others, but the instructor, Arsen Yayloyan, encouraged her to speak up. “We are all friends,” he told her. “Feel free to express your opinions.”

Her mother, Laura Tonoyan, has seen Anahit transform right before her eyes thanks to the robotics club.

“She’s become more joyful. Before she didn’t used to have contact with peers,” says Laura. “She’s become more active.”

In September 2017, Anahit and her team traveled to nearby Gyumri to participate in a robotics contest with their creation, a garbage-collecting robot. Five teams from around the region competed, but Anahit and the Amasia team took home the prize.

Anahit has blossomed not only in the robotics club but also in other areas of her life.

In October 2017, she participated in World Vision’s advocacy group.

The students identified a problem: Their computers didn’t work, so students couldn’t complete their lessons.

They discussed the issue with the mayor and the school director, who said they would help. Anahit, a formerly shy girl who could barely speak to her

classmates, went to Yerevan alongside other advocacy group members to seek assistance from a telecommunications company. The company promised to help by year’s end.

Anahit enjoys improving her community. “We’re already solving that problem. It makes me feel happy,” she says.

Like Optimus Prime, she’s fighting for justice and positive change. Meanwhile, World Vision is right there with her, working alongside parents, church leaders, and teachers to guard her childhood and that of her peers.

One day as adults, they’ll think back on happy childhood memories—time spent playing games and laughing with parents, working alongside friends and caring adult mentors to problem-solve, and expanding their vision for the future. Then they can pass that happy legacy on to their own children. 🍎

Zhanna Ulikhanyan contributed to this story.

GIVE Make a difference in a child’s life today. To give, complete and mail the form between pages 16 and 17 or call 1.866.952.4453.

**Q&A: BIG DADDY
WEAVE | 24**

The Christian band has
traveled the globe witnessing
World Vision's work.

Inspire

MOTIVATING YOU TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

**MEANINGFUL
MOMENTS | 30**

Don't let your spiritual
life go on vacation this
summer.

Syria

Lamees, 6, is one of more than 5.6 million Syrian refugees forced to flee their homeland. She and her family fled to Jordan in 2013. Artist Judy Arvidson of Illinois painted this image from a photo World Vision photographer Jon Warren took during a visit to Jordan in 2013. Learn more about her and other artists on page 28.

PAINTING IMAGE COURTESY OF JUDY ARVIDSON





LAURA REINHARDT/WORLD VISION

Members of the Christian band Big Daddy Weave sing with Children's and Youth Club in the Leuk Daek district of Cambodia.

Q&A

Big Daddy Weave

By Kristy J. O'Hara-Glaspie

MIKE WEAVER NEVER wanted to be a world traveler. He was content touring the U.S. as the lead singer for the popular Christian band Big Daddy Weave.

But growing up, his parents sponsored children around the world, so when World Vision invited him and the band overseas to see the work firsthand, he was hesitant but open.

"When I began to travel, I began to associate faces with the work, and I'm haunted by these faces in the best way. I feel like I've seen the face of Jesus in these faces," Mike says. "I see the effect of the work in the faces of children all over the world that we have met, and I feel the importance of Big Daddy Weave in this is to be ambassadors for those little faces, to put those faces in the way of people in America."

Mike and his wife, Kandice, are passionate about child sponsorship—they sponsor five children, and the band has gotten nearly 30,000 children sponsored at its concerts. World Vision recently spoke with Mike about sponsorship, how he came to be a world traveler, and how that impacts him today.

What stood out most to you when you began seeing World Vision's work?

On our first trip to Ecuador in 2007, we were at 13,000 feet in elevation, and I said, "Wow, there's a lot of fog," and they said, "No, we're in the clouds." I'll never forget the kids who came to greet us. We met at a school. These little kids came poking through the clouds, and we called them the faces in the clouds. World Vision had put in a school for kids who had never gone to school. It was opening doors that no one in their culture had ever opened to them. It was the love of God in the form of a school on top of a mountain.

