

WorldVision

WINTER 2018



Light up ¹⁴ her world

Sponsorship radiates hope
in a Zambian community



³⁰
Q&A WITH
SUGARLAND

³⁷
THE
WISE MEN



Isata, age 12, Sierra Leone

Shine bright

SHE NEEDS YOU

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



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ON THE COVER

Debby, 7, is seeing a change in her Zambian community because of sponsorship.

LAURA REINHARDT/WORLD VISION

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—OBBY KACHEPO

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EUGENE LEE/WORLD VISION

Jesus at the center

By Edgar Sandoval Sr.

FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER, the birth of Jesus has always been central to Christmas. My family had a nativity set, and each year we arranged Mary, Joseph, and the animals in the stable. But we would not add baby Jesus until Christmas day. Everybody in my family wanted to be the special one to place baby Jesus at the center of the nativity.

It wasn't just at Christmas that I waited to put Jesus at the center. Unfortunately, that became a theme in my life.

For many years, there were people around me who told me about the saving love of Jesus Christ. Some were friends, and once it was a pastor sitting next to me on a flight who invited me to accept Jesus right then and there at 30,000 feet in the air! I wasn't ready. I was doing all right on my own. My career was going great; I was an executive at Procter & Gamble. I had a wonderful family.

But deep inside, I knew it wasn't enough. A good friend at P&G became my spiritual mentor, and he was the one who invited me to a Promise Keepers conference in Dallas in 2002. When I walked into the stadium filled with 14,000 men, all singing and worshipping God, it was completely unfamiliar—and very uncomfortable. *What am I doing here?* I wondered.

Then the band played a song I had never heard before. The lyrics said, "Here I am to worship / here I am to bow down / here I am to say that you're my God." Tears started rolling down my face. I realized I had never bowed down to anyone. It had always been all about me.

In that powerful moment, I bowed down and began the journey of recommitting my life to Christ. And that changed everything.

Since then, my journey has been one of pressing into Jesus more and more.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

—John 1:14

Edgar gives a gift to one of his sponsored children, 8-year-old Faith, in Zambia.

It transformed how I led my family and lived my daily life. And it caused me to seek opportunities to serve the Lord.

That's what brought me and my wife, Leiza, to World Vision in 2015, leaving a for-profit company to go to a "for-impact" ministry that cares for the poor in the name of Christ.

Now I realize what a miracle it is that someone like me—who, as a kid in Latin America, once experienced hardship—could become the president of this world-changing organization. God was always at work in my life, preparing me.

World Vision's founder and all the World Vision presidents before me prayed: "Let my heart be broken with the things that break the heart of God." That is the prayer of someone pressing into Jesus. We know Jesus loves all people, no matter who we are, and that he has compassion for children and the poor. When we love him, we care about those he loves too.

This Christmas, as you celebrate how much God loved this world—so much that he placed Jesus at the center of human history—it's the perfect time to ask yourself, "Is Jesus at the center of my life?" 🙏

Edgar Sandoval Sr. became president of World Vision U.S. on Oct. 1, 2018. Follow him at twitter.com/EdgarSandovalSr and read more about him at wvmag.org/edgar.

FIND MORE

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

Embark

COME IN AND SEE THE WORLD

ONLINE

Be inspired by photos of toys made by kids around the world at wvmag.org/toys.

Bangladesh

Sandha Mollik, 8, enjoyed a special bond with her sponsor from Oregon, connected by letters and special gifts her sponsor sent through child sponsorship. Gifts like a cow provide fresh milk, and materials to strengthen her family's home keep her safe during Bangladesh's ferocious monsoon season.

JON WARREN/WORLD VISION





Armenia

Rima Davtyan and her son, Shota, 11, walk along a snowy trail to fetch water at a nearby tap because their home has no running water. For the Davtyan family of seven children, finding warm clothing for the frigid treks for water also creates a hardship. World Vision is helping ease the burdens for families like the Davtyans by providing new winter clothing, given as generous gifts-in-kind donations from corporations. Through child sponsorship, World Vision provides education, economic empowerment, and child protection programs in Armenia.

LAURA REINHARDT/WORLD VISION

• Embark

Bolivia

Lights sparkle across La Paz, the capital, while mountains stand high. In the distance on the right, Illimani, called the guardian of La Paz, rises to 21,122 feet, and on the left, Mururata stands at 19,262 feet. World Vision donors sponsor 19,363 children across the country.

JON WARREN/WORLD VISION





Lebanon

At a Child-Friendly Space in the Bekaa Valley, New York Times best-selling author Debbie Macomber sits in on a lesson about keeping warm in winter—featuring hats, mittens, and blankets donated by Knit for Kids, a World Vision program where volunteers donate knitted items. A knitter herself, Debbie listens as Khaled (in the green hat above) explains that he likes to dress up his snowmen, even with pants.

HEATHER KLINGER/WORLD VISION



PRAISE REPORTS | 10

Learn how God is at work around the world, and join us in giving thanks.

Discover

EXPLORE THE ISSUES FACING PEOPLE IN POVERTY

COVER STORY | 14

An entire community in Moyo, Zambia, is benefiting because of child sponsorship.

Debby, middle, and her friends Brendah and Beatrice all benefit from child sponsorship even though only Debby is sponsored.



LAURA REINHARDT/WORLD VISION

Praise reports

By Kristy J. O'Hara-Glaspie

A new home for Josephine

REMEMBER the autumn 2017 issue, in which we shared a photo of Josephine, who makes 650 banana pancakes each Sunday to sell for income? Readers were touched by the image of her cooking, and thanks to generous gifts, her family is now building a new home. As she watches her home being built, she says, "I didn't know that God loves even me like this. He sent his angels to help me and my family. I now have hope for the future of myself and my family." Praise God for generous donors! +



Josephine and her family stand in front of their new home being constructed.

WORLD VISION STAFF IN UGANDA

IN THE FIELD



HEATHER KLINGER/WORLD VISION



HEATHER KLINGER/WORLD VISION

1 millionth kit assembled

VOLUNTEERS and World Vision staff celebrated the assembling of the 1 millionth World Vision kit July 28 at Menlo Church in Menlo Park, California. Menlo Church was also the site of the first World Vision kit event in 2005.

"This is just the tipping point," says Nancy Rosa, a Menlo attender for 28 years who was instrumental in the launch of their first kit event. "I think this is just going to explode. I can't imagine we won't keep going. I want to keep going until I can't build them anymore."

Menlo Church has partnered with World Vision for 13 years, assembling more than 50,000 kits—more than any other World Vision partner—that have impacted 1.7 million people around the world. On July 28, 220 people assembled 2,000 SchoolTools kits and 4,000 Promise Packs (see page 36). +

Caroline, 7, assembled the 1 millionth kit. "It feels good, and it means a lot," she says.

had two boys, and she was determined that they would get the education she wasn't able to get. But tragedy struck when Mohd died of tuberculosis after battling the disease for a year and a half. Ruby was once again forced to work and struggled to provide for her family.

But in 2014, she began working with a fair trade group making jewelry. She earns fair wages, works in a safe and healthy environment, and she receives education assistance to ensure her boys can attend school. On top of that, she

enjoys working with the other women to create beautiful pieces.

One of the bracelets Ruby makes is The Grace Collection Charm Bracelet, which is part of The Grace Collection by Patricia Heaton, a jewelry line available in the 2018 Christmas Gift



DIANA RAGLAND FOR WORLD VISION



COURTESY OF GIFTS WITH A CAUSE

A hope for education

RUBINA, or Ruby as her friends call her, had to drop out of school after just the fifth grade. Her father died when she was 13, and her 16-year-old sister had to provide for the family by working at a print shop making envelopes in Delhi, India. Ruby worked alongside her to help increase the output.

When she was 16, Ruby married a local mechanic named Mohd. The couple

Catalog that was sourced by our partner, California-based Gifts With a Cause. Patricia has supported World Vision's work for many years and was recognized at the Television Industry Advocacy Awards for her work and commitment.

In addition to making jewelry, Ruby is also responsible for running quality assurance on the pieces she and the other 11 artisans create and then packing the jewelry. She enjoys her work and is able to provide for her family, and the best part is that her boys are now in the sixth grade and ninth grade, and she dreams that they'll get great jobs that will make their futures bright. +

Donate \$75 or more to Where Most Needed in the World Vision Gift Catalog between pages 18 and 19 and receive The Grace Collection Charm Bracelet and other items in the collection at wvmag.org/grace-collection.



