

WorldVision

8

A FUTURE FULL OF CHOICES

For the first time,
children choose
their sponsors.



20
GOATS
BRING
BLESSINGS
DURING
DROUGHT

#GIVINGTUESDAY

December 3

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Sydeny, 6,
Zambia

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World Vision

ON THE COVER

Ndinda Kinguuthe, 7, holds a photo of the couple she chose as her sponsor.

LAURA REINHARDT/WORLD VISION

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● President's letter



LAURA REINHARDT/WORLD VISION

Six-year-old Wuilmer Garcia Tomas of Guatemala holds a picture of his sponsor, World Vision U.S. President Edgar Sandoval Sr., pictured with his wife, Leiza Sandoval.

We were chosen

By Edgar Sandoval Sr.

MY WIFE, LEIZA, AND I gathered our kids in the living room, all of us excited in anticipation of what a sealed envelope would reveal. We opened it, and inside was a photo of a 6-year-old boy from Guatemala, Wuilmer Garcia Tomas, holding a picture of Leiza and me. He had chosen us to be his sponsors!

Wuilmer's expression immediately made us laugh and smile. Then Leiza noticed his full name, and she began to weep. Tomas was the name of her beloved father who passed away three years ago.

Leiza and I have sponsored many kids around the world. But this was different. We had put ourselves out there, with some vulnerability, to be chosen. And of all the kids choosing among all the sponsor photos, it was a little boy with a special name who chose us.

That's the impact of Chosen, World Vision's new way of connecting children with their sponsors. For the first time in our nearly 70-year history, we're putting the power to choose in the child's hands—and delivering the blessing of being chosen to the sponsor.

It's a simple but profound twist on our tried-and-true child sponsorship model. Chosen recognizes the dignity of children living in extreme poverty and emphasizes their God-given potential to change their lives and their communities.

You see, we believe the Lord created children to be change-makers. Choosing a sponsor is only the first of many important choices they can make to open the door to a better future.

No matter how or why you sponsor a child through World Vision, you can

be sure you're improving kids' lives and communities. Our programs address the root causes of children's vulnerability and empowers them and their families to break free from poverty. We partner with communities, focusing on what they say are their greatest needs, and we work together on a plan to overcome their challenges—such as improving water and sanitation, boosting health and nutrition, unlocking education, protecting children, and providing spiritual nurture.

Sponsorship is working, and I'm excited to give you the evidence. First, children are healthier. In Zambia, where World Vision's health and nutrition programs are present, moms are six times more likely to access healthcare that improves their newborn babies' survival.

Education is so critical for overcoming poverty, and children are thriving in school because of sponsorship. For example, in Bangladesh, kids' reading comprehension using World Vision's literacy program is 68%, compared to 4% comprehension without the program.

And kids and young people are growing in their faith. In our sponsorship programs in Central America, 85% of children say they experience God's love, and nearly 90% of children and youth take part in activities like Sunday school and youth ministry. It means so much to me that Wuilmer will have that important foundation.

World Vision isn't changing child sponsorship. With something we believe in so much, works so well, and changes so many lives, we only want to extend the invitation in a new way so that more people can experience it. Starting with the delight of discovering the child who chose **you!** 🍌



Edgar Sandoval Sr.
is president of
World Vision U.S.
Follow him at
[twitter.com/
EdgarSandovalSr](https://twitter.com/EdgarSandovalSr).

CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS

Honor a loved one by giving a life-changing gift through the World Vision Gift Catalog between pages 18 and 19.

Embark

COME IN AND SEE THE WORLD

ONLINE

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

Armenia

Seven-year-old sponsored child Ashot Ginosyan is no stranger to the bitter cold in Amasia. He lives in a drafty, broken-down house with eight other people. They struggle to stay warm and burn animal dung in the wood stove. They often pile on layers of clothes and wrap themselves in blankets. Thanks to our generous donors and corporate partners, Ashot and his family received winter clothing, including his fleece jacket.



LAURA REINHARDT/WORLD VISION



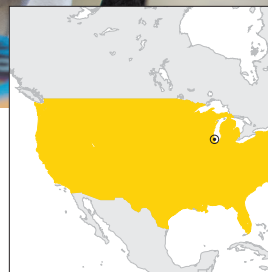
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POUNDS OF WOOL WAS HARVESTED FROM ALPACAS GIFTED TO FAMILIES THROUGH THE WORLD VISION GIFT CATALOG IN 2018.

**Ecuador**

Two men drive a herd of alpacas to their grazing lands in the Andean highlands. Located at nearly 12,500 feet above sea level, families in the Guarguallá Grande community care for more than 45 alpacas provided through the World Vision Gift Catalog. In total, 266 families in three mountainous communities raise 420 alpacas for their milk and wool, which they use and make products to sell.

CHRIS HUBER/WORLD VISION



United States

More than 275,000 students nationwide have benefited from World Vision's distributions of supplies and resources. Above: At Peck Elementary School in Chicago, boys smile with delight as they discover what's in their new school supplies packs. Left: Damiah, right, and Darrenisha, fifth graders at Malorie STEM School in Chicago, focus on building a model of a river lock system with help from an interactive smart monitor their school received from World Vision.

CHRIS HUBER/WORLD VISION



Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.
—1 THESSALONIANS 5:11

Discover

EXPLORE THE ISSUES FACING PEOPLE IN POVERTY

GOATS BRING BLESSINGS | 20

Learn how animals are bringing relief to a family facing drought.



Newly sponsored child Ndinda, 7, and her grandmother, Nthenya, pray together. Ndinda also prays for her sponsor. “I pray for her to experience good things,” Ndinda says. “I pray for a long life. For God to help her.”

LAURA REINHARDT/WORLD VISION

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FOR NEARLY 70 YEARS, we've seen how lives change when a child is empowered—when children raise their voices to say no to child marriage, speak up against violence, advocate for education, and make decisions for themselves and their community. This year, we began to empower children with another choice. For the first time, the power to choose a sponsor is in the child's hands.

BY
ANDREA
PEER







At Soul City Church in Chicago, co-lead pastor Jeanne Stevens invites the congregation into a sponsorship relationship, but this time, to let the children choose them.

work even when they haven't yet been connected with a sponsor because each sponsor's monthly gift is pooled to fund programs that empower the entire community. In fact, because of our community-focused solutions, for every

child you help, four more children benefit, too.

In her 14 years working for World Vision in Kenya, Winfred Mukonza, 38, has seen the power of sponsorship for all children. But she's also sat with children and their families who wonder why no one is choosing them.

"They've been wondering, 'What is happening? Why can't I get someone? What is wrong with me?'" says Winfred. She and her staff try to encourage the children: "Keep praying to God and be patient; you will one day get your sponsor."

The children of Mwala want to be chosen because it means someone sees them and loves them. It's the same for you and me. We want to be chosen, too.