Our second trip was to Africa, and I remember sweating the entire time. We showed up in Tanzania, and it was not the most impressive field of corn I had ever seen, but when I found out that no one had ever grown anything there before, it rocked me. These farmers were so excited to share with us how World Vision had helped them get water to this



EUGENE LEE/WORLD VISION

Big Daddy Weave band members Brian Beihl (left) and Mike Weaver (right) pray for 10-month-old Gagik and his medical problems.

piece of desert, and now they can feed their families because of this piece of dirt. That corn was the love of God coming out of the ground.

When was the moment that you really wanted to travel abroad?

I became a world traveler in 2012 when I met the first child my family had sponsored; his name is Babayetu. God just did a thing in my heart, and I loved him. Those hours I had with him, we didn't need a translator. We were smiling and holding hands, and he was showing me where he lived. They don't have very much, but they threw us a party. I fell in love with him and his family.

I'm listening to all the other kids, and nobody is calling him by his name, and I was bummed because I love that name. It made my name seem super boring. Instead of calling him Babayetu, they were calling him Boniface. I don't care what continent you're on, that sounded like name-calling. So I asked the translator. She found out that Boniface was the name he was given after he received Jesus. Because of their interaction with World Vision, he decided to make Jesus the Lord of his life. When they baptized him and brought him out of the water, they gave him a new name—Boniface, which means a better ending, a happier ending. I'm like, "You've got to be kidding me!" That was the moment I became a world traveler. Until then, I knew it was important, but I had no idea the sense of urgency with it.

We were about to leave and Babayetu came up to me, and he has tears in his eyes but he's holding it together—there's

a manly thing in Maasai culture, and the boys are supposed to be tough. The translator is with us, and he speaks directly to me and translates, "This has been a happy day. When are you coming to see me again?" Then I'm messed up, and I said, "I don't know. I've never been to Africa, and I don't know when I'm coming back again, but I promise you this, because this has been a happy day for me too, when I get back to America, I will tell every person I know about you and the chance we have to be a part of people's lives like yours." Then the band started asking, "Where are we going to go next?"

Where did you go next?

We wanted to see World Vision fight sex trafficking, so we went to Cambodia, and we felt the pain of Cambodia. We walked around the Cambodian Killing Fields. There are literally shallow graves and skeletons coming out of the ground because the killing was absolutely brutal. My brother said, "It's like the earth is screaming." There was a genocide museum, and they have pictures, and I couldn't finish the tour. I remember leaving and sitting on a stump outside just trying to imagine and understand how people can do this to other people.

We saw all kinds of stuff with World Vision, but what I remember the most is visiting kids that live in the trash. They are treated like the trash they live in by their culture, and nobody misses them when they disappear into human trafficking. We showed up, and it was snack time. The kids were all excited, and they're all shocked by the size of me—they're looking at me like they had seen

Godzilla—but I'd smile, and they'd know it's all good. We started playing games, and you'd think we had brought Disney World to them. They're so starved for someone to take care of them. They're so starved for someone to pay attention to them—and that's how the traffickers can get to them so easily.

Our friends from World Vision are everywhere in that town. Every night in Phnom Penh, they're somewhere telling stories and bringing snacks. World Vision is telling them, "You're not trash because you live in the trash. You're very precious. But there are people who want to take you away to a life that's not good for you, and this is how you look out for that." It's teaching them to be street smart. They're being the love of God to these kids.

When you see such suffering like you did in Cambodia, how do you process that?

I don't know how to process all of it, honestly. Something I brought back from Cambodia was just hurt. I'd wake up in the middle of the night, and I'd sit downstairs, and it dawned on me at one point what the hurt is, what the uncomfortable is—it's God's pain. I've sat in my living room in the middle of the night when my time is messed up from traveling and cried my guts out, and said, "God

Big Daddy Weave lead singer, Mike Weaver, shares lunch with his sponsored child, Kimhuoy Hak, and her family.