CHRIS HUBER/WORLD VISION



CHRIS HUBER/WORLD VISION

Responding to Hurricane Florence

HURRICANE FLORENCE made landfall as a Category 1 hurricane the morning of Friday, Sept. 14 over Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina, a few miles east of Wilmington and not far from the South Carolina border. The hurricane came ashore with 90-mph winds and punishing storm surge. At least 48 people died, and the storm caused widespread flooding, with some places receiving 3 feet of rain.

World Vision partnered with the Fayetteville Dream Center to set up a shelter at Manna Church in Fayetteville, North Carolina. Staff from Dream Center, the church, and World Vision began serving evacuees there and providing relief supplies Sunday, Sept. 16.

Read more about our response at wvmag.org/florence.



LAURA REINHARDT/WORLD VISION

Matthew Sakala walks with Lightwell, in blue, and Lighton, in stripes. At a World Vision birthday party, Matthew makes sure that the children know how special they are and that God loves them.

A birthday party's lasting gift

By Kari Costanza

THE SONG OF Matthew Sakala's life is clearly "Happy Birthday." On a sunny Monday in May, he has just told hundreds of eager children at a World Vision birthday party how much God loves them and how the day they were born was a special day, indeed. Matthew runs sponsorship programs in Moyo, Zambia, the home of *World Vision* magazine cover girl Debby (see page 14).

This is not his first World Vision birthday party—not by a long shot. He was sponsored by a U.S. family through World Vision when he was 8. "I used to go to birthday parties," he says. "It brings back great memories." The parties made child sponsorship real for Matthew. "I knew there were other people outside of where I live who were thinking about people in my

community. That really touched me."

Birthday parties in communities where World Vision works are funded by sponsors through a special birthday fund. The fund ensures that children in the community know they are loved by God and their sponsors. Celebrating birthdays is not part of many cultures around the world.

"In a typical home, you would never find them celebrating their birthday," Matthew says.

That's why birthday parties were so special to him.

"They would give us new clothes," he says. "It was a wonderful feeling to have new clothes." The parties were always festive, he says. "We would dance as the music was playing"

In Moyo, the party starts in the

“
It really struck me when I would see the donors come and interact with the children and how much love they had for them.”

—MATTHEW SAKALA

morning and lasts into the afternoon with singing, dancing, skits, and prayers for the children. Children eat a hot lunch of their favorite foods and receive gifts—backpacks from World Vision's Giving Tuesday partner, Thirty-One Gifts, a company dedicated to empowering women to run their own businesses. Since 2012, Thirty-One Gifts has given more than \$100 million in cash and products like backpacks to organizations that support its mission. On Giving Tuesday, Thirty-One Gifts is matching donations to World Vision with up to \$2 million in product. Each backpack is stuffed with school supplies and a note from the person who packed it (see page 36).

Matthew, who distributed hundreds of backpacks at the birthday party, wanted to work for World Vision since he was a child. "I wanted to be part of an organization that transformed the lives of children," he says, "just as I was transformed myself."

Living with his grandparents in a poor area in southern Zambia, he watched his community grow because of sponsorship. "One of my close friends had a sponsor who sent him money to buy four head of cattle and build a house," he says. "The project brought a skills training area. People would go to do basic training on carpentry, plumbing, joinery, and baking," he says. "We were touched to see what World Vision was doing."

He saw the joy sponsors' letters brought. "There is a direct communication between someone who is miles and

miles away from them," he says. "This attachment makes children really feel valued, loved, and cared for, even if they don't see them."

But it was sponsor visits that really moved him. "It really struck me when I would see the donors come and interact with the children and how much love they had for them," he says. "I said, 'I want to be part of this.'" At age 12, Matthew decided he would someday work for World Vision.

To prepare, he earned a certificate in social work and is working toward a bachelor's degree in development from Zambia Open University in Lusaka, the capital. Ten years ago, he began working for World Vision, and today he is the church community engagement

and sponsorship plan development facilitator for Moyo. The title is a mouthful, but it speaks to the fusion of faith and sponsorship.

"When we enter a community to talk about child sponsorship, we talk about how God views the children," he says. "In the eyes of God, we are all children." Matthew works with faith leaders to ensure they focus on children. "We [tell] them the story of the children who were being chased away by the disciples. But Jesus said, 'Let them come to me.'" Churches must be part of the change, he says. "We encourage pastors during their sermon—please talk about the children."

It's working. "The culture that we live in is slowly changing," he says. "It once demeaned the children. It did not allow children to flourish."

Matthew, now a father of three, says he owes his life to child sponsorship. "I am indebted to World Vision. I don't work for a salary," he says. "I am World Vision." And with that, he's off to deliver backpacks, serve cake, and sing another round of "Happy Birthday," the song of his life. +

 **Sponsor a child and help provide birthday parties.** See the envelope between pages 10 and 11.



LAURA REINHARDT/WORLD VISION

More Than Enough

Because of our community-focused solutions, for every child you help, four more children benefit, too. Debby and her friends are all benefiting thanks to the fact that she's sponsored.

BY KARI COSTANZA | PHOTOS BY LAURA REINHARDT



DEBBY, 7



BRENDA, 12



ADAM, 5



LIGHTWELL, 10



BEATRICE, 11

It's Christmas morning in Moyo,

a village in southern Zambia. The rain drums unevenly on the tin roof of a small house—unceasing but soothing, peppering the dreams of the family sleeping inside. Enter the squawk of a guinea fowl, piercing the morning like a violin, and a chorus of quail, their chirps as bright as a piccolo. Begin the indoor symphony of sound: the soft rustle of blankets, the whisper of voices, and the unguarded yawns of children greeting the first light—children like Debby.

Debby loves Christmas. The vivacious 7-year-old relishes every day, but Christmas is special. On that day, says her father, there is “more than enough”—more than enough food, and now that they no longer have to walk for water, more than enough time to celebrate. And not just for Debby. Because of World Vision’s community-focused solutions, for every one child a donor helps, four more children benefit, too. In Zambia and around the world, a child doesn’t have to be sponsored to benefit from sponsorship. That’s why on Christmas, four of Debby’s friends who aren’t yet sponsored—Brendah, Lightwell, Beatrice, and Adam—are also waking up with anticipation.

It wasn’t always like this for children in Moyo.



TONGA LESSON



mpongo

[mmm-pon-go]

goat

Child sponsorship and the gift of goats through the World Vision Gift Catalog have made Christmas bright for Debby, her brothers, and her parents, Melecy and Obby.



TONGA LESSON

Debby speaks a language called Tonga. As you read about her and her friends, learn some words related to their stories.



munzi

[moon-zee]

homestead



CHRISTMAS PAST

Grief echoed through the village the day Debby’s brother died. Before Debby was born, the 6-year-old succumbed to diarrhea caused by drinking water from a polluted stream. “Death was very common in those days,” remembers Debby’s 52-year-old father, Obby Kachepo, with sadness in his kind eyes. The family scraped by, living in a grass-thatched hut that leaked when it rained. Neighbors begged neighbors for food. Misery flourished. “We lived more or less like animals,” says Obby.

The day to celebrate Jesus’ birth was, for their family, just another day. “On Christmas, we would tell the children not to go to another home,” says Obby, who didn’t want his kids to see others celebrating and realize how poor they were. “We didn’t want them to see the difference.” The family needed a miracle. “God answered our prayers through World Vision,” says Obby. “When World Vision came, that’s when the change came. Now Christmas is better.”

In October 2009, World Vision started child sponsorship in Moyo. Local staff asked for volunteers to serve as “caregivers” by regularly monitoring children’s health and well-being. Caregivers look out for the children in the community. Obby joined the team, becoming responsible for 120 children.

The caregivers faced challenges. According to village chief Stephen Moyo, people were moving away to find clean water, healthcare services, and jobs. In 2009, Moyo had the lowest rate in the area for children attending school past eighth grade: only 1 in 3.



Brendah sits with her grandmother, 73-year-old Elinah. Elinah cares for Brendah and six other children—some of them orphaned. Having clean water close by has greatly helped with her daily chores and caring for the children.

And the community was battling the stigma attached to HIV and AIDS.

Through the sponsorship program, World Vision worked with local leaders to tackle these challenges. Fortunately, sponsorship is a magnet for other funds, like government grants and generous gifts from donors who want to invest in community-based, long-term development—meaning sponsors’ gifts are multiplied in impact. Funds from World Vision’s Campaign For Every Child were used to drill seven new borehole wells and repair five broken ones, and community members like Obby received training to promote good hygiene. Caregivers helped distribute bicycles so students and teachers could ride to school on Moyo’s rutted roads. Savings groups, called village banks, were started. The 32 groups, made up mostly of women, were able to save thousands of dollars—their first savings ever. And World Vision worked with faith leaders to turn condemnation into kindness toward people living with HIV and other diseases, and brought in medicine to treat them.