W

"Will I be chosen?" "What if nobody chooses me?" Questions like these come from kids around the world who are waiting to be sponsored.

Ndinda Kinguuthe, a 7-year-old girl in Mwala, Kenya, had been waiting a year and seven months for a sponsor to choose her. She'd gotten her photo taken, her family met with World Vision staff, and she was told that someone in a land she couldn't imagine would choose her as their sponsored child. And then she waited.

Without a sponsor, kids like Ndinda miss out on a relationship—a life-changing personal connection. But children benefit from our inclusive



ANDREA PEER/WORLD VISION

Even when we feel sure of God's love for us, there is immense power in being chosen by a friend, a colleague, a mentor—or even someone on the other side of the world. Having someone believe in us can change everything.

After decades of sponsorship where children wait for a sponsor to pick them, World Vision decided to give kids the opportunity to choose their own sponsors, starting in Mwala. A church congregation in Chicago would be the first group of sponsors to be chosen.

'SOMETHING THAT HAS NEVER BEEN DONE BEFORE'

On a Sunday morning in late February 2019, congregants arrived at Soul City Church, which sits a dozen blocks from the iconic Willis Tower in downtown Chicago. Photo booths throughout the building hinted that this service would be something out of the ordinary.

Soul City has been a World Vision partner for eight years, but on this day, one of the lead pastors, Jeanne Stevens, joined World Vision in inviting her congregation to say yes to a transformative sponsorship relationship—with a twist. “We want to do something that has never been done before,” Jeanne shared. “Instead of just wishing and hoping and waiting for a sponsor to pick them ... we want to empower [the kids] to make the choice.”

Jeanne explained that families and individuals who wanted to sponsor a child would have their photos taken, then the photos would be sent to Mwala where, for the first time, the children in the community would choose their sponsors. At the following Sunday's service, Soul City spon-

After signing up to sponsor a child, Allison and Erik Hubbard and their children, Kolten, 2, McKenna, 6, and Sydney, 7, had their photo taken, which was sent to Mwala, Kenya, where a child chose them.

sors would find out which child had chosen them.

“Whether you live here in Chicago or you live in Mwala, Kenya, every single person wants to be chosen,”

Jeanne said to an enthralled congregation. “I want to be chosen. You want to be chosen. You want to be seen. You want to be loved. You want to be reminded that you are worthy of love.”

In the sanctuary, Chrissy and Regis Storey exchanged a look. The idea intrigued them, and they resonated with the need to be chosen. Chrissy, 29, had been sponsoring a child for seven years, since a friend had run a marathon with Team World Vision and inspired her to sign up. With a low-income job at a nonprofit, the \$39 monthly gift was “a bit of a struggle and sacrifice.” But Chrissy had found that in our transitory culture, the “longevity of commitment is good soul work.”

Now married, Chrissy had recently finished graduate school, and Regis, 35, is working as a therapist. They live in a one-bedroom basement apartment in their friends' house. Finances still aren't great, but Chrissy remembered her mom's words growing up: “No matter what, the Lord's given us all we have. So, whether it feels like we have a lot or it feels like we have a little, we're gonna give back to him.”

“Should we?” whispered Chrissy and Regis to each other in the dimly lit sanctuary. “Okay,” they decided, agreeing to sponsor two more children.

That day, Chrissy and Regis—and nearly 400 others from Soul City—signed up to sponsor kids, empowering hundreds of children in Mwala to choose their sponsors.

After the service, families and individuals streamed into the lobby. As Chrissy and Regis stood in line to have their photo taken, Chrissy was nervous. She says it felt “vulnerable and scary to put yourself out there. We were like, ‘I hope someone picks us.’” She thought of the children waiting to be chosen and drew inspiration from them. “I can be brave and put myself out there if they can sit and wait and wonder, ‘Will someone come?’”

Being brave has become a theme for Chrissy. She is not yet working in her field of study and

wonders if friends and family are disappointed in her. Due to family conflict, she's not in touch with her dad, who doesn't even know that she earned a master's degree. She's wrestling through hurt, healing, and forgiveness.

At a community event in Mwala, Rosemary Wausi, 9, (right) leads her classmates in a performance before the kids become the first in World Vision history to choose their own sponsors.

During the following week of waiting, other friends who had also signed up empathized with the feeling of vulnerability. "What

if nobody chooses us? What if nobody wants us? What if our pictures are just left down there?" they asked each other.

THE POWER TO CHOOSE IN A CHILD'S HANDS

More than 8,000 miles away, the Soul City photos were downloaded and printed. Inside a tin-roofed schoolroom, in the rural community of Mwala, east of Nairobi, the photos were hung for the children to see.

In this community of 40,000 people, the freedom to choose is an unfamiliar luxury. Families mostly make their living through farming—growing mangoes, oranges, legumes, and grains such as corn. But drought threatens their livelihood, and in this dry season, most families have to walk more than two hours to find water. Nearly 80% of families are unable to provide well for their children, who are accustomed to a life of essential chores, little free time, and few options. "They are not used to choosing," says Winfred. "They are not used to making decisions. Some of them are doing this for the first time."



As the sun beat down on a warm day, children in their school uniforms gathered under tents for a community event featuring games, singing, and spiritual encouragement. They were also invited to choose their sponsor. The children took their time looking at the photos, studying the faces and the smiles, and eventually choosing the person they wanted to sponsor them. They walked away treasuring their new photo and their new sponsor. For children who had been waiting for a sponsor for years, Winfred says, “that is a prayer answered.”

After her year-and-seven-month wait for a sponsor, Ndinda was delighted when it was her turn to choose. Slowly scanning the faces, Ndinda was captivated by Chrissy’s beautiful face and warm smile. She looked familiar, and Ndinda knew immediately that this was who she wanted as her sponsor. “I was very happy because she looks like my mother,” Ndinda says.

Ndinda’s mother, Miriam, had died three years earlier after a brief battle with meningitis. Miriam had been the family’s main breadwinner, attending nursing school in Nairobi and teaching part-time to earn money.

The death of her mother left Ndinda and her now 11-year-old sister, Mercy, in the care of their grandparents, who eke out a living by selling fruit or the occasional goat or cow.

Ndinda sometimes joins her grandmother, Nthenya, on the long walk to dig for water in a dry riverbed. The water isn’t clean, and Ndinda often suffers from stomachaches and headaches. Despite her health issues, she excels at school, where she loves math and ranks high in her class. She eagerly raises her hand to answer her teacher’s questions and joins other classmates in snapping her fingers and shouting, “Teacher! Teacher!” in hopes that she’ll be called on.

School is important to her for a particular reason. She wants to be a doctor when she grows up “so that I can treat people”—people like her mother.