LAURA REINHARDT/WORLD VISION

• Inspire

I'll cry with you." I cried with God in my living room and hurt with him because he hurts for this. He's God, and he could snap his fingers, and it could all be gone, but there's a way of seeing things he's carrying out. We have a huge privilege to represent the poorest of the poor to the body of Jesus in America and to try to make it real for them the way that people hurt around the world and to learn how to be a voice for them. It's a giant privilege for me, and it's a huge honor.

How do you talk about hard topics like child protection with your own children?

We speak in general terms with them. My son Eli is 10 years old—he can understand some things his 6-year-old sister can't. And he's ready to now, so as he's able, we introduce him to some of the harder things. We talk about slavery; we don't talk about sexual exploitation. He can understand "slave" because he's studied the Civil War. Abraham Lincoln is one of his favorite presidents because he helped abolish slavery, so he can understand slavery, but he can't understand some of the things with it. As the Lord opens doors for that, we love to speak into that, but as far as our kids go, we keep it general, and they have a sense that we're helping this child on the sponsorship packet. That's how we look at it—we're praying for this one.

You recently saw child protection work in a different context in Armenia, so what was that like?

We heard about this very cold place where people who had stoves in their houses were dying because they didn't have the money to heat their houses. So we went. So much has happened to Armenia. They had this earthquake that tore up the country, and the collapse of the Soviet Union has prevented it from rebuilding.

We met this little guy named Gagik. He is a member of a family of six. The family lives in a storage container. I remember standing outside this storage container in this blizzard, saying, "Who lives like this?" Many of the dads in Armenia leave the country to find a

job. Many of them never come back. Gagik's dad had stayed there, but it made it really hard to provide. It's never enough. His mom has a degree to teach biology, but it would take a year to save up enough money—a year's salary is \$4,000—to bribe somebody for a job because [the system] is crooked. But Gagik has a condition that causes his brain to swell, and they had to take out a \$2,000 loan to get treatment that's

only a temporary fix. They have no idea how they'll pay it back, and they'll have to do it again, but they're all smiling because we came to visit them. They were so hospitable. It was unreal.

The story didn't have a happy ending. You feel the tension. Now we get to share that with people every night. I'll say, "Where's the hope in this story? There's hope in all these other stories. The hope is you—I'm looking at the hope, and it's you." +



LAURA REINHARDT/WORLD VISION

Brian Beihl, drummer for Big Daddy Weave, and Srey Soa Sim, one of the band member's sponsored children, blow bubbles.

THOUGHTS FROM DRUMMER BRIAN BEIHL

Big Daddy Weave's drummer Brian Beihl also spoke with us about his experiences traveling to see World Vision's work. "The thing I really like about World Vision is they don't go into an area and just start doing something. They find out what that area really needs and what they can do to help that." He shared more about his experience in Armenia in December 2017.

What did you learn on your trip to Armenia?

We got to see how World Vision is helping empower families (see page 12). In Armenia, they traditionally favor the male children to carry on the family name, work, and make money. For so long, they've had that mindset that male children are preferred. We got to see how World Vision helps incorporate the whole family and is helping to change families' mentality.

Who most stood out to you that you met in Armenia?

We met a guy who has this beehive honey business, and he does bee therapy, which I've never heard of before. It's an outdoor shed-looking thing and has windows, and there are benches inside. They put the beehives in there, and

you go in and sit, and the sound and the pollen they generate from flying around is supposed to calm you. He'll sell hives to people, so they have a way to make money by making and selling honey. It was cool to see him taking this and making it into a business.

Then there was a lady named Hermine. She's trying to support her family on the little income she has. It blows my mind—her monthly salary is \$100 and it's taken everything she's making to support her kids and pay rent for her house. To see the hurt she had to go through, and her husband leaving to go find work and not coming back, it's hard. World Vision helped her find a job working as a beautician.

