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COVID-19, this extra support may be needed now more than ever. Our local staff will help the family purchase what they need most. And you'll get a thank-you letter and a photo.

We welcome your comments or address changes. Contact us at World Vision magazine, P.O. Box 371, Federal Way, WA 98063-9716. Email us: wvmagazine@worldvision.org. To request to be taken off our mailing list, email us or call toll-free 1-877-936-0290.


World Vision: a free publication, affirms people responding to God’s call to care for the poor by providing information, inspiration, and opportunities for action, linking them with children and families in nearly 100 countries where World Vision ministers. To be careful stewards of our resources, this publication costs 44 cents a copy to produce.

World Vision World Vision

President Edgar Sanoudos Sr.
Editor Kristy J. O’Hare-Glaspie
Copy Editors Sandra Shwedler, Anna Johnson, and Heather Klinger
Contributing Editors Kari Costanza, Denise C. Koenig, and Kathrynn Reid
Photo Editor Jon Reid
Design Journey-Group
Print Production Sheri-Lou Creson and Betzy Grabiński

Send a life-changing gift to your sponsored child.

Call 1.800.423.4216 or visit myworldvision.org/SpecialGift

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Being educated means giving me opportunities.”

—Nahomy, youth mayor in Honduras

To help ensure your gift goes as far as possible to help meet your sponsored child’s unique needs, each Special Gift must be $100–$200. Twenty-five percent of all gifts under $200 and any amount over $200 will go to help your child’s community.

Sponsored child Eduardo, 9, swings in a traditional hammock after a community meal in Honduras.

JON WARRREN/WORLD VISION

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A season for change

By Kristy J. O’Hara-Glaspie

THIS HAS BEEN A UNIQUE YEAR. It’s such a simple sentence, but as we near the end of 2020, we can all agree that despite its simplicity, these six words carry a mountain of emotions that can’t adequately be described. This past year brought myriad changes as we’ve upended life as we know it to adjust to a new reality of life in a pandemic. Millions of people have called for change as our country reckons with its evil past of racism and injustice. And on a less paramount note, change has also impacted World Vision magazine.

You’ll notice that this space is usually reserved for a letter from World Vision U.S. President Edgar Sandoval Sr. Don’t worry—you’ll still get to hear from him in this issue, but he had such an important message to share that we wanted to give it the proper space, so we invite you to read what’s on his heart on pages 32 and 33. But for now, let us walk you through the changes you’ll see in this issue.

First, you might have already noticed that we didn’t mail a printed summer magazine this year. It’s not for lack of stories to share, but rather a desire to be good stewards of the resources you’ve entrusted to us during this economic downturn. Our writers still put together impactful stories, but we sent them out via email and social media this summer. Going forward, we’ll be producing two print issues a year, which takes us to another change we’re excited to share.

We’ve heard from so many of you that you would rather read your magazine digitally. So with this issue, we’ll begin to have an interactive version of the magazine online that mimics flipping a page, and when they’re available, we’ll also have videos, photo galleries, and audio to accompany the stories. We’ll send these issues out via email, so log in to your My World Vision account or call us to make sure your account is up to date. You can also find them online at wvmag.org/issues.

Next, you’ve probably seen QR codes—black, barcode-like images—on the pages of other magazines you read or on items you’re considering purchasing. If you open your phone’s camera app and view the code like you’re going to take a photo, it will direct you to a website that has more content. Starting with this issue, we’re incorporating QR codes to make it easier for you to go online to see more content.

Lastly, you’ll notice some other changes in your print edition. We hope you’ve come to enjoy the recipes, crafts, and activities in the Delight section. You’ll still find these kinds of stories, but now they’ll be in the Inspire section. Also new in this issue, you’ll notice round orange icons throughout. Each icon represents a different aspect of World Vision’s work, for your quick reference, and there is a key on page 1 for you to refer back to.

We hope these changes will help you and your family better enjoy World Vision magazine both in print and digitally, and we look forward to enhancing how we share stories with you. Thank you for your continued support this year, and despite all the ups and downs 2020 has brought, we pray the Christmas season is one of good health, peace, unity, and reflection for you and your family.
Cambodia

Parents sit at a safe distance from each other as they wait for an emergency food distribution for vulnerable families suffering hardships during the COVID-19 pandemic. Each family received training and a food kit of rice, noodles, canned fish, salt, vegetable oil, soy sauce, and fish sauce, along with masks. Sum, a single parent who received a kit, says, “We were down to our last rice jar—just enough to make porridge—when we received World Vision’s help.” Her three sons were excited for the food and happy to carry the heavy bags home.

CHHIM DARA/WORLD VISION

AS OF AUGUST, WORLD VISION’S COVID-19 ASSISTANCE IN CAMBODIA HAS REACHED:

585,681 CHILDREN
550,368 ADULTS
1,589 VILLAGES
Farmers try to shoo away locusts that devour shrubs and grasses, leaving nothing for the farmer’s cattle to eat. Traveling wide distances in swarms of hundreds of thousands, the ravenous insects have decimated grazing land and crops in East Africa. “If we don’t have food for our livestock, how will I feed my family?” asks Kevin, a father of three.