Ndinda is already demonstrating her gift of caring for others. She watches and plays with her 18-month-old cousin, Grace. She helps her grandmother by washing dishes and collecting firewood. And after school, she helps her grandparents sell fruit at their roadside stand. When she does find time to just be a kid, she enjoys games like jumping rope.

A large framed photo of her mother is one of Ndinda’s prized possessions, and now she treasures a photo of Chrissy and Regis too. She keeps it in a special box and takes it out every day. “When I look at the photo after school, I smile,” says Ndinda. “It makes me feel happy.”



LAURA REINHARDT/WORLD VISION

BEFORE AND AFTER:

SPECIAL GIFT FOR NDINDA’S FAMILY



HEATHER KLINGER/WORLD VISION



LAURA REINHARDT/WORLD VISION

Did you know that you can give a Special Gift to your sponsored child’s family that enables them to choose what they need most? For 7-year-old Ndinda Kinguuthe and her family, a sponsor’s gift empowered them to create a home they can feel proud of.

Ndinda’s sister, Mercy Mwende, 11, received a Special Gift from her sponsor, Glenn Noble of South Carolina. World Vision staff worked with Mercy, Ndinda, and their grandparents to transform their small, crumbling, dirt-floored brick home—using cement to cover the walls and floor for improved protection, safety, and hygiene.

When it came time to choose an exterior paint color, the decision fell to Ndinda. She chose charcoal gray and light blue—the colors of her school uniform. “I wanted our house to be smart,” she says. “I feel very happy. I feel that our house is good.”

Send a Special Gift to your sponsored child today! Log in to myworldvision.org to get started.



Ruth, 11, chose Amanda Martinez, 29, and her family because “she had good children, beautiful children.” Amanda likes the idea of “letting our kids know that there’s more out there,” she says. “To be able to build a relationship with Ruth and have them grow up knowing her I think is going to be powerful.”



When Naomi, 11, chose Paul Kim, 29, to be her sponsor, he was deeply moved. “You think you are doing it for them. Maybe it was me who needed to be chosen,” Paul says through tears. “It feels really good to be chosen.”



Sally, 11, chose Isabella, 9, and her brothers to be her sponsors. The kids will earn money by doing household chores. "I hope for her to have a good life," says Isabella.



Through much laughter, friends Naomi, Ruth, and Sally (left to right) shared with each other the photos of their new sponsors—sponsors they were empowered to choose.



A REMINDER OF THE LORD'S LOVE

Back in Chicago, the Sunday after the first invitation, the Soul City congregation was invited to find out who'd chosen them. As people filed into a room strung with envelopes and searched for their names, there were tears, laughter, and outbursts of excitement. Each sponsor opened their envelope and saw a photo of the child who'd chosen them, holding *their* photo.

Tears flowed for Chrissy and Regis when they found out who'd chosen them—Ndinda and 9-year-old Rosemary Wausi. For Regis, who was adopted from India when he was 3, being chosen by Rosemary reminded him of being chosen as a child.

"Someone in a different country saw me. Looked at me just by a picture and [said], 'I'll give that person a chance.' ... My mom did the exact same thing," he says. "She saw a picture of me and was like, 'That kid with that bright smile, he's worthy to have an awesome life.'"

Being chosen again, as an adult, left Regis emotionally raw and freshly aware of God's love

Sitting with her grandfather, Ndinda Kinguuthe, 7, cherishes the photo of her new sponsors—whom she chose because Chrissy Storey resembles her late mother.

for him. "This is a good reminder of Jesus," he says. "He does not, he has not forgotten me. He hasn't forsaken me. He continues to love me."

Chrissy experienced a similar expansive awareness of God's love. She was in awe at being chosen, and while heartbroken that Ndinda was growing up without a mother, was deeply touched to reflect a motherly presence.

"For me to be a little taste, or a little reminder of who her mom was, to hopefully be another loving female in her life that reminds her of her mom—I feel really honored. It's just so, so special," says Chrissy.

Chrissy was profoundly impacted by the experience of becoming vulnerable, of waiting, and then being chosen. "I feel braver. I feel like it's like wind behind a sail that I didn't know that I really needed so much," she says with tears in her eyes. Amid a season of uncertainty and waiting, being chosen reminded her of what really matters.

"[It's] a really sweet reminder of the Lord's love," Chrissy says. "He's not disappointed by me. He's not far or distant. He's like, 'Hey, I'm going to love you through this little girl. She's chosen you. I've chosen you. You are loved.'"



ANDREA PEER/World Vision

Regis and Chrissy Storey of Chicago were deeply moved to be chosen by Rosemary Wausi (left photo) and Ndinda Kinguuthe (right photo).

Just as I am, without doing anything. I truly feel so blessed. It's such a gift."

Chrissy hopes and prays that Ndinda will have "more moments of feeling empowered, of feeling like she gets to choose, for her to know

that she is believed in, too, to feel like she can do anything."

And Ndinda prays for Chrissy. "I pray for a long life and for God to help her," she says.

EXPONENTIAL EMPOWERMENT

Through sponsorship, Ndinda and the other children of Mwala are getting chances to use their voices, to make choices, and to create change. In our work in Mwala and around the globe, World Vision invites children to be involved in decision-making as we partner with their communities.

"We are asking what kind of life they want to see, what kind of projects they want to see in their community," says Winfred. And the children of Mwala are speaking up. Many express a need for clean water closer to their homes. Some of them have asked for latrines for their schools and educational support for children who can't afford the costs of school.

As much as Winfred wants the children and their families to have clean water and to be healthy, educated, and empowered, she also wants them to be loved. "I want people to feel that there's someone, somewhere who loves them," she says.

Through sponsorship, whether it's the child or the sponsor who chooses, "they have an extra friend in the family," says Winfred. "It is very important that someone, somewhere, not in this country, loves them so much."

It's also important for us in America to know that someone, somewhere loves us so much, too.

"I truly want everyone to have this experience," says Chrissy. "To know in this moment I am loved, and in this moment, I am chosen. It's a sacred grounding." +

Laura Reinhardt and Heather Klinger, World Vision staff in the U.S., contributed to this story.

ARE YOU READY TO BE CHOSEN?

Visit wvmag.org/chosen to sign up for a child to choose you as a sponsor. Or you can choose a child yourself by filling out the envelope between pages 26 and 27. Whichever option you decide on, you'll empower a child, their community, and other children for a future filled with choices.

When **Brianna Cooper** from Silicon Valley is chosen by 12-year-old Anna as her sponsor, they both encounter joy amid hardship.

For **Regis Storey**, who was adopted from India when he was 3, being chosen by Rosemary, 9, reminded him of his mom choosing him and of Jesus' love.

When **Joel Barnes**, a former nightclub manager, is chosen by Collins, 10, an evangelist's grandson, it confirms God's call to a new life.

Yinka Owolabi, an American lawyer who signed up to sponsor two children, finds an unexpected connection in being chosen by 8-year-old Mary—Mary wants to be a lawyer.