How did God work in you on the trip?

No matter what we go through, no matter the hardships, it's always keeping our eyes on him. He ultimately is our provider for everything. He provided everything through his Son. For me, it's knowing that he will provide what they need, allowing them to know who Jesus is and accept Christ. Much of the country is Christian—it was the first Christian nation—so their reliance is on Christ, even in dealing with corrupt government officials and the past communist regime. Through that, God makes a way and will provide. He always does. It may not be on our time frame, but he'll do it.

How does all of this impact how you interact with people on the tour?

We see a lot of hurting people out here on the road.

Every night when we're doing our shows, you see so much brokenness. It's kind of crazy because we have this mentality and culture that we've created here of "I can do this"—the self-this, self-that kind of thing. It's having a reliance on Christ and just focusing in on him and showing people, "Hey, we're not meant to do these things on our own." We need his strength to provide for us. We need his strength to pick us up in times of trouble. We need his strength to carry us. It's been cool to share those moments with people and to see the light click that, "Hey, I don't have to do this on my own—I can rely on him." He wants us to call on him. It's been great to share that with people and say, "You're not alone. I've been in your shoes. I've dealt with that. I want to try to do things on my own, but I have to realize I can't. I have to rely on him."

How does that transformation then change others?

We have seen what World Vision does through sponsorship, getting those emails from World Vision saying, "Hey, just so you know, we've pulled out of an area because it's now self-sustaining." That's because of people who have come to our shows and supported and sponsored those kids. They can say, "Wow! I was part of that! I helped with that!" Then they go and share that and spread it with others. +

LEARN MORE online at wvmag.org/bigdaddyweave.



Thoughts on happiness

Timeless wisdom and modern inspiration

“Does [Jesus] want your heart only for the same end as the devil does, to make you miserable? No, he only wants you to believe in him, that you might be saved. This, this, is all the dear Savior desires, to make you happy, that you may leave your sins, to sit down eternally with him.”

—George Whitefield, English cleric, 1714-1770

“WHILE OTHER WORLDVIEWS LEAD US TO SIT IN THE MIDST OF LIFE’S JOYS, FORESEEING THE COMING SORROWS, CHRISTIANITY EMPOWERS ITS PEOPLE TO SIT IN THE MIDST OF THIS WORLD’S SORROWS, TASTING THE COMING JOY.”

—Timothy Keller, American author, pastor, theologian



Painting Syria's children

God inspired a group of artists to help refugees

By Chris Huber

DEE ABBATE remembers feeling helpless for years as she watched news reports from the civil war in Syria and the growing refugee crisis in the Middle East. The images and video footage of children affected by the violence broke her heart over and over.

"I was very affected by a photograph I saw of injured children in Syria," says Dee, 76, an artist from Oakwood Hills, Illinois, about an hour northwest of Chicago. "It really troubled me. But I kept telling myself, 'There's nothing I can do about it.'"

That all changed about a year and a half ago when Dee organized a group of artist friends to paint portraits of Syrian children caught up in the refugee crisis. They call it, Painting Syria's Children: The Refugee Portrait Project. So far, the group has been featured in seven gallery showings and generated about \$12,000 in sales, which it gives directly to World

Vision and a few other charities.

The group started with only a few people. Now the group consists of 23 artists.

"All of a sudden, all these people were joining, and it was wonderful," says Diane Ward, 66, Dee's close friend who helped start the group. "It was just like a little miracle."

Dee found inspiration to be part of the project from a woman on a televised talent show who shared her story of adopting two children from Syria. She had always wanted to help. But the voice in her head changed from apathetic to hopeful.

"It became, 'What can I do as an artist?'" she says. "That's what I asked myself. The answer came that I could paint children."

So Dee started searching for charities involved in the refugee crisis that would let her use their photos of Syrian children for inspiration for her paintings.