**Kenya**

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EXPLORE THE ISSUES FACING PEOPLE IN POVERTY

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.
—PHILIPPIANS 4:6

COVER STORY | 12
Sponsorship has empowered Ever, 16, and other children in Honduras to make their dreams a reality.

United States
Soul City Church in Chicago partners with World Vision to distribute essential supplies to community members during the COVID-19 pandemic. In the U.S., World Vision works with church partners to help provide families in need with food and essential supplies.

Uganda
William, a World Vision-trained ambassador in his community, broadcasts COVID-19 messages to other children in the Omugo refugee settlement. When his school closed to limit the spread of the disease, he decided to help keep other kids safe by volunteering with World Vision. Community members responded by setting up hand-washing stations at their homes.

Discover

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C H U R C H

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With quick, decisive action, World Vision and Mozambique’s Ministry of Health countered the effects of back-to-back disasters to save more children and families from malaria. Cyclones Idai and Kenneth in 2019 and the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 have threatened to halt years of progress in malaria prevention and treatment.

When the health project—financed by a Global Fund public grant—began in 2011, about 63% of Mozambican families had bed nets. More than 95% had them by 2018. Long-lasting insecticidal bed nets are the most effective method of preventing bites from mosquitoes that carry malaria.

“After the cyclone, we had to quickly shift distribution sites for nets because the hardest-hit areas were inaccessible,” says Melanie Lopez, who was World Vision’s program manager for the health project. “Those flooded areas made a perfect breeding ground for mosquitoes, so as soon as possible, we brought in nets.”

World Vision community volunteers in Mozambique demonstrate how a bed net can protect a mother and her child in this picture taken before COVID-19.

United to fight poverty

In August, World Vision teamed up with Compassion International and Food for the Hungry to host a virtual concert to help children and families around the world affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. This unique event brought the Christian community together to respond to God’s call to serve children who are at the greatest risk of hunger, delayed education, and violence due to the pandemic. It was the first time the three organizations have ever come together, and 192,000 households tuned in to the premiere. As of press time, more than $805,000 had been raised to fight poverty. Hosted by Sadie Robertson Huff and Carlos Whittaker, the concert featured inspiring performances by Christian artists: Big Daddy Weave, TobyMac, Hillsong Worship, for KING & COUNTRY, Kirk Franklin, Michael W. Smith, Steven Curtis Chapman, Natalie Grant, CeCe Winans, Mandisa, Matt Maher, Phil Wickham, and more.

Chosen update

Choosing sponsors in the time of COVID-19

Last year, World Vision introduced Chosen, an innovative approach to child sponsorship that puts the power to choose their own sponsor into the hands of children. This turnaround re-energized our highly successful community transformation model. But then the new coronavirus brought sobering life changes to both U.S. sponsors and the children and families who need a boost through World Vision programming. Now we’re using COVID-19 precautions to safely bring the Chosen experience to individuals and churches in the U.S. and communities around the world. Wouldn’t you like to be chosen?

Glad you asked

You’ve got questions, and we have answers.

Q. When I give a goat, how does one goat help a family?

A. Every goat you give to a family can make a big difference in their health, income, and well-being. It means access to goat milk, which is very nutritious. Goat manure is both fertilizer and mulch for gardens. Each goat is like a big boost in the family bank account.

We help families jump-start a herd by giving them four female goats and one male goat. Before long, there are baby goats too. Some of our goats are “super goats.” They are a larger breed than the local goats and mature in six months rather than a year, so they can reproduce quickly. They are very hardy and have few diseases. And the mothers give lots of milk, sometimes up to 3 liters a day. When we give families four local female goats and one male super goat, their herd gets a genetic boost. The next generation of goats is bigger and shows other super-goat traits, too.

Have a question you’d like answered about World Vision’s work? Email us at editor@worldvision.org.

Chofer, a 56-year-old corn farmer in the rural village of Chavaco, nella region of Nicaragua, shares his experience as a sponsor beneficiary.

The number of Venezuelan families fleeing their country’s intractable insecurity, violence, and economic collapse continues growing. 5.2 million and counting. But how do you count them? Are they migrants seeking better opportunities or refugees in need of protection? For the first time, in its latest Global Trends report, the United Nations refugee agency settled on the term “refugees” for most Venezuelans living abroad.

Why does that matter? How they’re recognized by their host countries and the world affects Venezuelans’ rights and how they’re treated. Refugees are protected by international law, but migrants are subject to the unique laws and processes of the country they move to. This year, the number of Venezuelan refugees may pass the more than 6 million Syrians who’ve fled their country’s nearly 10-year civil war.

World Vision is responding to the needs of Venezuelans in Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela. We’ve reached about 318,000 people through programs focused on child protection, education, and food security and livelihoods. We’re scaling up our work in Venezuela to reach 700,000 people through 2022.

Reactor is an example of a super goat that has a bigger frame, a large head, and a prominent hump on his back. Reactor has been called the “goat of the century” as he impregnates half of the goats in his family.

The logistics were daunting: storage sites, distribution processes of the country they move to. Those flooded areas made a perfect breeding ground for mosquitoes, so as soon as possible, we brought in nets.”

Standing against malaria

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These goats have a larger size and provide more milk than local goats. They also have better resistance to diseases.