In being chosen by Elizabeth, 8, **Amanda Azadian** sees the reality of the body of Christ. "She's my little sister," she says fondly.

Chrissy Storey was chosen by Ndinda, 7, because she looks like Ndinda's mother who died three years earlier.



GO ONLINE to wvmag.org/chosen-stories to see the surprising reactions when these sponsors from Chicago are chosen by children in Mwala, Kenya.

Grateful for partners

World Vision partners are key in fulfilling our mission to serve and equip children in need to reach their God-given potential. Their hard work and generous donations are making a positive impact in the lives of children and families in need worldwide.



PHOTO COURTESY GIFTS WITH A CAUSE

WORLD VISION GIFT CATALOG

By Sevil Omer

FOR NEARLY TWO DECADES, Shikir, a 55-year-old father from Moradabad, India, had worked tirelessly as a wood artisan in hopes of lifting his family out of poverty.

He had labored to no avail with various local suppliers and traders that didn't pay or provide enough work. This created great uncertainty in Shikir's life, with him often concerned if he would be able to afford his family's next meal. Constantly worrying about his family also affected Shikir's health.

That changed after the artisan was able to find fair-trade work and partner with World Vision.

Now, his woodwork is a part of the World Vision Opportunity Collection by **Patricia Heaton**, a housewares line sourced by our partner, California-based **Gifts With a Cause**, that is available in the 2019 World Vision Gift Catalog.

Patricia has supported World Vision's work for many years and has been honored at the Television Industry Advocacy Awards for her work and commitment.

Shikir's wood carving is also thriving and now so is his family: his wife, two daughters, and four sons.

Shikir's dream is for his children to be successful.

Thanks to generous partners, Shikir's craftsmanship is now helping pave his family's way to a better life, one hand-carved bowl at a time. +



PHOTO COURTESY OF PATRICIA HEATON



PHOTO COURTESY OF RADIANT

GIVE-BACK GIFT SHOP

By Kristy J. O'Hara-Glaspie

Each year, it takes a whole slew of partners and volunteers for World Vision's Give-back Gift shop, a unique interactive pop-up shop in New York City, to be successful. One of our key partners is **Radiant Global Logistics Inc.**, which donates warehousing, transportation, and delivery of supplies for the event, and last year they even spent time volunteering with us.

"Our participation and donation of services allowed us an opportunity to give back to the global community and the less fortunate in a tangible way," says Arnie Goldstein, chief commercial officer and one of Radiant's volunteers at the event. "It's a great event and a perfect time of year for fellowship and goodwill. We are excited to support World Vision's Give-back Gift Shop again this year—and of course to help onsite in any way we can!"

This year, we look forward to working with Radiant and all our amazing volunteers and partners again for the Give-back Gift Shop Dec. 2-3 at Bryant Park in Midtown Manhattan. +

If you're in the New York City area, join us for this memorable event! If you can't make it to the Big Apple, learn how to make your own kits—and find other activities you can do as a family—at wvmag.org/give-back.





Goats bring blessings

BY KATHRYN REID

PHOTOS BY LAURA REINHARDT

WITH HIS FAMILY'S GOATS TROTTING AHEAD,

9-year-old Nathan Choobwe walks briskly through a field of dead maize stalks in Moyo, Zambia. Although it's only been a month since harvest time began in April, the stunted corn has been dried up for much longer, says Eunice Siamooya, Nathan's mother. Maize is the staple food and chief cash crop for many Zambian families, including Eunice, 35, her husband, Diyo, 45, and their seven children. But drought is challenging the ability of these small-scale farmers to feed themselves and make an income.

Rainfall is seasonal in Zambia and usually occurs from early November through March, making this the crucial time to grow crops. For the growing seasons beginning in 2017 and 2018, rains were slow to come and spotty. Without plentiful, timely rain, farmers lost money on their primary rainfed cash crops: maize, soybeans, and cotton.

"We planted joyfully," says Eunice, "but our harvest was poor." She and Diyo had even hired a neighbor with a team of cattle to plow so they could plant a big field of soybeans. They had seen others be successful with beans and hoped to sell theirs for three times more than they could make from the same amount of maize. But when the rains didn't come, their crop shriveled. They didn't produce enough soybeans to be able to both sell and plant again in the next season. Instead, they've saved all the seeds from what did grow, and they are determined to try again this next growing season. The maize, which they'd hoped would feed them for many months, has already been eaten.

Outside his family home in Zambia, 9-year-old Nathan Choobwe holds a young goat, part of his family's growing herd.

Times are hard because of the drought, but Eunice and Diyo have seen worse. More than half of Zambians live in extreme poverty, surviving on less than \$1.90 a day. Many of them don't have enough nutritious food. In fact, about 40% of children under age 5 are chronically malnourished. Eunice's were no exception. When *World Vision* magazine staff first visited them in 2016, Eunice and Diyo had no way to make an income except to work as day laborers in others' fields. Sometimes after walking home from an exhausting day's labor, Eunice would have nothing to cook. It broke her heart to see her children suffering and hear them plead, "We're hungry. We're hungry. We want to eat." All she could do was tell them to "sit, and when night falls, we just go to sleep."

According to CGIAR, an international research organization focused on food insecurity in developing countries, livestock rearing is the most promising way to scale up food production in Zambia and other countries in sub-Saharan Africa. By raising goats, many farming families in Zambia are beginning to diversify their income so they're not dependent on rainfed crops. This helps lead to improved economic circumstances, better health, and greater educational opportunities for their children.

For all these reasons, World Vision provides families in need with goats funded through the Gift Catalog and the community manages our Animal Give-Back Program. In 2016, Eunice and Diyo received goats, and it was the beginning of a transformation in their lives and for their children.

Creating hope

World Vision started working in Moyo in 2010 with funding provided by child sponsors. In partnership with the community, World Vision has drilled new wells and repaired broken ones, constructed school latrines and furnished classrooms, and empowered families to improve their livelihoods with better farming methods, savings groups, and livestock rearing.

As an expansion of these efforts, the staff started the Animal Give-back Program, which provides goats to families in need in the community. Each family selected for the program receives four female goats and one male, along with training on how to care for the animals. New goat owners learn how to build a raised goat shed with a slatted floor so the goats stay clean, healthy, and safe at night. They also agree to give back goats to other local families in need when theirs reproduce. This makes the program sustainable, multiplies its benefit, and helps strengthen community collaboration.

Local leaders, a committee of community volunteers, and representatives of government agencies work with World Vision to ensure the program's success. The committee interviews families and creates a waiting list of those who qualify to receive give-back goats.

"It's important for community members to work



together and to take ownership in the goat program for it to be a success," says World Vision staff member Eugern Lubaya Siawala, an agriculture and natural resources expert in Zambia.