"The first one to say I could use the



PAINTING IMAGES COURTESY OF JUDY ARVIDSON



photos was (photographer) Jon Warren of World Vision,” Dee says. “If it wasn’t for Jon, I think I would have given up.”

Since then, the artists have painted dozens of portraits from World Vision photos and from a few other organizations, including Catholic Relief Services and Act for Peace. This endeavor has been an outlet for many of the artists, who share a desire to help others through their craft.

“I think people feel helpless. You sit there and think, ‘What can I do?’” Diane says.

But now, “They could say to themselves, ‘This is what I can do,’” Dee says. “That’s what so wonderful about the project.”

Dee says that group members paint the photos that resonate most with them.

“You find a child whose photo speaks to you—just like when you meet people, you know them immediately. A portrait is not just the art—it’s your response to the

person,” Dee says. “We feel an attachment to that child and start caring about that child. There’s spiritual qualities expressed in that face, in their eyes.”

Diane says that the empathy the group members feel drives them to continue painting.

“We just look at these children and think, ‘Oh my gosh, these kids could be our kids.’ What parent wants to see them go through this?” Diane says. “Once you see a child’s eyes, your heart just kind of melts for them. No matter what religion, nationality, whatever—your family is something you cherish. [We] want to use talents to help these kids. We pray for them while we’re painting. They feel forgotten by the rest of the world.”

The group has another exhibit scheduled for September 2018 and encourages others to use their gifts and skills to bless others. See a slideshow at wvmag.org/refugee-portrait.

“Everyone can find a way to help. We all were gifted with something,” Dee says. “Find a way to use our talent or career skills to make life possible for others. It’s a way to return the gift, or pass it on.” 🙏

From left, artists Dee Abbate, Becky Kraft, and Judy Arvidson pose with their work after hanging it in a coffee shop in Barrington, Illinois. The group creates paintings of World Vision photos and sells their art to raise money for the Syrian refugee crisis.





LINDSAY MINERVA/WORD VISION

Meaningful moments

By Marilee Pierce Dunker

INTIMATE TIMES WITH GOD are strategic to every believer's faith journey. However, those times don't just happen. We have to intentionally carve time out of our busy schedules.

This summer, don't let your spiritual life take a vacation. I want to invite you to join me in taking more time to have meaningful conversations with God through prayer, pondering the deeper meaning of Scripture as it applies to your life through meditation, and telling God how much you love and adore him!

Here are three invitations to help us make these moments more meaningful.

1. Walk and talk

"Just a closer walk with Thee. Grant it, Jesus, is my plea. Daily walking close to Thee. Let it be, dear Lord. Let it be."

This hymn from my childhood was always one of my favorites. Every time we sang it, I could picture Jesus taking my hand and walking with me in a garden or on the beach. We were talking and laughing, and the conversation was two-way, which is exactly the way prayer is supposed to be! I speak. God listens. God speaks. I listen.

I have never forgotten that image, and I am often drawn to take Jesus' hand and go for a walk. Somehow the physical act of getting outside, away from the normal hub-bub of life, helps me clear my mind and focus on his presence. My favorite place to walk is the beach. Yours might be a favorite park or hiking trail. A walk around the block will work as well. The important thing is to step out of the normal confines of your house or office and get outside where the sun can warm your face, and the beauty of nature can remind you of how big our God is. It's amazing how small our problems appear when we realize we are talking to the Creator of the entire universe.

I am one of those people who likes to speak my prayers out loud and, in our world of iPhones and headsets, no one gives me a second look when they see me talking to my invisible Friend. But our silent prayers reach God's ears just as well. The important thing is to share your thoughts, concerns, and joys with your heavenly Father as you would your earthly father or a best friend. Then, when the words run out, don't forget to listen.