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World Vision community volunteers in Mozambique demonstrate how a bed net can protect a mother and her child in this picture taken before COVID-19.
Sixteen-year-old Ever sits down to his mother’s home-cooked breakfast of beans, eggs, and tortillas by 6 a.m., then dashes off to school at the Lenca Institute, a 35-minute walk away in Yamaranguila, Honduras. He’s looking forward to his first day of 11th grade and getting back to agroforestry studies and band. Ever’s parents’ education ended with high school, but he expects to go on to university. His parents are thrilled and confident about his prospects. Higher education is not just a dream, Ever says, it’s his plan. He knows he can work to make his dreams come true.

Ever’s parents also have plans and dreams for their family and their community. His mom, Carmen, 47, a World Vision–trained volunteer health monitor, is now training her daughters and other young moms to assist in child health services. Ever’s dad, Francisco, 50, is a church lay leader who holds services on weekdays and teaches classes from a World Vision curriculum on parenting with love.

“In our community, World Vision is linked to development in so many different areas,” Francisco says.

Since the mid-1990s, World Vision has worked through child sponsorship to help people build better lives in Yamaranguila municipality, which encompasses more than 60 communities and has the highest concentration of Lenca people in Honduras. About 100,000 strong, the Lenca are the country’s largest Indigenous group, living primarily in southwest and eastern El Salvador. They have long experienced discrimination and a series of challenges including entrenched poverty, lack of education, denial of land rights, climate and environmental losses, broken families as parents migrate to find work, and violence, especially in the home.

In 2013, we introduced you to 12-year-old Selvin, who built a model of Yamaranguila to share with neighbors. He used the model to show them how their lives could improve—and that they could make it happen. Using materials like cardboard, pine needles, and popsicle sticks, he crafted the familiar landscape and buildings: church, school, thatch-roofed homes. Then he showed how the village could be transformed: Add a latrine and running water for every house. Replace the thatched roofs with leak-proof metal. Put animals in pens to keep the environment cleaner. Selvin is a 19-year-old university student now, and his example empowers Ever and other kids to dream, plan, study, and give back to their community.

Selvin’s vision of a better life, like Ever’s, grew out of World Vision sponsorship, which helped to lift the sights and the lives of his community. Selvin explained then, “The sponsor sends the seed. World Vision is the farmer who plants it, and that yields fruit. I am the fruit of that seed. And thanks to World Vision who planted the seed, it has awoken the fruit inside of me and other children.”

Child sponsorship and other World Vision programs have supported social, physical, and spiritual renewal in Yamaranguila. Our work is bearing fruit there in the lives of children and adults who are stepping up as community builders.
Social changes undergird development

Ever and three of his high school bandmates, 16-year-olds Alejandro, Sarai, and Gloria, are not just musicians—they’re student leaders and achievers. As veterans of the 35-member ensemble founded in 2017, they represent their school, the Yamaranguila community, and the Indigenous Lenca people by playing spirited and soulful music at public events as far away as the national capital of Tegucigalpa, about 125 miles from the community.

They speak through their instruments: thoughtful Ever playing trumpet, lively Alejandro on drums, serious Sarai playing a solid trombone, and Gloria’s clarinet winding a melody in the higher register. The band is a metaphor for the community organizing and working in harmony with others—sometimes you step out front to play a solo and lead, and other times you blend into the chorus.

“I hope with this music, our students will be agents of change in our communities,” says Evaristo Menjivar, a teacher at the Lenca Institute who helped start the band to promote Lenca heritage.

The Lenca Institute and other community organizations are bringing back traditional clothing, food, and crafts to instill pride in the strength and resilience of Lenca ways. The institute offers programs in traditional arts and crafts, and students grow vegetables in kitchen gardens. Secondary students like Ever concentrate in accounting and finance, science and humanities, agroforestry, auto mechanics, or community development. Each curriculum connects directly to employment opportunities in the local economy. And students who want to go on to higher education are prepared, encouraged, and often helped with funding through the municipality.

“Education is the only way to fight poverty, and it’s the only way to ensure rational use of resources and create a good life,” says Yamaranguila Mayor José Rodríguez, 37. José, who was a sponsored child, credits World Vision’s support of education as one of the most important contributions to social development.

“World Vision is one of our strongest partners,” he says. “We always see results when we work together.”

Though the World Vision logo is emblazoned on water tanks, school latrines, and even band instruments, our lasting legacy is seen in people’s lives. Staff members sparked action and then supported local efforts to improve education, healthcare, nutrition, gender equity, children’s rights, water and sanitation, and spiritual growth. It’s the community members’ ability to plan, organize, and manage their own development that has led to lasting change. Carmen, Francisco, and so many others are much more than beneficiaries of World Vision’s work—they are the force that carries it forward.

“To be most effective, we partner with community groups that have a vision for what they want to achieve and the commitment to follow through,” says lower graduation rate—only 26%. There are plenty of reasons: deep poverty, a lack of schools, transportation challenges, and the fact that formal education has not always been valued in the Lenca culture, which dominates around Yamaranguila. For example, 77-year-old Gregorio was sent to work growing sugar cane when he was 8. When he asked his father why he couldn’t go to third grade, he was told, “You don’t need more school. You need to learn to work hard; that’s what’s ahead of you.”