In the fall of 2016, Eunice and Diyo received four goats—offspring of goats that another family in the community had received through the World Vision Gift Catalog. As they learned about the training and requirement to give goats back when theirs reproduce, Eunice couldn't fathom the concept of having enough to give away something so valuable. But Diyo had grown up with goats and knew the potential they held.

"When World Vision gave me goats, I knew I could make good for my family. It was [a] turning point for us," says Diyo.

Cascading opportunities

From those first four goats they received, Eunice and



Left: Eunice, Diyo, and their children share bowls of *nshima*, corn-flour porridge, for their evening meal. Their hens wait for scraps. In addition to goats, the family raises chickens, guinea fowl, and pigeons. Below: Maize plants dried up early this year because of drought, so farmers harvested little of their staple crop.

Diyo's family now has 20. The goats are the backbone of their financial stability, says Diyo. They reproduce quickly, they're easy to raise, and they seldom get sick—but are easy to treat if they do. They support everything. "Goats are like the bank," Diyo says. "You can always sell one if you need cash."

Because they have goats to fall back on, he and Eunice see things differently—more optimistically. Before, they saw what they lacked. Now, they delight in making the most of their small resources.

"I sold a chicken and bought fish at the river to dry and bring home. Then I sold the fish and bought two guinea [fowl]," says Diyo, as if recounting a Wall Street triumph.

Now, flocks of chickens and guinea fowl, along with their eggs, are one of the family's income streams. Eunice explains that because guinea fowl lay lots of eggs for five or six months each year, they've been a good investment. When the guinea hens began to lay eggs in the family's



open-air kitchen, Eunice collected and sold them, but always left some so the birds wouldn't move their nesting place. "We made enough money from selling guinea eggs to buy another goat," she says.

To increase her return, Eunice placed some of the guinea fowl eggs in a broody chicken's nest. "Chickens are better mothers than guineas," she explains. Guinea fowl wander, but chickens stay home and take care of their babies. As she had hoped, when the keets (baby guineas) hatched, the chicken raised them as her own.

The success with goats is leading to another new opportunity: a vegetable garden alongside Namubbila Creek, about a 15-minute walk from the family's home. They're putting a lot of hope, labor, and goat-manure fertilizer into this food and moneymaking venture.

Using a short-handled hoe, Diyo rakes manure from under the goat house and scoops it into a bucket. He then mounds the manure around the garden plants to give them a healthy diet of nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, and micronutrients. The manure makes a good mulch—it's not stinky and doesn't attract flies, yet it holds in moisture and improves the soil. And unlike other animals' waste, it doesn't need to break down before it can be used as a fertilizer.

Eunice and the children work in the garden every day—planting, cultivating, watering, and picking vegetables to eat and sell. Even 5-year-old Chiwego carries a bucket to the garden so she can haul water from the creek to nourish the tomatoes, greens, and onions.

This year, there's much less water in the creek than they've ever seen before. Diyo expects it to dry up in a few months, so gardening is a race against time. They are planting as many vegetables as they can manage, he says, so they can sell some to buy mealie meal (maize flour) for making *nshima*, a thick, boiled corn-flour porridge they eat at almost every meal.

With goats as the major asset of their diversified income streams, Eunice and Diyo are now confident in their ability to cope with the drought, no matter what happens to the garden. Diyo says, "We are so grateful, and our faith is stronger because of the blessings we've received through goats."

Ensuring children's health

Before they received goats, Eunice and Diyo's children didn't have milk, and Eunice was too malnourished to produce breastmilk for her youngest daughter, Messiah, called Messi. At 15 months, Messi cried incessantly because of hunger. Now, she's a robust 3-year-old who climbs down from her father's lap to run behind the older kids.

Five-month-old Promise has never lacked for his mother's milk, says Eunice.

Having their own supply of fresh garden vegetables and plenty of goat milk gives Eunice confidence that her

"If [our kids] are educated, they'll have more choices later in life."

—Eunice Siamooya

children will never go to bed hungry again. Goats are the mainstay of her family's health, she says.

"Right now we are just milking two goats, but seven are pregnant," she says. "Soon, we'll have lots more milk."

Nathan is the family's "goat whisperer." He lets them out each morning to forage and rounds them up for milking after he comes home from school. "I know a lot about goats because I take care of them," he says.

Katuba, his favorite, is a big white mother goat who stands patiently while he milks her. When he's finished, he releases the baby goats from the pen so they can have milk too.

Chiwego likes to help by holding the goat's leg. Then she wants milk while it's still warm. "If there's milk, that's all I want," she says. "I have it again at night with *nshima*."

Eunice and Diyo's children eat well, drink clean water from a World Vision borehole, and are healthy. They've got plenty of energy to do chores and play games after their homework is done. And if someone in the family needs treatment at the Kazimaulu health center, they can sell a goat to cover the cost, ensuring their children continue to grow up strong and healthy.

Preparing for the future

A few years ago, educating their children wasn't a top priority for Eunice and Diyo, who studied only to sixth and fifth grade respectively. "I could see my children getting



Left: Nathan and his sisters play a lively circle game with their cousins and Uncle Jones (far right). Right: Goat manure makes good “free” fertilizer. Below: Driving goats with a stick, Nathan brings home the family’s herd after they’ve been out feeding all day.



married at a tender age,” Eunice says, explaining that she and Diyo couldn’t make enough from odd jobs to pay for school fees.

Eunice credits World Vision for encouraging them to adopt a broader vision of their children’s possibilities and for equipping them with the means to pay for schooling. “If [our kids] are educated, they’ll have more choices later in life,” she says. “They can choose different careers and support each other to achieve.”

Diyo’s take on the value of education is practical: “When we were growing up, our families had food; our parents had livestock. With the drought, it’s harder to make a living now. That makes education more important.”



Milking goats is Nathan's chore, and he does it confidently.

It's their goat herd that gives Eunice and Diyo the financial stability to support their children's education. "Our children know we can send them to school because of the goats," Eunice says. Trinity, 14, is confident that whenever she and her siblings need school fees, "my father will sell a goat and pay them." That's part of the back-to-school process.

After exams in the most recent school term, Nathan proudly reported to his parents that he'd scored second in his class at Kazimaulu Primary School. He also told them he wants to be a teacher someday. Whatever direction he takes, his mother is convinced that Nathan will be successful. She reviews his schoolwork and reports that there are many more check marks, indicating correct answers, than X's showing wrong answers.

Nathan's older sisters attend the same school, and they've set the academic bar high for him. Suzia, 15, plans to be a teacher, and Trinity is an aspiring nurse. "I want to help other people, and I want to help my family with money," Trinity says.

Overflowing blessings

Goats have enabled Eunice and Diyo's family to be not only resilient in the face of drought, but also generous toward others.

"Before, we had lots of problems, and I felt bad that my family had a difficult life," Diyo says. "Now I know if I manage our livestock well, we will have enough."