In 2011, the year Debby was born, World Vision began providing goats to families in Moyo. Staff invited community members to choose 50 vulnerable families from among themselves to each receive four female goats from a local supplier and a male goat from outside the community—a “super goat.” “The breed which World Vision brought was a different breed,” says Obby. “They were big goats. The crossbreeding made our traditional goats bigger.”

The 50 families learned to care for the goats, including how to build shelters to keep them safe. When the animals multiplied, the families would give the baby goats to other families.

In July 2012, Debby was sponsored by an American woman named Debbie and her husband, David. The couple attended NorthRidge Church in Michigan, where church members sponsor nearly 3,000 children in Moyo and a nearby community. The next year, Debby’s family received five goats from a family whose goats had multiplied.



TONGA LESSON



[myoo-oonda]

fields

Steadily, Moyo was transforming. Families were thriving, and an exuberant little girl with a big smile was actively loved and prayed for by a woman with the same name who lived 8,000 miles away.

Every project World Vision introduced was infused with God’s love. Children could attend Good News and Scripture Union clubs. Caregivers like Obby were encouraged to keep God central in every activity and community gathering. Savings groups, hygiene training, borehole drilling—each assembly began with prayer. The 2009 report from Moyo concludes, “Communities actually demand that each meeting starts with a prayer and ends the same way.”



**BRENDAH, 12:
No longer afraid**

The joy of sponsorship has flowed down Moyo’s sunflower-lined paths to the home of Debby’s best friend, Brendah Milambo. Brendah lives with her 73-year-old grandmother, Elinah, and six other children either

WATCH A VIDEO
“Travel” to Zambia to meet Debby and her friends in this short video at wvmag.org/debby.



TONGA LESSON



[me-en-da]

water

Though not sponsored, Debby’s friend Brendah benefits from sponsorship. With the clean water available to the whole community, Brendah’s family makes tea using fresh lemons from their garden.

Debby's neighbor, Lightwell, is part of World Vision's reading camp—an extracurricular activity for children both sponsored and not—that has created a new and exciting culture of reading in Moyo.



helps everyone in the community. “Every household, whether they have sponsored children or not, benefits from a water point,” he says. “Water is a necessity of life.” For Brendah, having clean water means she doesn’t miss school anymore due to water-related illness. That brings her closer to her dream of becoming a nurse.



LIGHTWELL, 10: An outbreak of reading

Next to Debby's house lives Lightwell Mboyonga, who is 10. Lightwell is not yet sponsored, but he still gets to attend World Vision's reading camp, held on weekends. Lightwell goes everywhere with a book in his hand. “My favorite thing is reading,” he says. “I like it even more than football (soccer).”

His uncle, Thomas Mambo, 45, has been a caregiver since 2009. Thomas says that in Moyo, “there has been an outbreak of reading. Children read everything they get their hands on.” That's true of Lightwell. As dozens of his friends kick around a soccer ball made of plastic bags, Lightwell is immersed in a book, oblivious to the happy chaos around him.

Reading camp starts in the first grade. “The first grade is the foundation of everything,” says Shepherd Chilombe, 48, who runs the program. “You can't move forward if you don't know how to read.” Shepherd is a local expert who has trained members of Zambia's Ministry of Education on how to educate community members—farmers, shop owners, and even teachers—in a new way of teaching.

In Moyo, students gather under trees and open fields. Lessons are interspersed with games. Teachers focus on individual children. Posters blow in the soft breeze, hanging from tree limbs with pictures that illustrate words in Tonga, the local language. The children sing their vowels: A, E, I, O, U, becomes A, E, I, O, *moo* when a cow passes by, drowning out the final vowel. “Any child can go to the reading [camp]—both sponsored and nonsponsored,” says Shepherd.

orphaned or left behind by their parents. Brendah is tall, while Debby is short. Brendah is shy, while Debby is given to spontaneous belly laughs. At 12, Brendah is older than Debby, but something about this friendship works. The girls talk and laugh as they walk to get water at a nearby borehole well installed by World Vision.

Even though Brendah is not sponsored, she—like every child in the community, sponsored or not—has access to this clean water brought by sponsorship. And it's completely changed her life. She used to collect water from a dirty stream. “When the stream was high, I feared that I might drown,” she says. Indeed, confirms Elinah, children in Moyo used to drown getting water. Brendah would miss school because of water-related illness too. In Moyo, dirty water was a source of diarrhea, cholera, and other

life-threatening diseases. Before World Vision began drilling boreholes, few people in Moyo had access to clean water.

“World Vision has done a lot of work in Moyo,” says Joseph Kayafa, 47, who directs World Vision's water programs in the area. The records certainly confirm it. In Moyo and a nearby community, teams have drilled more than 60 boreholes, which serve 250 people apiece, and installed five mechanized water systems that serve more than 500 people each—about 17,500 people total.

Joseph calls the boreholes and mechanized systems the “hardware.” “Every time we do this hardware, we complement it with promoting hygiene and sanitation facilities—the software,” he says. “For every borehole, we ensure that every house has the basics: a latrine, a hand-washing station, a refuse pit, dish racks, and a bathing shelter.” Joseph notes that the clean water access

TONGA LESSON

... ✨ ...
chikolo
[chee-ko-lo]
school





Beatrice isn't sponsored yet, but her family benefits from World Vision's expertise in farming and marketing products to sell. Her father, Patrick, now grows green leafy vegetables to add vitamins to his children's diets.

TONGA LESSON

.....

Bulimi

[boo-lee-me]
farming

Shepherd left a position with Zambia's Ministry of Education to join World Vision. It surprised the World Vision human resources staff that he wanted to make such a change—going from a city job to one so rural. As so many World Vision staff do, he explained that he saw it as a calling. He wanted to work for God, and he wanted to give back to Moyo, his birthplace. “My father was a cook at the mission hospital,” he says. “He used the little resources he was getting to send me to school.” Shepherd, who remembers struggling to read, is now helping thousands of kids like Lightwell.

Lightwell's mother, Lillian, 27, says her children love World Vision's reading camp. Children are supposed to come to camp with their own lunch, but Lillian's children often attended without food, as it was scarce for the family until recently. “Life was difficult because we would eat once in a day,” she says. “After that, we would go and beg



TONGA LESSON

.....

Kujikilwa
 [koo-jee-keel-wa]
kitchen



for food.” In 2014, the family received goats from World Vision. By selling the offspring, they gained income for food. Now they eat three times a day, and Lillian's children can focus on learning.

In 2016, Lillian joined a savings group. “Now we have a bank within the community,” she says. Thanks to this new financial resource, she's been able to pay Lightwell's school fees. “I never went to school. But my child is able to read,” she says. “His future is guaranteed.” She'll do anything to support her children, yet says she faces one challenge: “[My children] want me to approve their homework. But I don't know how to read.” Thankfully, this will soon change. World Vision is starting a reading program for adults in Moyo, and Lillian will be first in line. “My greatest joy would be to read to the congregation,” she says. And she'll be able to study with her son.

Lightwell wants his mother to read like he can. He hopes to become a teacher one day. “I will teach the children the way I am learning at reading camp,” he says.

 **BEATRICE, 11:**
Able to share

Another enthusiastic participant at reading camp, 11-year-old Beatrice Nzala, is as funny and feisty as her friend, Debby. Although Beatrice is not yet sponsored, she and her family benefits from World Vision's agriculture work in Moyo. Beatrice lives with her stepfather, Patrick, 51; her mother, Lifa Choobwe, 37; two sisters; and her little brother, Shadrack. Patrick is an exemplary farmer, growing sunflowers, beans, okra, tomatoes, and maize. “We have plenty of food,” he says. “We still have maize from last season.”

This is a miraculous turnaround from eight years ago. It started with a muscle spasm, and it wasn't long before Patrick could barely walk because of the pain. “I had given up. I thought, “This is my end,”” he says. “I used to sit on a mat made of sacks—all day, every day.” Patrick was one of the first people to receive goats through the World Vision Gift Catalog—a life ring thrown to a drowning man. Once the goats multiplied, he sold some to buy food.

“He was vulnerable but viable,” says 51-year-old Eugern Siawala,

one of World Vision's staff in Moyo who directs World Vision's agriculture programs. Eugern saw potential in Patrick—a man who didn't even believe in himself. She got Patrick involved in a savings group and then suggested that Patrick take a small loan through World Vision's microfinance program, VisionFund, which helps farmers and others build their livelihoods. With the pump he purchased, he's been able to water more land and grow healthier, more abundant crops—all with support from Eugern. "I've been working with him to ensure he moves from the level where he is to another," she says.