Children today hear the same thing where poverty is extreme—when there’s not enough land to work or rainfall to grow crops, or there are too many mouths in a household to feed. Under stress to cover expenses, parents may treat children harshly or see no alternative to pulling them out of school and sending them to work in the coffee fields.

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“World Vision is like mother and father to me. Always nurturing, supporting my growth.”

—PATRICIA

Elda Solorzano, World Vision’s program manager in Yamaranguila. Community groups take the lead to identify local needs, she says. They come up with ideas to address those needs, produce a detailed plan, and then submit a proposal to request participation by the municipal government and organizations like World Vision.

Patricia, 36, is a prime example. As women’s coordinator for Yamaranguila’s municipality, she leads programs for more than 9,000 women in 60 communities. Patricia organizes women’s groups and trains communities on domestic violence prevention and children’s and women’s rights. She also helps women start microbusinesses and keep at-risk kids in school.

“World Vision is like mother and father to me,” Patricia says. “Always nurturing, supporting my growth.” She traces her passion for social development to an opportunity World Vision gave her at age 11. With an older cousin, she learned how to tutor kindergarten-age kids left at home while their moms worked in the fields. “I’ve seen radical social change since then,” she says. Before, in Los Mangos—a rural community within Yamaranguila—children didn’t know their rights. Now they do, and so do their parents. People also understand gender rights and how to take care of the environment. They work together to prevent domestic violence and teen pregnancies.

Patricia walks four hours to and from her weekday job in Yamaranguila, then spends weekends organizing to improve Los Mangos. She has taken every training offered through World Vision so she can contribute more.

“At the root of our problems is poverty,” says Patricia. “That’s what holds back our social development.” To address poverty, Los Mangos community groups have drawn up a development plan through 2035. She says, “Our aim is to become a sustainable community, to assure the well-being of all children. We’re united in this.”

Those efforts are bearing fruit in the next generation, as they too work to promote change in the community. Thirteen-year-old sponsored child Nahomy is the youth mayor of Yamaranguila and already a child rights advocate and community organizer. Nahomy campaigned and was elected by students all over the municipality, winning twice as many votes as the other candidates. Like Selvin before her, she encourages her peers to build up their community through service. She faces difficult subjects head on, campaigning against child marriage and teen pregnancy. When children drop out of school, Nahomy goes with the municipal child protection officer to talk to their parents and help them find solutions.

Her story gives her empathy for the social and spiritual needs of children. She lived with her grandparents for six years after her father migrated for work. But now he’s back, and she draws on all the strength of her family’s love and the support of teachers and mentors, like Mayor José, to be a beacon of hope for others.

“I want to be a doctor and start the first clinic in my community, La Puerta,” says Nahomy. “Being educated means that I can take care of my family and my community, especially my grandparents and father, who have sacrificed so much to give me opportunities.”
Physical changes defeat poverty

In her role as a community health monitor, Ever’s mom, Carmen, handles young mothers and their babies gently but firmly. Her voice is soothing as she quickly slips off a squalling baby’s extra clothing and suspends her in a sling to check her weight. Every month, moms and grandmothers bring babies to the nearby community center for health checks. Toddlers are seen in their role while coordinating with the others.

Clockwise from top left: 13-year-old spheres, washing her hands at the river, a spring, or a shallow well. In Renpoche, water tanks, filtration systems, and water connections to schools and health centers. With community management, each partner fulfilled their role while coordinating with the others.
Above: Yolanda, right, and her children, Selvin and Alex, hold hands with church leaders and stand in a circle to pray at the close of a World Vision Parenting with Love training session.

**Spiritual changes bring new life**

As a lay leader at a rural St. Francis of Assisi Church, Ever’s dad, Francisco, welcomes congregants for Bible reading and prayers three times during the week. On Sundays, he and his family walk to the cathedral in downtown Yamaranguila. He says that nurturing the community’s spiritual transformation has been World Vision’s greatest contribution to daily life.

Francisco’s own spiritual transformation came in a church Bible study near the time Ever was born, 15 years ago. Already raising five daughters, Francisco struggled with alcohol, and it affected his ability to work and his family’s finances. But God was working and drew him to the church Bible study. His heart was opened to take responsibility for his actions. He still has a better letter sponsor wrote encouraging him to stay in school, study, take care of his family, and pray for his family and for others’ needs. “He showed me an example of caring about others—as he cared for me—and serving others. Now, serving others is a big part of my life,” José says.

The love expressed to José, within Ever’s family, and for their larger Lenca family all attests to the transforming power of World Vision’s work in Yamaranguila.

Through our sponsorship model, World Vision has strengthened families and institutions—churches, schools, community groups, and the municipality—to support each other as they carry out social, physical, and spiritual changes on their own to make life better for everyone. World Vision sponsorship is a labor of love that connects sponsors to children and communities, empowering children like Ever and millions of others to dream of and achieve a brighter future.

World Vision’s Parenting with Love classes helped him come to value his own life more, for what he can do to care for his children and be a good influence on other families. Now he teaches those same parenting classes, encouraging parents to practice open communication with their children. “I really treasure even those small interactions like asking my children, ‘How are you?’ ‘How was your day?’” he says with a smile. “Everyone needs to be listened to.”