In 2018, it was their turn to give back goats so that World Vision could help another family in the community start a herd.

"Before we did that, I couldn't imagine it. But I was so happy that we could do it!" Eunice says. "When we gave the goats, we also shared about the benefits we get from goats, like the manure."

The giving-back process was a special time for Eunice and Diyo to reflect on the blessings they've experienced and to realize the blessing that comes from giving—a deep feeling of peace and joy. What at first had seemed merely an obligation became a source of family pride and solidarity with their community.

"It has strengthened my faith in God to have the opportunity to give," says Diyo. "God has helped us to increase our goats and other livestock, so it was a blessing to be able to share them as a witness to him." +

Laura Reinhardt of World Vision's staff in the U.S. contributed to this story.

Give a goat to help a family like Eunice and Diyo's. See the World Vision Gift Catalog between pages 18 and 19.



Lean season strategies

More than three-quarters of Zambia's 18 million people are small-scale farmers. To feed themselves and produce an income, they depend on annual rainfed crops like maize. In a dry year like this one, they struggle. Since 2010, World Vision has helped families in the village of Moyo to expand their sources of food and income through improved agriculture, savings, and rearing of livestock, especially goats. Learn how children in World Vision's sponsorship program and their families are coping with this year's drought.

GARDENING

Joyce Moono, 12

Joyce Moono's father, Milton Mudenda, grows an impressive garden (above). He is a model farmer who was trained by World Vision in a conservation method called Farming God's Way. It's all about cooperating with natural processes and caring for the earth. "Gardening is our best source of income now," says Milton.

CUTTING BACK ON MEALS

Ruth Makala, 4

Ruth's father, Oudence, is a farmer like his neighbors, but he is also a dedicated, energetic teacher at a community school. With most families unable to pay school fees, he is struggling to feed his children two meals a day. Oudence's family is on the waiting list to receive goats through World Vision's Animal Give-back Program. "Goats will make a big difference for us [in] feeding our children," says Oudence.

SAVINGS AND LOANS

Loveness Habuyi, 7, and Better Habuyi, 9

Loveness and Better's mother, Patricia Simulangu, belongs to a World Vision-organized savings group. She contributes a small amount regularly so she can take loans to use for a moneymaking venture, like buying bananas to sell at the market. The family's stocks of homegrown maize and peanuts are running short, so Patricia feels fortunate to have access to these funds.

GOAT REARING

Sydeny Mainza, 6

Sydeny is the youngest of Sheba Sibayumba and Atfellow Mainza's five school-aged children. If it weren't for the family's goats, including five they received from World Vision, Sydeny might be sitting out this year of preschool. While drought is causing hunger and financial strain for families in their community, "we can always sell a goat to pay school fees," says Atfellow.



5,000 reasons to celebrate

When a shipment filled with clothes, blankets, school supplies, bikes, and towels arrived in Zambia in October, it was more than just another container of supplies—it was the 5,000th international container of gift-in-kind products World Vision had shipped.

Product donations, also known as GIK, are important both for World Vision and for businesses. For corporations, they provide a responsible business solution for excess inventory by freeing up valuable warehouse space and are a tangible way for them to demonstrate a commitment to social responsibility.

The 5,000th container, filled with donations that will benefit children and families, began its journey from World Vision's Pittsburgh distribution center in July and arrived in Zambia in early October.

We're grateful to all our corporate partners and World Vision teams who helped make this possible. 🙌

THE NUMBERS BEHIND THE AID:

Nearly **\$4 billion** in goods have shipped since 1983, both internationally and domestically.

Since 2015, World Vision has partnered with **869 donors** to reach this milestone.

Since 1991, volunteers have served over **18,400 hours**, which equals 100 full-time staff.

**LIVING A LIFE OF
INFLUENCE | 32**

Reflect on your faith journey
during Advent using this
four-week devotional.

Inspire

MOTIVATING YOU TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell
you, whatever you did for one of
the least of these brothers and
sisters of mine, you did for me.’”

—MATTHEW 25:40

Children gather
around a fire in
Tubuluku, Kasai
Central Province in the
Democratic Republic
of the Congo. Among
the children stands
Marie, who attends a
World Vision Child-
Friendly Space, where
she can play, learn, and
receive a nutritious
meal. During these
evening gatherings,
she will sing her
favorite hymn, which
ends with the line, “We
owe to God everything
we have because all
things come from him.”



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION



‘Made perfect in weakness’

By Sevil Omer

Above: Joey and his teammate, Mary Snyder, compete during a triathlon in Indianapolis. Top right: Joey in a family selfie with his mother, Kelly, father, Noah, and sister, Annie. Far right: Joey, seated in his wheelchair, is dressed in a Jedi costume and holds his favorite light saber.

NINE-YEAR-OLD Joey Johnson remembers the first time he opened the World Vision Gift Catalog two years ago. It was a cozy scene inside their Indianapolis home: Joey and his 5-year-old sister, Annie, were snuggled in the arms of their mother, Kelly Johnson. As they flipped through the pages, Joey’s curiosity quickly turned to concern.

“I was troubled,” he says.

His mother also recalls the moment. “We were reading about children in very difficult situations—about child abuse, their need for safe homes, education, and medicine,” Kelly says. “He listened as I told him about how women are treated poorly in various parts of the world and how kids don’t have access to nutritional food or healthcare. He listened seriously to how gifts in the catalog were helping children, and then I asked my son what he was thinking.”

Joey answered quickly, saying, “I want to help.”

Joey was born with a rare, genetic disorder called mitochondrial disease, which produces a wide range of symptoms and severities and has no cure. He spends much of his time limited to a wheelchair. “I know how it feels to be helpless, powerless,” he says.

Joey believes that gifts given through the World Vision Gift Catalog help



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE JOHNSON FAMILY

provide better lives for children.

When it came to selecting gifts from the Gift Catalog, Kelly took down Joey's order: "I want to help a mom get a good home for her family. God is helping us build a home where I can get around better. ... I want to help children who don't have moms or dads and are beaten up and hurt. I want others to feel like I do—protected. I want to send a bicycle to a girl."

He also selected a wheelchair and says, "I want another kid to feel the freedom I do."

His family has given nearly \$1,000 by purchasing medicine, food, education, animals, a bicycle, and a wheelchair through the catalog. They also sponsor two girls through World Vision.

"My dream is to make it so that every kid who needs that one little thing will be able to get that—to help them in their life," Joey says. "I want other kids to be able to achieve their goals and dreams because we are all in this together."

Kelly is amazed at her son's care for others. "My kid explodes with gratitude," she says.

Joey embodies the Christian faith his parents have worked to instill in him. Kelly, 34, is a concierge with the Indianapolis Zoo. Joey's father Noah, 38, is a heavy equipment operations technician with Amazon. Their daughter, Annie, has the same disorder Joey has, so the couple works opposite shifts so their children can be with at least one parent. The family attends Indian Creek Christian Church, which has a special needs program for the children.