2. Meditate

Meditation is one of those words that can be off-putting at first because it has come to mean so many different things to different cultures and people. But to a child of God, meditating is focused on the Scriptures, prayerfully reflecting on what you have read and asking the Holy Spirit to illuminate your understanding, just as Jesus did with his disciples. We should then find ways to apply those deeper truths to our own life.

One suggestion I have found helpful when I'm meditating on God's Word is to read a sentence out loud, putting the accent on a different word each time. For instance, Romans 1:16 says, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes." When I emphasize the words "not ashamed," the sentence is a powerful statement of my intent to stand for Christ. But if I read it emphasizing the word "it," the sentence becomes a declaration of the power of the Gospel to save men's souls. And by emphasizing "everyone," I discover another powerful truth—the Gospel is for everyone who simply believes.

Try this the next time you are reading the Bible, and see how new revelations and insights will pop off the page.

3. Say, "I love you"

I am not sure that we stop to think how desperately God yearns to hear those words from his children—not because he has answered a prayer or rained down some wonderful blessing, but just because he *is*.

As a mother, I know the joy I felt when one of my daughters snuggled up by me on the couch, gave me a spontaneous hug, or drew me a picture with "I love you, mommy" scrawled across the bottom in crayon. Those pictures went right up on the refrigerator and never failed to warm my heart and make me smile.

So, no matter how busy your summer may be, don't forget to raise your arms toward heaven in praise and give God a hug! 🍌

Discover a new book for your vacation reading that will also expand your mind.

Delight

FINDING MEANING IN EVERYDAY MOMENTS

But let all who take refuge
in you be glad; let them
ever sing for joy. ...

—PSALM 5:11

IN THE KITCHEN

ARMENIAN HONEY CAKE

By Sevil Omer

With the wide variety of flowers grown in Chambarak, Armenia, the honey is sweet and an essential ingredient in scrumptious honey cake. Beekeeping is also helping lift families out of poverty (see interview with Big Daddy Weave drummer Brian Beihl, page 26).

FOR INSTRUCTIONS to make this humble honey cake, visit wvmag.org/honey-cake.

Ingredients

1 cup milk
1 cup honey
2 eggs
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
2 cups flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
3/4 cup butter
1 1/4 cups walnuts
1 to 1 1/2 teaspoons fresh
ground nutmeg