In the El Pelon community, World Vision is holding the final training session of a Parenting with Love course. Church leaders hold hands and stand in a circle, asking God to help them carry new attitudes back to their church. One prays, “Thank you for a new dawn in our lives. Please give us strength to show our children a better way to live, especially in stressful times.”

Some families in the community are held back by the effects of alcoholism, conflict between spouses, and the neglect or abuse of children—all things they don’t want to hand down to the next generation. “Before World Vision, we were barefoot poor,” says one of the participants, Wenceslao Sanchez, 39. “World Vision’s training like this has been the most important thing that’s happened to lift our lives out of poverty.”

Roger, 34, didn’t attend the day’s training because of work commitments, but his wife, Yolanda, 24, and his mother, Marta, 50, did. Now their sons, 7-year-old Selvin and 2-year-old Alex, play with the colored pencils, yo-yo, and toy car that Selvin’s sponsor sent the boys at Christmas. Looking at them fondly, Roger says that World Vision training—Parenting with Love and others—supports a better life for them. “Because of World Vision, this is a better community for children. It’s safer, and there are better community ties between the church, families, and the child protection committee. There’s more caring,” he says.

Mayor José, now 43, says he felt that kind of care from his World Vision sponsor when he was a child. He still has a letter his sponsor wrote encouraging him to stay in school, study, take care of his family, and pray for his family and for others’ needs. “He showed me an example of caring about others—as he cared for me—and serving others. Now, serving others is a big part of my life,” José says.

The love expressed to José, within Ever’s family, and for their larger Lenca family all attests to the transforming power of World Vision’s work in Yamaranguila.

Through our sponsorship model, World Vision has strengthened families and institutions—churches, schools, community groups, and the municipality—to support each other as they carry out social, physical, and spiritual changes on their own to make life better for everyone. World Vision sponsorship is a labor of love that connects sponsors to children and communities, empowering children like Ever and millions of others to dream of and achieve a brighter future.

**Update: COVID-19**

COVID-19 has been a test of the resilience of children and families in Yamaranguila. By July, there had been seven confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the population of about 20,000 people. “We’ve made sure everyone has information on the pandemic,” says Mayor José Rodriguez. Even in remote mountain villages, people are following guidelines and have faith in the health system and “that makes me hopeful,” he says. José estimates that 30% of jobs have been lost and a high percentage of small enterprises have closed. Ever’s father, Francisco, harvested a bumper crop from his avocado trees. Before the pandemic, he took some to a large market in La Esperanza to sell, but since then he’s sold them from home and in the Friday market in Yamaranguila.

The school year usually runs from February through November, but schools shut down in March and the national education department says it’s uncertain when they’ll open again. For children in areas without internet access, teachers made booklets of math and Spanish assignments and deliv-
The GIFT of GOATS


Photographs by LAURA REINHARDT

By KATHRYN REID

Impact fact
Raising goats is the surest way for Zambian farmers to achieve economic stability and protect against uncertain times.

It’s lunchtime in Moyo, Zambia, a time when family members and neighbors gather under the thatched roof of an open-sided kitchen to eat and talk about their day. Sitting on low, wooden stools, Beter, 9, and his sister, 7-year-old Lovensia, and 4-year-old Hannah, dig into plates of nshima, a corn-flour porridge, and mumbo, a green stew made of pounded peanuts and dried pumpkin leaves.

The kids chatter and reach for more food as their conversation turns to a favorite subject—goats. Small, agile, soft, and inclined to mischief—as they describe them—goats are endlessly fascinating to the children. Their mom, Patricia, and their dad, Eliot, listen and occasionally comment.

“Ma-a-a-a,” says Beter, mimicking Maboro, the mother goat who gives lots of milk. Shy, Lovensia chimies in with a “ba-a-a,” the high and pleasing call a baby goat makes when looking for his mother. Patricia laughs and says she likes to hear the goats because “it sounds like money to me.” She spends a lot of time planning how to make the most of the family’s assets to put healthy food on their plates.
"I’m always thinking about how to get money for next week’s food,” says Patricia. She calculates the likely harvest from the fields where they plant corn and peanuts, the price she can get for a bunch of greens from her garden plot on the riverbank, and the best time to take a loan from her savings group so she can buy bananas and other produce to sell for a profit. After two years of drought, she’s gotten used to juggling like this to keep the family finances on track.

But Patricia and Eliot have high hopes. They see their growing goat herd as the underwriters of their future financial security.

“A year ago, we had two goats,” says Eliot. They weren’t much more than extra mouths to feed. “Then World Vision gave us five more.” With four young female goats and a male “super goat,” Eliot could see his family’s financial prospects improving. Soon the family’s goat herd numbered 11. Eliot and Patricia realized that with a few more goats, they would have a big enough herd to sell some of the larger ones each year. Just one of those goats could bring in enough money to pay a child’s annual school fees.

Like Eliot and Patricia, most Zambian farmers depend on maize and other annual rainfed crops for their diet and income. But years of drought have made it impossible for many families to continue to depend on a once-a-year crop.

Small-scale farmers in Africa have always raised a few goats, but it took great care of the animals and made sure they have plenty of food and water.