"We've wanted our children to know that God defines who you are instead of this world," said Kelly. "This is what

"I want other kids to be able to achieve their goals and dreams because we are all in this together."

JOEY JOHNSON, 9



we have spoken to Joey again and again throughout his life. And the extraordinary thing is how God can use anyone for extraordinary things when they truly believe his promises and who he says we are."

Joey is living that out. Finishing a triathlon as a wheelchair competitor last summer defied Joey's disabilities and strengthened his resolve to usher in hope for other children by continuing to give generously.

"My dream was to run a race one day, and even though I would never have the strength to, an athlete would make it possible by pushing me to the end," Joey says. "In my life, God has helped me in a lot of ways, and if I can help other children who feel the same way, then I've made a difference in another kid's life." +

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

THOUGHTS ON GIVING

"The measure of a life, after all, is not its duration, but its donation."

—Corrie Ten Boom,
author of *The Hiding Place*

"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

—Luke 6:38

"God has given us two hands, one to receive with and the other to give with."

—Billy Graham,
American evangelist

WEEK 1

A life of faith

READ

LUKE 1:5-45, 57-65

REFLECT

Elizabeth was a “descendant of Aaron.” When it came down to a heritage for the mother of the prophet who would precede and introduce the Messiah, she had the right stuff. A closer look shows she’s not only genetically right. Her faith is right.

God first spoke to Elizabeth’s husband, Zechariah, as he once did to Abraham about fathering a son in his and his wife’s old age. Unlike Abraham, Zechariah’s doubts and fears overcame his faith. So the angel placed him on a nine-month timeout from speaking—a time for refining his faith.

Elizabeth’s faith is quiet and unassuming. No giants are slayed. Or blind eyes opened. But with her fertility clock timed out, she accepts that her physical body can bear a child—and ushers a miracle into the world.

Once their son is born, Elizabeth proclaims his name as “John” to a crowd of family and friends.

With Zechariah’s confirmation of the name in writing, his voice is restored, and he begins praising God, too.

PRAY

Lord, as I enter Advent, give me Elizabeth’s faith and strength to believe. Like her, help me pattern my life in a way that pleases You. Let me serve You. Amen.

WEEK 2

A life of humility

READ

LUKE 1:26-56

REFLECT

Mary, Elizabeth’s cousin, lived in Nazareth. Her simple reply to the angel’s astonishing explanation about how her coming child will be conceived gives the key to her life: “I am the Lord’s servant.” Here is a person who does what God asks: no ifs, ands, or buts.

She clearly had another future in mind, specifically a marriage to her fiancé Joseph. That he was a descendant of David would have made Mary the envy of her friends. Yet, she’s willing to have her life plan and reputation shredded to do what God asks, despite the implications of carrying a child who would not be Joseph’s biological son. She had surrendered her heart and her future to God, trusting his plan for her.

In her song, Mary identifies with humble people, those who are poor and hungry. She isn’t among her nation’s ruling classes or someone the religious society would consider qualified to bring the Messiah into the world. But God’s choice here, like many of his others, is someone who shows us how humility makes us prime candidates for God’s eternal work.

PRAY

Most High, like Mary, I want to be Your servant. Teach me how to better follow Your commands and do what You ask of me. Let humility guide my footsteps as I follow You. Amen.

Living a life of influence

The season of Advent can be an invitation to prepare your heart and reflect on your faith journey. Through this guide, learn from the faith of the women in the story of Jesus’ birth and how they were called by God to live lives of influence.

By Denise C. Koenig Photo by Jon Warren

WEEK 3

A life of mourning

READ

MATTHEW 2:13-18

REFLECT

“Rachel weeping for her children” isn’t a picture we like to think about at Christmas—or any other time. It’s too heartbreaking.

Herod’s plan for ridding himself of a political threat is the slaughter of innocent children. Rachel’s tomb is in Bethlehem. So, this metaphor of her weeping speaks about the women in Bethlehem who mourn the butchering of their babies by this malicious king.

Our world still swallows millions of young lives to greed, violence, and political expediency. Anyone who’s ever lost a child never stops mourning.

Like the bereft mothers in Bethlehem, there are many who won’t be comforted—those mourning the babes lost to the atrocities of war, hunger, preventable diseases, trafficking, and other evils. Our grief can slowly become God’s call to action to care for others in times of pain or loss.

PRAY

God of Israel, I mourn with You over lost lives and wasted potential because of the evil in this world against our children. Help me answer Your call to do what I can, large or small, to alleviate their suffering and make Your love and care known to the most vulnerable. Amen.

WEEK 4

A life of devotion

READ

LUKE 2:22-38

REFLECT

Likely married as a teen around age 15, Anna’s husband died seven years later. Some scholars think she was over 100 at the time she greets the Holy Family when they bring Jesus for circumcision and Mary’s purification ritual post-childbirth.

What did Anna do in the intervening years of her protracted widowhood? Scripture says this prophet from Galilee had moved to Jerusalem to be near the Temple. Every time its doors were open for prayer, multiple times a day, she was there worshipping God. She decided to let her tragedy be shaped by God’s love as she sought to know him more, every day.

In our reading, Anna becomes an evangelist, proclaiming to others the redemption of Jerusalem through the Christ child. She had spent enough time with God to know his voice and recognize the significance of the child in front of her.

PRAYER

Lord, I admire the prophet Anna for her decades of devotion to You. Help me to follow her example, allowing prayer and worship to become ingrained in my being. I want to hear Your voice and be one who can tell others about Your gracious love and salvation. Amen. †



LAURA REINHARDT/WORLD VISION

‘Thin place of God’s presence’

By Jeanne Stevens

I long to live in “a thin place”—where the distance between heaven and earth collapses and we feel and experience heaven on earth.

But to be honest, more often, life feels like I’m in a thick place. Thick with the weight of responsibilities and the realities of this life. Thick with the pressures and the pains of the things we experience. And yet all throughout the Scriptures, I get the sense that God’s invitation is to draw us into a holy collision, where heaven and earth crash into one another, where we experience HIS presence over and over—the thin place.

This past spring, I experienced the thin place of God’s presence in a way that I have never experienced it before. I tasted a glimpse of heaven on earth.

We invited each and every person at our church into a wild and holy adventure, to step into a sponsorship relationship with a child in Kenya. What was so special and so beautiful was that we replaced the structure of privilege and put the dignity and the empowerment into the hands of the child to choose their sponsor.

It was our big, crazy, only-God goal that, maybe, 250 people would say yes to a sponsorship relationship with a child in Kenya. But in two weeks, enough people said yes that we empowered well over 600 chil-

dren to choose their sponsor.