Today, Patrick's family is secure—making Christmas bright. "Before, my children would look at other families celebrating. Because we didn't have anything, we would feel sad," he says.

"Now that I have everything, my children can share with others." Instead of receiving goats, Patrick buys them. "Now my family has," he says. "Before we had not. Now we have a good life."

 **ADAM, 5:
Smiling bright**

And then there's Adam Mudenda, who attends Debby's church. Adam, 5, was born in 2013, the same year NorthRidge Church took a Christmas offering to build two hospitals in southern Zambia, one of them only 2 miles from Adam's home. The clinic is critical for Adam. Recently he began vomiting, and his parents didn't know why. His father, Ignatius, takes him for an examination.

Christabel Payton, 33, a nurse here for eight years, examines the little boy. Adam tells her he's been coughing and has tummy pains. Her diagnosis is troubling: possible peptic ulcers, probably from bacteria. "I'm happy that he came today," she says. So is Adam. As he looks at Nurse Christabel, he beams, his smile lighting up the room. That's just Adam. Although he doesn't feel well, he can't help but smile—a toothy grin that transforms his face.

Although he's not yet sponsored, Adam is being treated at a first-class facility that is available, thanks to sponsorship, right in his community—a place that previously had no healthcare. "We will be able to do an ultrasound from here," says Christabel. "We will have X-rays and even an operating theater."

The nurse has seen big changes in Moyo. "When I came here, the clinic structures themselves were quite old," she says. "World Vision painted and built new ones. We used to have a number of diseases because people used to fetch water from streams. The number of malnourished children has decreased." Christabel says that people who had left to find opportunity elsewhere are returning to Moyo. They know that because of sponsorship, Moyo now has more than enough—at no time more evident than at Christmas.



TONGA LESSON



seca

[say-ka]

smile

Although he isn't sponsored yet, Adam benefits from the new health facility in Moyo, a necessity for a little boy battling stomach trouble.

TONGA LESSON



vwakuma

[vwa-koo-ma]

medicine



CHRISTMAS PRESENT

It's Christmas night in southern Zambia. The rain has given way to the rustle of wind through the trees, heavy with mangoes. Obby gathers his family close: Debby and her brothers, still dressed in their new Christmas clothes. It's been a long day of playing, singing, and worship. The children are stuffed with their favorite foods—chicken, rice, pumpkin leaves, and fresh bread with butter bought in town.

There is one more gift to share. "In the evening," says Obby, "we explain the meaning of Christmas to the children—that it's not all about that big dinner. The important thing about Christmas is Jesus." The night ends with an acknowledgment of God's most precious gift—a gift not only for Debby and her friends Brendah, Lightwell, Beatrice, and Adam, but for everyone—as God's love is more than enough for all. +

Debby and her family have "more than enough" and can happily enjoy meals together every day—but especially Christmas Day.

TONGA LESSON

Kuhyalowa
Kwamufutuli

[koo-zee-yalwa kwa-moo-foo-too-lee]

Merry Christmas



GIVE A LIFE-CHANGING GIFT

See the Gift Catalog between pages 18 and 19, visit wvmag.org/gift-catalog, or call 1.888.852.4453.



SANTA SWITCH | 28

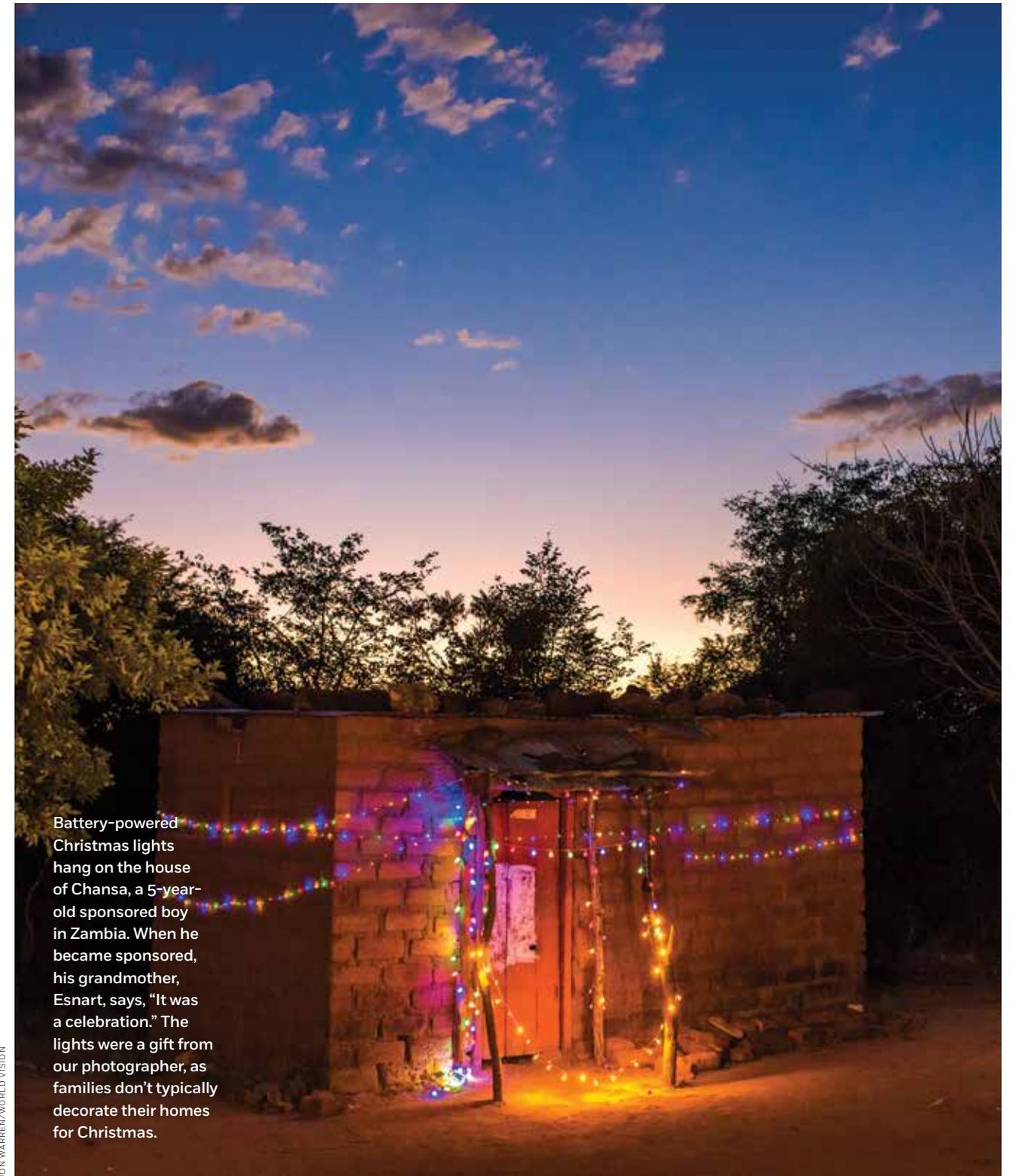
The Bible Belles founder shares simple steps to flip your focus this Christmas.

Inspire

MOTIVATING YOU TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

GOD SEES | 32

Even when we feel alone, God sees our pain, and we can see others' needs as well.



Battery-powered Christmas lights hang on the house of Chansa, a 5-year-old sponsored boy in Zambia. When he became sponsored, his grandmother, Esnart, says, "It was a celebration." The lights were a gift from our photographer, as families don't typically decorate their homes for Christmas.

JOHN WARREN/WORLD VISION

Santa switch

Shine bright by 'flipping the focus' this Christmas

By Erin Weidemann

My daughter, Rooney, has a sweet little book in her bedroom about Saint Nicholas of Myra. It tells the story of the fourth-century Christian bishop who inspired the Christmas gift-giving character of Santa Claus. We read it here and there all year long, but it carries a special meaning for our family this holiday season.

Born in Patara, a land that is part of present-day Turkey, circa 280 A.D., Saint Nicholas was left with a large sum of money when his parents passed away, and he used it to help the poor. After his own death in 344, the legend of his generosity grew. Saint Nicholas transformed into the fabled character of Santa Claus, the beloved old man who brings presents to children around the world on Christmas Eve. Over the years, while advertising and culture have popularized the image of the jolly, red-suited sleigh operator, many influences have made Santa what he is today.