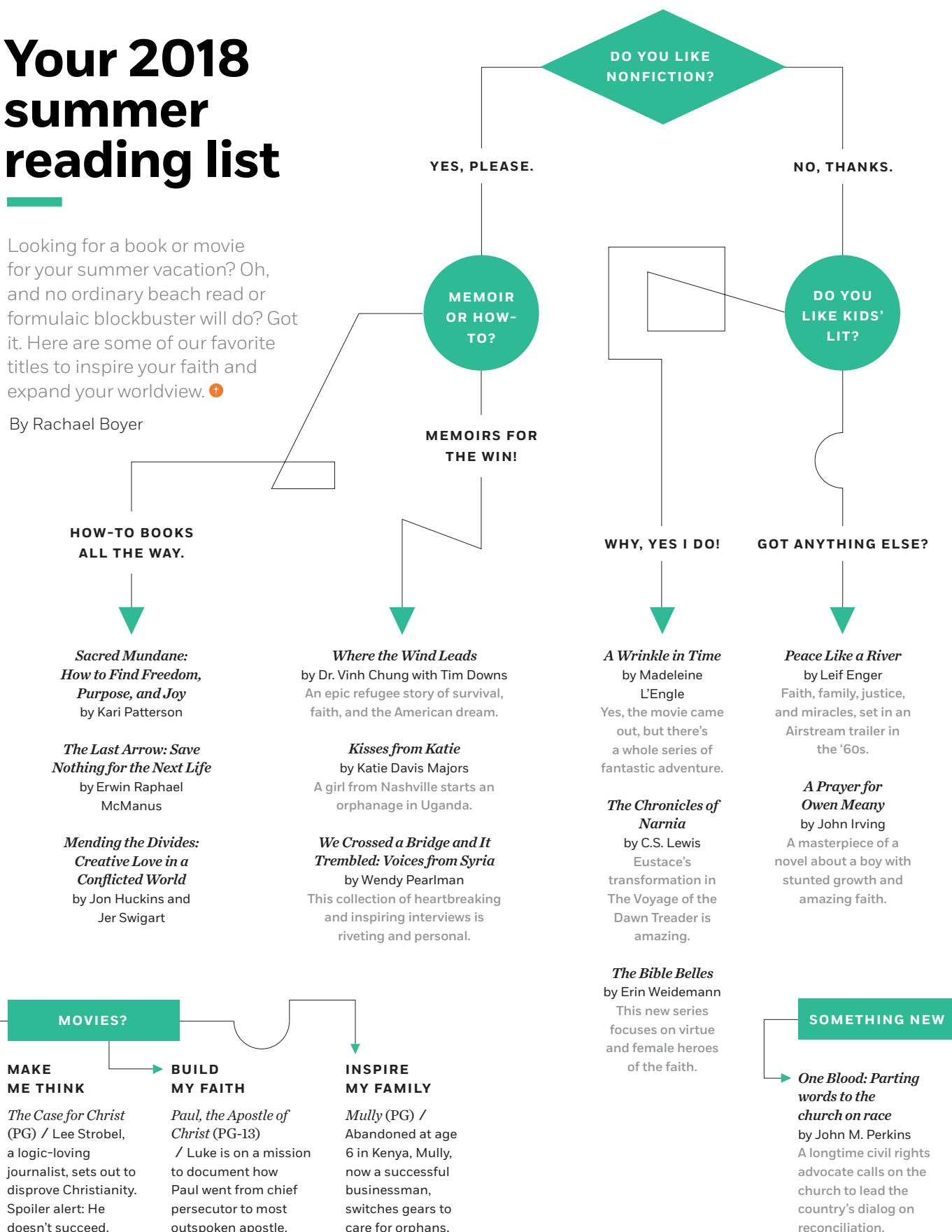


HEATHER KLINGER / WORLD VISION

Your 2018 summer reading list

Looking for a book or movie for your summer vacation? Oh, and no ordinary beach read or formulaic blockbuster will do? Got it. Here are some of our favorite titles to inspire your faith and expand your worldview. +

By Rachael Boyer





Treasure from trash

ALL 13-YEAR-OLD FELIX needed were some scrap pieces of wire, cardboard, and old wooden wheels. His imagination did the rest. This was evident as I saw him push his toy truck down a dirt road in Zambia.

Felix had created something from “nothing”—what others considered trash, Felix saw a six-wheeler truck.

I wanted to show the motion of Felix’s movement to convey his energy and the possibility of his resourcefulness. So I chose a panning technique instead of freezing the action.

The Zambian sun is bright—even at the end

of the day, as it was here. I knocked the ISO down as low as it would go and increased my aperture until I got shutter speeds where I knew I would see motion blur.

As Felix ran by, I swung the camera, following with him so he was in the same part of the frame the whole time. After each pass, I would run up ahead and wait for him. I did this three times.

This was the only frame that showed the background in motion but kept Felix’s face and just enough of his truck in focus to be recognizable. In this, I see the ingenuity and creative potential in children all over the world.

After the final pass, Felix waved goodbye and kept running off into the sunset. 🌅

Written and
photographed by
Eugene Lee

Nikon D600

17-35mm lens at
20mm, ISO 64,
f/11, 1/50

Be there for those in greatest need.

Join us in providing
life-saving help where
it's needed most
around the world.



Give to Where Most Needed.
wvmag.org/donate

World Vision

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

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
World Vision

If you have questions, comments,
or a change of address, you may
call toll-free: 1.866.952.4453

World Vision