Eliot waters greens in the family garden after getting water in a bucket from a stream nearby.

Better uses his staff to herd his family’s goats.

Left: Patricia’s goat herd numbered 11. Eliot and Better, second from left, lead the pack when the boys in his school play soccer during a break.

Far right, bottom: Patricia, Eliot's children's mom, serves a nutritious lunch from maize and vegetables her family grow and harvest.

Eliot says, “It’s not hard to keep goats, and it’s good to have them around your house,” Better says. He knows each goat’s name and character—which ones will follow him right away and which ones stray. Each morning, he opens the door of their raised pen and leads the big goats out to graze. When he comes home from school, he rounds up the adult goats and reunites them with the babies. He looks them all over carefully and makes sure each one gets a drink when he pours water for them from a jerrycan into two pans.

To Eliot, goats are “problem solvers.” They basically take care of themselves, reproduce quickly, and seldom get sick. If you need some quick money, he says, they are much easier to sell than cows. Cattle used to be the main sign of wealth, and there’s still a certain prestige to owning them. “But nowadays, it’s worth more to own a herd of goats,” Eliot says.

World Vision’s community development work has provided new opportunities for their parents. As Eliot says, “You can never go wrong with goats.”

UPDATE: COVID-19

After we met them, Better’s family received five more goats from World Vision, and those goats delivered babies. Now there’s plenty of milk to drink and the goat herd is big enough to provide the financial stability that Better’s father, Eliot, has long sought. The 2019 to 2020 rainy season also brought plentiful rainfall that was an answer to prayer. Better’s family harvested maize, peanuts, and vegetable crops—food for many months. The goats have provided greater stability during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Better’s and Lovensess’ school closed in March 2020 because of COVID-19, but they hope to return to classes soon. In the meantime, parents and community members are fulfilling their promise to finish the school buildings. They’ve hauled bricks, sand, and other materials to the site and put a roof on one of the two classrooms.

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Better may be a good goat herder, but he’s an even better student. Both he and Lovenesse attend a community school that’s a short walk from home. Community schools are solely funded by fees paid by students’ parents. Loveness and Better are World Vision sponsored children, and it’s through World Vision’s community development work that parents in Moyo have become committed to schooling, Patricia says. “We want our children to be educated; that’s the main thing,” she says.

As the children continue their schooling, goats will likely be paying their way as well as opening up new opportunities for their parents. As Eliot says, “You can never go wrong with goats.”

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The coronavirus pandemic is challenging the world, and we’re answering the challenge. For the first time in World Vision’s 70-year history, we are engaged in an emergency response in every country where we work. We’re fighting the secondary effects of the disease—the economic, social, and long-term health impacts. Our top priority is to meet the needs of children and families most at risk, so we’re aiming to support 72 million people, including 36 million children.

As of September, every 60 seconds we help more than 200 people survive, recover, and rebuild from the effects of COVID-19.

Discover

Impact fact

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12 ways World Vision is fighting COVID-19

BY KATHRYN REID

Mother and child health

CHALLENGE: The coronavirus prevents some women from traveling to health centers for prenatal care and counseling.

HOPE: Though Florence, 42 and two months pregnant, can’t travel to the nearest health center in Zambia for prenatal checkups, she is confident in the care she gets from Jenala, one of 220,000 World Vision–trained community health workers. Jenala provides timed and targeted pregnancy counseling for Florence. She also shares information about COVID-19 so Florence knows that with proper care, she can avoid infection and deliver her baby safely.

PRAYER: Jesus, we commit vulnerable mothers and children to Your care and embrace the opportunity to serve as Your hands and feet to meet their needs.

Economic empowerment

CHALLENGE: Millions of people have lost their jobs and livelihoods as COVID-19 has spread worldwide, making it hard for parents to provide for their children.

HOPE: In Mongolia, World Vision helped woman who’d lost their tailoring business find new work making and marketing medical gowns. The women are happy to contribute to virus prevention as well as generate an income to support their children.

World Vision’s entrepreneur training and continuing support enable people to adapt their businesses and find new income opportunities.

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, just as You give good gifts to all Your children, enable parents everywhere to safely preserve their livelihoods so they can provide for their families.

Child protection

CHALLENGE: Because of coronavirus-related school closures, children are spending more time alone with the people who perpetrate violence or sexual abuse against them, says Zambian Public Health Specialist Cosmas Minyoi Kalwizhi. In three days, he had four cases of children who were sexually assaulted.

HOPE: Cosmas and fellow child protection committee members supported by World Vision use radios to let children and other community members know how to report abusers. They are also enlisting village leaders and pastors to join the committee in intervening to prevent abuse. Child protection committees around the world are finding new ways to stay connected and support children at risk.

PRAYER: Jesus, You welcomed little children into the safety of Your arms. Protect those who are isolated and in danger because of the coronavirus, and give us courage to act on their behalf.

Twelve-year-old Collins in Mwala, Kenya, was one of the first children to choose his sponsor. He chose Joel from Chicago. Despite the pandemic, sponsorship is supporting children’s lives in his community. Read more about Chosen on page 11.

Discover

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Watch Collins’ and his sponsor’s story by scanning the code.