It's surprising how easy it can be to get caught up in the commercialization of Christmas and lose sight of what is truly important. I'm guilty of working tirelessly to try and set the right tone and atmosphere for my family during the holiday, without thinking beyond what lies inside and what hangs outside the four walls of our home. We end up devoting a lot of time and energy into placing decorations, preparing events, preserving traditions, and planning meaningful experiences for the people closest to us—all the while missing the

real blessing that comes from thinking like the original Saint Nick. If we aren't careful, our attention can quickly switch to a focus on what we want, leaving little room for thinking of others and what they need.

This year, our family decided to take a few intentional steps back to realign our hearts with the true meaning of Christmas and the spirit of the legendary gift-giver. We wanted to make some changes this holiday season to awaken the joy that comes with generosity. It was time to decide, as a family, how we could ask "What can we give?" instead of "What can we get?"

So Santa is going to look a little different in our house this Christmas season.

In August, we called a family meeting, and the three of us sat together in our living room. Snuggling up together with blankets on the couch in the middle of summer had us all giggling, but it gave us the opportunity to talk through ideas for how to change our perspective this Christmas from getting to giving, from receiving gifts to revealing God's love by first noticing the needs of others and then doing something to meet these needs.

My daughter ran into her bedroom to grab the most recent letter we had received from Dilcia, the mother of our sponsored child, Andrea Victoria. We read her letter again together and prayed for a few minutes about families around the world who are trying to climb out of poverty. What could we do to send a message—one that says we care that you need something, and we're going to do something about it?

Out of that meeting, we identified three simple steps that would help our family flip the focus this Christmas.

1. Encourage each other to notice the needs.

Our sponsored child, Andrea Victoria, lives in Honduras. Her father is a farm laborer, and her mother works to keep the home and raise Andrea, her two brothers, and her three sisters. From the letters back and forth that our families have shared and from what we have read about their community, we know Andrea's papa struggles to provide enough food for the family. We took turns flipping through the World Vision Gift Catalog. We talked about how food like milk and eggs are regular purchases in our home, but that's not the case for many families around the world.

2. Empower one another by learning about how your gift will impact others.

With a little research, we learned that a goat can give up to a gallon of fresh milk every day. Our family talks often about why it is so important to maintain a healthy diet and nutrition plan, and

my daughter lit up at the thought of a family in poverty getting the benefit of a steady source of calcium, protein, and nutrients we know they need.

We dug a little deeper and learned that chickens are another awesome gift. They provide a consistent supply of eggs, are easy to raise, and will naturally multiply, allowing future generations of kids and families to be positively impacted.

The gift of an animal, while it seems so simple, is a way to turn one act of generosity into additional blessings. It was beautiful to watch my little girl light up as we talked about how gifts like these can also provide hunger relief, farming assistance, and other essentials to families living in poverty.

3. Emphasize the greatest gift God ever gave to the world: Jesus.

St. Nicholas of Myra said, "The giver of every good and perfect gift has called upon us to mimic his giving, by grace, through faith, and this is not of ourselves."

When our Father sent his Son to

“
The giver of every good and perfect gift has called upon us to mimic his giving, by grace, through faith, and this is not of ourselves.”

—SAINT NICHOLAS

be born on earth, it was his good and perfect gift to us. The most incredible blessing the world has ever known is two-fold: We are able to receive this gift, and we are able to share this gift with others. That's what Christmas is all about. Let's share the love and gift of God's Son with others by meeting the needs of his children around the world.

One act of generosity can light up a life. This Christmas, let's shine God's light by seeing the needs of the world and taking action. +



Erin Weidemann is a member of World Vision's Speakers Bureau and the founder and CEO of Bible Belles. She lives in Encinitas, California, with her husband, Brent, and

their daughter, Rooney. Learn more about Erin at erinweidemann.com.

Give the gift of an animal to help a family in need. See the Gift Catalog between pages 18 and 19.

Giving hope this Christmas

When Giving Tuesday, Nov. 27, arrives, World Vision will be in New York City's Bryant Park for the Give-back Gift Shop, and we'll have Giving Tuesday partners with us to encourage people to shine bright by making a donation, which will be matched in product donations—up to \$2 million—by Thirty-One Gifts. Learn more at wvmag.org/gift-shop, and read on to hear from two of our partners.



COURTESY OF SUGARLAND

Q&A Sugarland

ON GIVING TUESDAY 2017—with a backdrop of farm animals juxtaposed against the Manhattan skyline—Jennifer Nettles shined as she talked about giving back with World Vision.

The country superstar attended World Vision's Give-back Gift Shop in New York City's Bryant Park to encourage fans to give a gift matched by Thirty-One Gifts.

"I loved the chance to showcase the beautiful variety of gifts available," Jennifer says. "There is something for everyone at every price point. Everyone can give a gift with meaning."

This year, her Sugarland bandmate, Kristian Bush, will join her, and the Grammy-award winning duo is promoting child sponsorship and Giving Tuesday together.

World Vision recently caught up with Sugarland to talk about Giving Tuesday and what has them excited for Christmas this year.

What are you most looking forward to this Christmas?

Jennifer Nettles: I always look forward to watching the magic of Christmas in my child's eyes. He will be 6 in December, so he is prime age for all the magic.

Kristian Bush: I love being around my kids at Christmas. They are teenagers now and have started to embrace the holiday as something more than gifting. I am looking forward to being around them and hearing the way they see the world.

What's one of your favorite family Christmas traditions, and why?

Jennifer: I always love that we take time to come together. Now that we all have our own families and children, it has become harder to make time to get together. Christmas is a time we can look forward to reconnecting.

Kristian: Pajamas! My mom used to buy us all matching pajamas when we were kids. She passed away when I was 30, and her friends used to continue the tradition after she passed and sent pajamas on Christmas Eve.

How do you show God's love to others, especially at Christmastime?

Kristian: Christmastime is a great deal of stress for many people, and a well-timed smile or a kind word can go a long way.

Jennifer: I believe the best gifts we can give each other are our time and open hearts to listen. Those are the most significant gifts we can give our loved ones but also those around us within our broader communities—especially people who may believe, worship, love, and live differently than we do. I believe that this is what God wants for us: to help each other. Listening to each other and learning about each other is the fastest way to compassion. I hope we all do more of that—during the holidays and beyond.

How would you encourage readers to love others this Christmas season?

Jennifer: The world can seem dark. Anytime that we can remind ourselves to shine brighter for each other, we should. Let's try and bring some light to people this season.

Kristian: Shine brightly this season by helping someone you don't know.

Giving Tuesday is one way to help people we don't know. Why is Giving Tuesday important to you?

Jennifer: I think Giving Tuesday is actually what the holiday spirit is about. We often buy gifts for each other that don't have much meaning and gifts that the other party may not even want. Giving Tuesday is an opportunity to honor your loved ones with a

gift that has meaning and changes lives at the same time.

Kristian: Giving Tuesday makes sense to me in a season where we make consumerism so easy—that there can be an equal ease to charity and charitable giving.

What are your favorite gifts in the World Vision Gift Catalog?

Jennifer: I always love the animals! It's a great opportunity to get my own child engaged in meaningful giving. Most kids love animals, so they grab their attention and invite a wonderful way to teach about giving back and the world.

Kristian: I have always been impressed with the concept of a gift that keeps on giving, so I would pick water wells or livestock.

Why is it important to you to partner with World Vision?

Kristian: Our fans are a community of people that enjoy music that has a deeper meaning, and World Vision is a perfect partnership because the organization is driven by a deeper meaning.

Jennifer: I believe music is powerful and connects directly to the heart. I want our music and my art to connect with messages of love and compassion and inclusion. I hope people will listen and have their hearts opened by those messages.

What aspects of World Vision's work are you most passionate about?

Jennifer: I love empowering women. By empowering women, we elevate whole families and communities. I love that World Vision gives people the opportunity to gift sustainable, economic empowerment to women around the world, especially during the holiday season.

Kristian: I love the connection between the sponsor and the sponsored child. The ability to directly effect change in another person's life is precious, and World Vision's ability to facilitate that is amazing. +

 **Learn more** about Sugarland's #LoveBIGGER campaign at wvmag.org/sugarland.

COURTESY OF SADIE ROBERTSON

Q&A

Sadie Robertson



SADIE ROBERTSON has had a busy year of speaking engagements, but as part of the "Duck Dynasty" family, she's really looking forward to heading home for Christmas, which is a three-day festivity for the Robertsons. "Our family is hilarious at Christmas," Sadie says. "We have the most fun traditions!" Sadie spoke with World Vision about why she's excited for Christmas and why she's partnering with us this Giving Tuesday.

What are you most looking forward to about Christmas this year?