We threw the greatest party on earth in Mwala, Kenya. Heaven came down, and the distance between heaven and earth collapsed. Love and light invaded the darkness as we sang and danced and celebrated over and over again as children chose their sponsors. I saw the beauty of children the blessing of CHOICE. I saw children who go to sleep on a dirt floor and are often wondering where their next meal is going to come from receiving the blessing of CHOICE. Everything about these kids’ lives looks as if they don’t have choice. But that was reversed. They looked at photos of people from our congregation, and they chose a sponsor.

Nothing has shaped my heart more as a pastor than seeing my church’s photos hung up in the middle of Africa and to see hundreds of kids coming and choosing them. I felt like my heart was leaping out of my chest. I am profoundly grateful to pastor a church that said, “We’re going to put the choice back in the kids’ hands.”

I see what a true transforming relationship with Jesus looks like. It is both personal and public. I long for people to have a personal thriving relationship with Jesus, but it can’t stay private because Jesus said, “They will know us by our love.” There are many ways I get to see the private and public love of Jesus on display, but the way it was put on display in Mwala, Kenya, was both profoundly private and public. It has transformed my life and our church.

As a leader, I am regularly trying to communicate in ways for people to get the heart of the gospel, that God gave his Son and that he chose us. To allow our people to be in the posture of actually being chosen was beyond anything I could ever preach in a sermon.

I hope you choose to let a child choose you today. I hope you experience that thin place, heaven on earth. +



Jeanne Stevens
is co-lead
pastor of Soul
City Church in
Chicago.

CHRISTMAS
CRAFTS | 36

Learn how to make a
holiday ornament from
Armenia.

Delight

FINDING MEANING IN EVERYDAY MOMENTS

“Glory to God in the highest
heaven, and on earth peace, to
those on whom his favor rests.”

—LUKE 2:14

IN THE KITCHEN MUNDYOLI

Peanuts, or groundnuts as they're known in Zambia, are cultivated as a delicious source of protein. Families also dry leafy vegetables as a way of preserving the greens after the harvest. They pound peanuts and dried pumpkin leaves into a fine powder, add water, then boil together over a fire to create a delicious dish known as *mundyoli*. A family in southern Zambia would enjoy this dish for lunch along with a generous helping of *nshima* and a side dish of boiled greens.

To try this recipe, visit wvmag.org/mundyoli.

LAURA REINHARDT/WORLD VISION

Christmas crafts from around the world

By Lauren Reed

There's something special about handmade crafts at Christmastime.

In Bolivia, women crochet ornaments to sell for extra income. Families in the Philippines use soda bottles to fashion sparkling recycled Christmas trees. And a grandmother in Lesotho humbly lays mud mixed with cow dung across the entrance of her home to make a beautiful path in honor of her Savior's birth.

We asked some of the children and families we help around the world to share their favorite Christmas crafts with our readers. Here is one from Armenia. To try any of the other crafts we've mentioned above, visit wvmag.org/crafts.

Yarn ball ornaments from Armenia

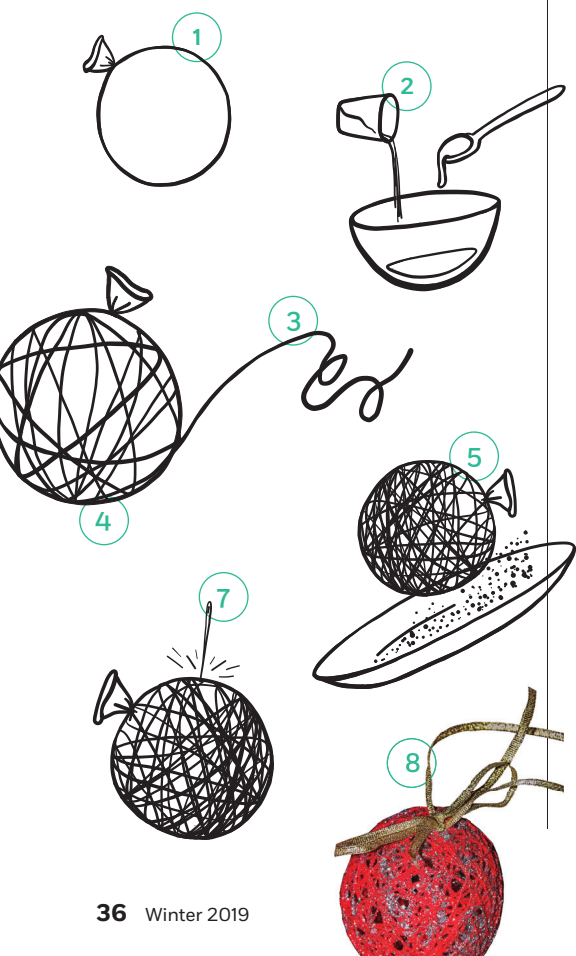
By Gayane Galstyan

SUPPLIES

cotton yarn	glitter	disposable bowl
small balloons	ribbon	gloves (unless you don't mind sticky fingers)
Elmer's glue	scissors	
water	pin	parchment paper

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Blow up a balloon to a 5-inch round ball.
2. In a disposable bowl, add one spoonful of glue per ornament, and thin the glue slightly with water.
3. Take a bundle of yarn and dip it into the glue, soaking it all over.
4. Wrap the wet yarn all around the balloon, tucking the tip of the yarn under once you've reached the end.
5. While the yarn is still wet, sprinkle glitter onto parchment paper and roll the ornament in it to add sparkle.
6. Set aside to dry for a couple of hours.
7. Once dry, pop the balloon with a pin and gently pull it out between the hard yarn threads, using tweezers if needed.
8. Tie a ribbon loop to a thread of the ornament to hang it on a tree.



A close-up, low-angle shot of a young child with dark skin and curly hair, looking up towards a bright, hazy sun in a cloudy sky. The child is wearing a light-colored, possibly white, garment with a yellow and pink patterned detail. The background is a soft, out-of-focus landscape with green foliage and a bright sun creating a lens flare effect.

Wonder of childhood

SEVENTEEN-MONTH-OLD BEAUTY tottered toward the light, her face beaming with wonder and awe. In the background, the setting sun rimmed the trees with gold. My heart was full, so I did what every photographer would do—raised my camera and savored the moment.

Beauty's joy was infectious, her pleasure unbound. I crave her sense of marvel and her ability to see without blinders or judgment. The future is bright for her family in southern Zambia, recipients of animals through the World Vision Gift Catalog and because of child sponsorship.

This Christmas, when we turn on the colorful tree lights at our home, I know I'll see the same look on my grandkids' faces. And I'll have the same response—looking through my camera and clicking the shutter, my heart exploding with love. 📸

Written and
photographed by
Jon Warren

Nikon D810 camera
70-200mm lens at 155mm
1/400th, f2.8, ISO 400



Mary, 8, Kenya
chose Yinka,
Chicago

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