World Vision Winter 2020

World Vision Winter 2020
Disaster response

**Challenge:** Cyclone Amphan hit the east coast of India and Bangladesh in May 2020. Families—many of whom had been out of work for months because of the coronavirus—saw their fields flooded and houses destroyed.

**Hope:** Though 12 World Vision program areas were affected, families showed the resilience they had developed with help from World Vision. They benefited both from preparedness training and World Vision’s quick response, which included serving hot meals and providing solar lamps, mosquito bed nets, tarps, and rope for rigging shelters. Families also used personal hygiene supplies and cleaning materials we provided to help prevent COVID-19 from spreading.

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, our lives are in Your hands. Give us Your heart of love so we may live in solidarity with people who face seasonal storms and other disasters, and for whom the coronavirus is just one more life-threatening hazard.

U.S. poverty

**Challenge:** Even before the spread of COVID-19 forced the closure of many U.S. businesses and fueled new levels of unemployment, more than 1 in 4 West Virginia children lived in poverty.

**Hope:** World Vision works with nonprofits, including long-time partner MountainHeart Community Services in West Virginia, to provide fresh fruit and vegetables so children missing school meals can get a balanced diet at home. Our Family Emergency Kits include household goods as well as staple foods.

**Prayer:** God of plenty, we reach out to help others to show Your love to all. Teach us how to give as You have given to us—freely and selflessly.

Refugees and food insecurity

**Challenge:** Poverty, insecurity, and health systems that lack enough staff and adequate equipment make it hard to stop COVID-19 from spreading in fragile contexts and among displaced people.

**Hope:** World Vision is supporting doctors, nurses, and medical technicians who have fled unrest in Venezuela to achieve accreditation to practice medicine in Peru. We hope to register as many as 80 physicians by year’s end so they can help curb the coronavirus outbreak. In each context where we are fighting the coronavirus, we look for local resources and innovative ways to maximize the impact of our response.

**Prayer:** Dear God, we face a global health crisis, but we don’t face it alone. You are our Great Physician. Equip and inspire us to use every skill we possess to bring healing in Your Name.

Hunger and food insecurity

**Challenge:** Job losses due to the coronavirus are driving families to go into debt and cut back on meals to cope with financial insecurity.

**Hope:** In Myanmar, we’re seeing the results of World Vision’s years of helping families build resilience. When Dhab, 8, lost his job as a day laborer, he joined his wife, Khadija, in caring for their livestock, garden, and rice crop. Despite his loss of income, they are eating well and selling milk, eggs; and produce, and they also have enough to help their neighbors.

**Prayer:** Father, we pray You would provide families with plentiful, nutritious food so they can stay healthy.

Refugees and weak contexts

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Gender-based violence

**Challenge:** With families under increased financial pressure because of the coronavirus, millions of women and girls are at risk of child marriage or sex trafficking.

**Hope:** A girl-power group in India organized by World Vision stands together for children’s rights. They’ve rallied support in their community that has saved nine girls from child marriage since COVID-19 closed schools. Even under physical distancing, our child protection teams worldwide are helping children stay safe from harm.

**Prayer:** Father, families are hurting because of the coronavirus pandemic, and millions of women and girls are at risk of violence and exploitation. Give us the comfort and strength of Your presence as we help them stand up for their rights.

Disabilities

**Challenge:** People who live in group settings like nursing homes and rehabilitation centers are in close contact with others and at higher risk for COVID-19. So are their caregivers.

**Hope:** As the outbreak began, World Vision prioritized children’s group homes, training staff and giving them masks, soap, disinfectant, and thermometers. Xiao, 15, who is paralyzed, was alarmed at first, but now he’s confident that he can wash his hands properly and help prevent the disease.

**Prayer:** Dear God, show Your love and protection through us to people who may feel marginalized or excluded because of differences and disabilities.
Discover

Sponsorship

CHALLENGE: Preventing the spread of COVID-19 is a key priority of World Vision staff around the world. They are challenged to care for their own families and personal health while serving others.

HOPE: In World Vision’s U.S.-funded Nkhoma area development program near Malawi’s national capital, Lilongwe, World Vision staff have inspired community members to take the lead, set goals, and carry on the work in health, education, and livelihoods programs even when staff are unable to be present. Together, they reinforce COVID-19 prevention.

God bless and uphold World Vision staff and volunteers who are making personal sacrifices to serve others. Give them strength and confidence to do Your will.

Clean water

CHALLENGE: In the world’s largest refugee camp in Bangladesh, Rohingya refugees depend on aid for water, food, sanitation, and other necessities. In overcrowded living conditions, the coronavirus is an enormous threat.

HOPE: With support from World Vision, refugees formed water committees so they can maintain the water pumps, latrines, and bathing spaces World Vision constructed. And our hygiene training has taken on life-saving importance since COVID-19. “Staying clean helps keep my family safe from disease,” says committee member Ajhar.

PRAYER: Lord, we ask that all children and families will have the clean water and sanitation to help them stay safe from the coronavirus.

Education

CHALLENGE: COVID-19 school closures have tested the will and ingenuity of students, parents, and teachers around the world. In Jordan, the public education system accommodates Syrian refugee children by running schools in two shifts a day. Overcrowding has made it hard for children who need extra help to keep up. They face a higher risk of falling behind and dropping out. Though the Jordanian government has provided classes on TV and online since schools shut down in March, 76% of refugee parents said their kids need extra help.