I love Christmastime. Who doesn't? Now that I don't live at home, I feel like it's even more special because it's a time I get to spend with my incredible family. I think after this crazy year, Christmas is going to be the best yet by getting to be home.

How do you cut through the hustle and bustle of the season to experience God more deeply?

Christmas literally is God's holiday, so to miss him at Christmas, you're missing the true meaning. You have to know that every season, he is in it, and there is a new side of him to see. That keeps me expectantly seeking him.

How would you encourage others to shine bright by showing God's love this Christmas season?

I would encourage you to keep your eyes open to how you can be a blessing, and then take action based on what you see. See this Christmas season as a time to love others.

Why is it important to you to team up with World Vision for Giving Tuesday?

It is incredible for such a big group of people to intentionally give to people in need and for corporations to support. I love when there is unity for the better of the world in any capacity.

What aspects of World Vision's work are you most passionate about and why?

Going on trips around the world, I see the need for help in the eyes of beautiful, passionate kids, and so I love to team up with anyone who is bringing hope to those little eyes. World Vision is beautiful, and I cannot wait to see many more kids sponsored with hope restored for their future. In order to make World Vision grow and kids all around the world have hope restored, we need each other. +

 **This Giving Tuesday, Nov. 27,** give a gift to World Vision at wvmag.org/giving-tuesday, and Thirty-One Gifts will match your gift in product donation, up to \$2 million.

God sees

By Laura Crosby

A FEW YEARS AGO, as I was driving down the highway, swiping at tears, wallowing in some drama, and feeling like a loser, I was interrupted by my phone ringing. It was a close friend who said, “Did I just pass you on the highway, and are you okay?!”

To me, it was a Hagar moment—a personal reminder from God that he is El Roi, the God who sees me even when I think I’m alone.

You remember Hagar—Abraham’s servant who he slept with to “help” God out in getting an heir and appease his wife, Sarai? Sarai then got jealous and abused Hagar, so she and her son, Ishmael, ran away into the desert to die.

There God shows up and reminds Hagar that he is the God who sees her. Always. No matter what the circumstances. But not “seeing” like a gawker driving by an accident. Instead, a “seeing” that calls us beloved, a “seeing” that numbers the hairs on our heads and knows our past, present, and future.

It’s a “seeing” that stoops to write in the dirt, that stops to single us out in a crowd, a “seeing” that has a conversation in the heat of the day at a well when we think we’d rather not be seen.



Loveness holds a photo of herself from when her sponsors, Laura and John Crosby, visited when she was younger.

LAURA REINHARDT/WORLD VISION

It’s a “seeing” that enters into our pain and reminds us that everything will change, except God. We’re never lost to him. And we are always secure in him.

This is why we sponsor Loveness and other kids through World Vision. We want them to know they are seen by God and us.

We have sponsored many kids over the years—some who have broken our hearts and others who have thrived, but they all received the message that they are seen. They matter to God and to us.

There is Justine, who got pregnant as an unwed 12-year-old and had to quit school. We visited her in Uganda and mourned the potential that would not be realized. We mourned the loss of her own childhood. God still sees her. She is still beloved.

There is Miguel, who grew up before our eyes in Guatemala and loves baseball, reminding us that all kids deserve a childhood with fun in it. God sees Miguel.

There is Rita, who didn’t do particularly well in school but was able to go into trade school to be a beautician. God sees her. She is precious to him.

There are many others over the years—each seen, each loved by our family.

Then there is Loveness. We have been privileged to visit Loveness in Zambia and will see her again soon. (Read about her brother, Adam, on page 24.) She has a smile that lights up a room. She has a family who loves her and who trusts God. We brought her a dress on her third birthday, and she wore it in every picture after that for two years.

The reason I share these stories is because regardless of the outcome, these kids are made in the image of God and

need to be reminded that they are seen and loved. They matter.

My husband, John, was serving as the senior pastor of our church in Minnesota when our faith community sponsored over 1,000 kids in Rakai, Uganda. Early one Sunday morning in the 90s, news broke that the Lord’s Resistance Army had kidnapped a bunch of children overnight for the purpose of forcing them to be soldiers and domestic workers. As people came into worship that morning, one after another asked my husband, “Are those our kids? Are those our kids?” John went to the pulpit and assured the congregation that the kids who had been kidnapped were not from Rakai. But even though they technically weren’t “our kids,” all of them are “our kids” in a sense. They are beloved by God and need to know they are seen. They matter.

Just as my friend saw me in my moment of pain, God sees each child in need. Sponsoring Loveness and our other kids has given us the privilege of partnering with God’s work in the world. If you sponsor a child, maybe take a minute now to pray that they’ll be reminded today, through the care of World Vision, that they are seen and matter. +

Laura Crosby is a speaker and writer who also partners with her husband in ministry. Connect with her at lauracrosby.com or on Instagram at [@lauracrosby](https://www.instagram.com/lauracrosby).

 **Sponsor a child today.** See the envelope between pages 10 and 11.

COURTESY OF LAURA CROSBY

Praying for your sponsored child

Praying the Scriptures is one of the most powerful ways to talk to God. This season, pray Psalm 139 over your sponsored child using the prompts below that correspond with verses in the Psalm.

By Kristy J. O’Hara-Glaspie

Psalm 139

¹ You have searched me, Lord, and you know me.

Thank God that he sees and knows your sponsored child.

² You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.

³ You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.

⁴ Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely.

⁵ You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me.

Thank God for his protection on your sponsored child.

⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

⁷ Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?

Praise God that your sponsored child is never alone. Ask that your sponsored child senses his presence.

⁸ If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

⁹ If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea,

¹⁰ even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.

Praise God for his guidance, and ask for continual guidance as your sponsored child grows.

¹¹ If I say, “Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,”

¹² even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.

Thank God for how he has uniquely and lovingly created your sponsored child with dignity.

¹³ For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.

¹⁴ I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

Praise God for creating your sponsored child.

¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place,

¹⁶ when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body;

¹⁷ all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

Ask God to reveal his great plans for your sponsored child and their life.

¹⁸ How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them!

Pray that your sponsored child learns to love God.

¹⁹ Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand—when I awake, I am still with you.

²⁰ If only you, God, would slay the wicked! Away from me, you who are bloodthirsty!

²¹ They speak of you with evil intent; your adversaries misuse your name.

Pray for God’s protection from anyone who would want to harm your sponsored child or their family and community.

²² Do I not hate those who hate you, LORD, and abhor those who are in rebellion against you?

²³ I have nothing but hatred for them; I count them my enemies.

²⁴ Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.

²⁵ See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Ask God for his leadership in your sponsored child’s life. +

JON WARREN/WORLD VISION



COURTESY OF THE KLAASEN FAMILY

Storing treasures in heaven

By Chris Huber

JESSE KLAASEN is a big-hearted western Michigan teen who saved up his treasures for another in need thousands of miles away.

For three years, Jesse, 16, worked on a cattle farm in western Michigan and saved his paychecks—totaling \$4,500—to pay for a home for a struggling mother and her children through World Vision’s Gift Catalog.

He sacrificed himself through physical labor and resisted the temptation to spend his hard-earned money so that a family he doesn’t even know could have a better life.

Jesse loves to give through the Gift Catalog, donating funds for animals and other gifts for the past five years as part of his commitment to tithing at least 10 percent of his income. Whenever his family receives the Gift Catalog in the mail, Jesse carefully studies it to determine what he wants to give.

It’s pretty straightforward: “I love Jesus, and I want to act like him and be like him; I want to help others,” Jesse says.

Back in winter 2015, he had set the goal to gift one of the big-ticket items in the catalog. “I was just flipping through and was like, ‘I wanna get that one,’” Jesse says.

He made a point not to tell anyone he was saving for it. Every time he got a paycheck, he would take a portion out and add it to the growing

pile of money inside a hollowed-out book on his bedroom shelf. Right before his 16th birthday in January 2018, Jesse gathered his pile of bills worth \$4,500, singled out one of the most expensive items—the house—and donated the money to World Vision to provide a house for someone in need.

“I was really excited,” Jesse says. “Holding that much money was just crazy. It was a stack.”

Jesse’s mom, Carrie Klaasen, says she found out he was saving for a big Gift Catalog purchase about a year before it happened—almost two years after he set out to do it.

“When he commits to something, he’s going to do it,” Carrie says. “He’s got a compassionate heart.”

Jesse acknowledged he could have used the money to buy a much nicer vehicle or phone. His noisy 2001 Chevrolet Blazer could have benefited from a new muffler. He stuck with his aging flip phone until he got a smartphone as a gift. And he says he was tempted numerous times to pull out a few \$20 bills from that book on his shelf and go spend it. But his resolve to love God and love people helped him resist.

“I was just ready to do this,” he says.

That heart full of compassion has always been there, Carrie says. Jesse started sponsoring two children when he was 11—one in Honduras and one in Ethiopia. But his sense of compassion deepened after his parents brought his first sister home from Ethiopia that same year.

“I was just so excited and so happy,” he says. “They came home, and I held her on the couch. I was crying and was just so happy to have her here.”

And then he visited Ethiopia in 2015 when the family adopted his two other sisters. It opened his eyes to a different culture, to poverty, and got the then-13-year-old asking profound questions.

Seeing his siblings’ home country for the first time was overwhelming for him, Carrie remembers. She sensed something change inside Jesse.

“I remember him just taking it all in and thinking, ‘Why isn’t this me? I could be going through this, and I’m not,’” she says.

That experience is part of what motivates him. Even after he sent in his big donation, Jesse says he remains committed to the unknown family who will receive his gift. “I pray for them every day,” Jesse says. “I’ve been praying that the right family gets it—that they can just praise God for it and give him thanks for it.”

 Give a gift like Jesse did through the Gift Catalog between pages 18 and 19.

HOW'D THEY DO THAT? | 36

How does a care letter inside a kit get from the U.S. to Zambia to inspire a child?

Delight

FINDING MEANING IN EVERYDAY MOMENTS

Every good and perfect gift is from above ...
—JAMES 1:17

IN THE KITCHEN

GO, GROW, GLOW VEGETABLE SOUP

By Kari Costanza

IN ZAMBIA and other places where World Vision works, families often eat only what they grow, which may be one or two crops.

Community volunteers teach mothers to combine three kinds of foods to give children energy and to build and protect their bodies.

The approach is called Go, Grow, Glow.

“Go” foods are energy foods—grains, roots, and tubers. In Zambia, the most common “Go” food is maize.

“Grow” foods build the body—proteins like milk, eggs, legumes,

fish, and chicken.

“Glow” foods—fruits and green leafy vegetables, rich in Vitamin A—help protect the body from disease.

Community volunteers use storybooks with pictures to teach mothers how to combine the food groups, turning them into a tasty porridge, or serve all three together.

Mothers then gather—each bringing the one or two ingredients they have in their household—and cook together, combining the foods into a healthy meal like this one. Give it a try with your own kids. 

PREP TIME: 20 MINUTES
COOK TIME: 60 TO 90 MINUTES

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 tablespoon oil
- 1 onion, diced
- 4 cups vegetable stock (Zambians would use water)
- ½ cup peanut butter (Zambians would use peanuts)
- 2 cups fresh or canned tomatoes with juices, diced
- ¼ teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes
- 1 cup cabbage, finely chopped
- 1 cup sweet potatoes, peeled and chopped
- 1 cup carrots, peeled and chopped
- 1 cup turnips, peeled and chopped
- 1 cup fresh or canned okra, chopped
- Optional: 1 to 2 cups chopped, cooked chicken (Zambians might not have this)

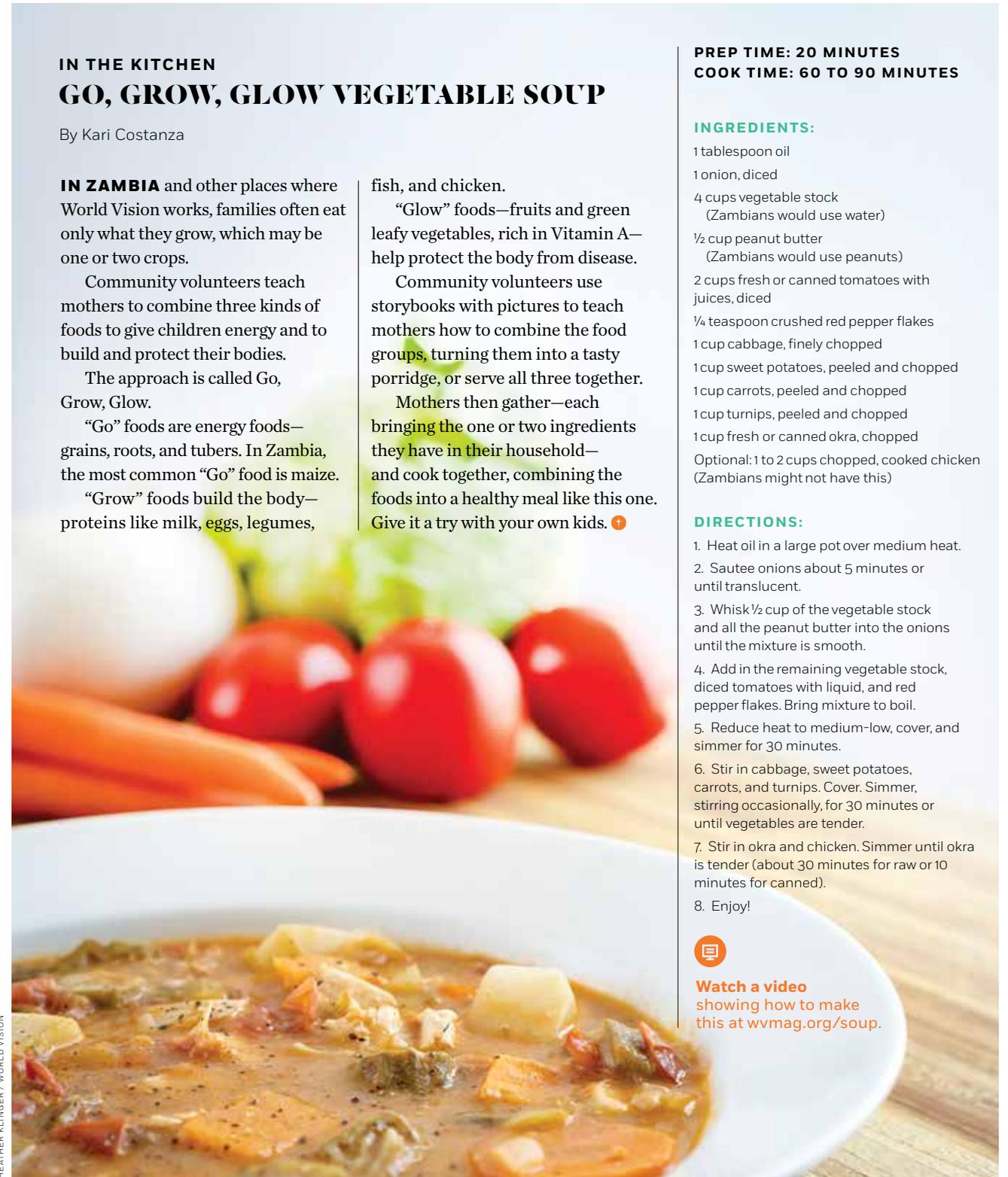
DIRECTIONS:

1. Heat oil in a large pot over medium heat.
2. Sauté onions about 5 minutes or until translucent.
3. Whisk ½ cup of the vegetable stock and all the peanut butter into the onions until the mixture is smooth.
4. Add in the remaining vegetable stock, diced tomatoes with liquid, and red pepper flakes. Bring mixture to boil.
5. Reduce heat to medium-low, cover, and simmer for 30 minutes.
6. Stir in cabbage, sweet potatoes, carrots, and turnips. Cover. Simmer, stirring occasionally, for 30 minutes or until vegetables are tender.
7. Stir in okra and chicken. Simmer until okra is tender (about 30 minutes for raw or 10 minutes for canned).
8. Enjoy!



Watch a video showing how to make this at wvmag.org/soup.

HEATHER KLINGER / WORLD VISION



Assembling kits with care letters

By Kari Costanza

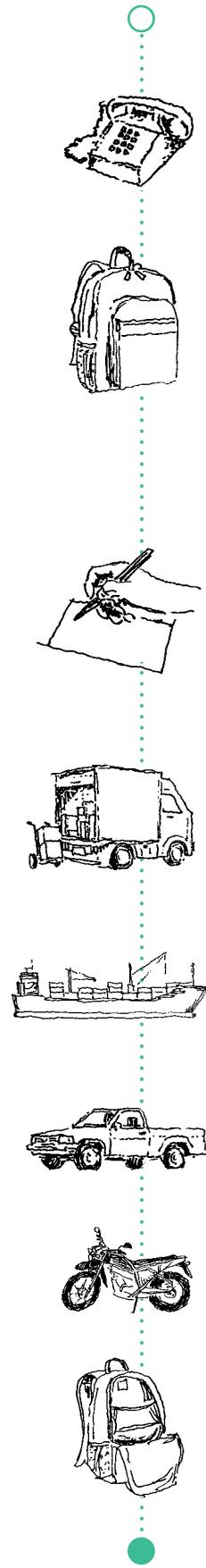
MORE THAN 150 CHILDREN—including Debby, the girl on our cover—received more than a backpack at a birthday party for kids in Zambia (see page 12). Inside they discovered a blanket, hygiene supplies, washcloths, soap, a toothbrush and toothpaste, and school supplies, including crayons, pens, pencils, a pencil sharpener, and an eraser.

“I’ve never had anything like this before,” says Kenser, who used to carry his books to school in a plastic bag. On rainy days, they’d get soaked. But there was more. Tucked inside the backpack the third-grader received was an uplifting note from a couple in Orange County, California. The care letter had traveled nearly 10,000 miles to get to Kenser.

How did that happen?

It started when the couple attended a World Vision kit event in Orange County—one of nearly 300 such events that take place each year across the country. At these events, participants assemble kits with school or hygiene supplies and write a care letter of encouragement to the person who will receive it—in this case, Kenser, Debby, and their friends. Assembling kits is a great way for a church or a group to reach out to a hurting world in a meaningful way. Best of all, it’s something families can do together. 📌

Organize a kit event to encourage people in need by emailing kits@worldvision.org or calling 1.800.478.5481.

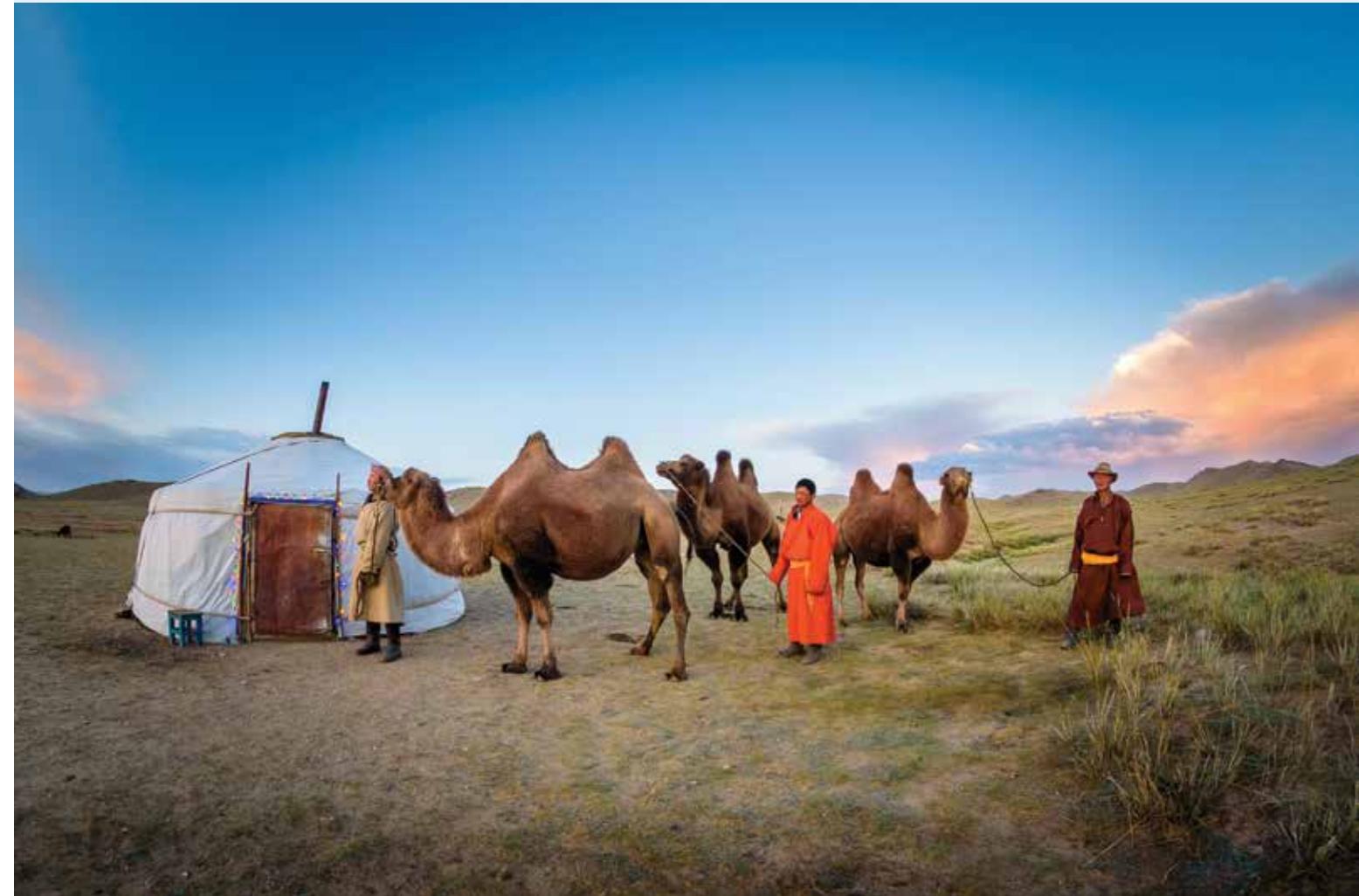


Here’s how it happened:

- 1 Someone from a church or organization contacted World Vision by emailing kits@worldvision.org or calling 1.800.478.5481.
- 2 Next, they chose Promise Packs from several types of World Vision kits:
 - *Promise Packs*—backpacks filled with school supplies and hygiene items for kids overseas
 - *SchoolTools*—backpacks filled with school supplies for kids in the U.S.
 - *Hygiene kits*—hygiene supplies for families in the U.S.
 - *International hygiene kits*—hygiene supplies sent overseas
 - *Women’s hope kits*—hygiene products packed in a Thirty-One Gifts cosmetic tote for women survivors of poverty or abuse in the U.S.
- 3 A World Vision event specialist explained how to host their event and confirmed the supplies order.
- 4 On the day of the event, a group of volunteers set up long tables with all the supplies needed to assemble the Promise Packs. Participants, in the fashion of an assembly line, placed one of each item into the kit. At the end of the line, they wrote a care letter of encouragement for the person who would receive it.
- 5 The kits were shipped to World Vision’s 40,000-square foot warehouse outside Pittsburgh.
- 6 A cadre of volunteers carefully added other supplies to the kits, such as clothing and pharmaceuticals donated by generous corporate partners.
- 7 The shipment, including the backpack from Orange County, was loaded onto a boat in Baltimore to make the long journey to the port at Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania.
- 8 The backpacks and other supplies were trucked from the port in Tanzania more than 1,200 miles southwest to Lusaka, Zambia’s capital city, where, project manager Fred Mazumba received the kits at the World Vision warehouse in Lusaka.
- 9 Fred and his staff loaded the backpacks onto trucks and drove them 175 miles south to World Vision’s office in Choma.
- 10 World Vision staff loaded up the kits and crowded into vehicles or rode motorcycles to navigate the rough roads leading to the birthday party in Moyo.
- 11 Along with his friends, Kenser opened his backpack and marveled at the supplies and the special greeting from Orange County—a care letter letting Kenser know it had been packed just for him.

The world became a little smaller—and a lot more joyful.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY ASHLEY WALTON/JOURNEY GROUP



The wise men

I LOVE Matthew’s account of the wise men—the Magi—who traveled far, facing peril and making sacrifices, all to bring precious gifts to the newborn King Jesus.

When I saw the majestic Bactrian camels in Mongolia, I knew I had to try to recreate that scene. We were in the Bayankhongor area, on the edge of the Gobi Desert, so I turned to the best possible helpers—World Vision staff, who seem to know everyone in their community.

They introduced me to a local man who had a large herd of camels and who was happy

to help us. He warned me, though, that the camels weren’t tame, making it difficult to separate three of them from all the others.

Finally, with the help of camel herders, we lined up three unruly camels next to a ger, or yurt, and hung some battery-operated Christmas lights around the door.

And then their patience with me paid off. The setting sun filled big clouds on the horizon with brilliant color. I switched to a 180-degree-view, fisheye lens to gather it all in.

Some gifts are material, like the animals and gers in the World Vision Gift Catalog. Others are time and hospitality, like the camel herders’ gift to me. But ultimately, every good and perfect gift is from God, and every gift given in love is an act of worship. 📌

Written and photographed by Jon Warren
Nikon D750
10.5mm lens, 1/60th, f/7.1, ISO 320

#GIVINGTUESDAY

November 27

A DAY TO GIVE BACK!



Debby, age 7,
Zambia

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