HOPE: World Vision started a remote version of its remedial education program for refugees in April. Parents said their kids needed slower presentations, more explanations, and practice. That’s what they’ve gotten through worksheets, teachers’ videos, and conference calls. Nahed, who teaches English to refugee children, says she’s trying to recreate the supportive classroom experience. She’s seen her students’ reading and writing skills improve because of it.

PRAYER: Holy Spirit, infuse us with Your divine grace and power that we may do Your will in the world for the sake of children.

Inspire

MOTIVATING YOU TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

CHRISTMAS CARDS

In Cambodia, families enjoy creating pop-up Christmas cards from construction paper.

SCAN THE CODE to get directions on how you and your family can make these festive cards to share joy with your loved ones this holiday season.

Help World Vision respond to the COVID-19 pandemic in vulnerable communities here and abroad. See the insert between pages 10 and 11, call 1.888.852.4453, or go online at wvmag.org/give.
Inspire Winter 2020

The year that put hope to the test

By Edgar Sandoval Sr.

HOW WILL THE YEAR 2020 GO down in the history books? I’d guess something like this: a global pandemic infecting millions and interrupting daily life around the globe. Economies shattered, businesses shuttered, streets emptied. No school, no sports, relationships reduced to computer screens. And in the U.S., racial injustice once again laid bare, and legitimate calls for systemic change colliding with unjustified violence and destruction.

Many will see only what they lost or what might have been. Others will lament the damage done to our country by a virus that destroyed bodies and hatred that harmed souls. By those measures, 2020 was a very bad year. But as I look back on this challenging year, I choose to focus on what God taught me through it. That is hope is revealed.

You see, in times of trouble, we understand that our God is not only a God of the good times. He is a God of the here and now. And He never stops working in our lives, inviting us to align our hearts and plans with His. What God cares about never changes—no matter what.

What does God care about? He cares about you and me. He wants everyone to enjoy fullness of life in His kingdom, here on earth and for eternity. He cares about our salvation and the salvation of others. John 3:16 tells us why God gave us Jesus—to love us into eternal life.

And when I read the Bible, it’s clear that God has special care for people who are poor and vulnerable. Everywhere I look in the Scriptures, God is pleading with humanity to care for them, too.

When I reflect on the past year through the lens of a vulnerable person—a child in Bangladesh—I feel a renewed sense of passion for the mission God has given me.

Don’t get me wrong: I experienced the same whiplash as everybody else. As the new decade dawned, I was energized. World Vision had just launched Chosen, a new invitation into world missions. I was excited for all kids reaching toward new futures and for their sponsors joining them on the journey.

But by March, the virus had leapt continents and threatened our own communities. Dozens of U.S. churches, eager to partner with us, had to cancel their plans. All our in-person events were put on hold. We were dismayed, but at the same time, we mounted a robust COVID-19 response in the U.S. and around the world.

From the beginning of the crisis, the most vulnerable people in the most fragile places were on my mind. God reminded me of them often in my prayers. I knew that while many of us hunkered down in our well-built homes with plenty of food and clean running water, families living in overcrowded, unsanitary conditions were surviving with even less than before.

That was true of Masrafi in Bangladesh. His dad, Alomgir, previously earned about $3.50 a day molding bricks, but work dried up during the pandemic. He and Surmi worried about paying rent and feeding their son. Their stress caused them to quarrel. Surmi raised a bit of money by cleaning houses, but she didn’t tell Alomgir. “It would really affect his pride,” she says.

I prayed for this struggling family—and for millions more suffering from the secondary effects of the pandemic. And I was so grateful that as a sponsor, I could help in tangible ways. World Vision helped families in Masrafi’s community protect themselves against COVID-19 with prevention information and hygiene supplies. Those without income, like Alomgir, received cash disbursements to cover basic needs. And staff kept an eye on kids who were at greater risk when stress-fueled conflict boiled over at home.

Of course, this support doesn’t solve everything. But we cannot miss the deeper impact: Help that comes when it’s needed most creates hope.

And it’s only a matter of time that those with newfound hope wonder about its source. Someday they will ask that life-changing question—the question to which Jesus is the answer.

Yes, COVID-19 turned our lives upside down this year, and it’s not over yet. It has killed so many and caused so much fear. And our country began the most painful reckoning of racism and injustice since the civil rights era. You could say that 2020 put hope itself to the test.

Yet the hope of Jesus remains unchanged—and more urgent. The world is still hurting, but we are still chosen to participate in God’s transformative work in people’s hearts and lives around the globe.

The hope of Jesus has already changed history. And it continues today, through you and me.

Edgar Sandoval Sr. is president of World Vision U.S. Follow him at twitter.com/EdgarSandovalSr.
How to be a good Samaritan when it comes to racial justice

By The Rev. André Sims, Ph.D.

The story of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25–37 is a parable that resonates with us as our country continues to struggle with racial tensions. The lead-in to the parable is a question from the expert in the law, "And who is my neighbor?" This is after he gives Jesus his interpretation of the Levitical law that we must love God with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind and then also love our neighbors as ourselves in order to inherit eternal life.

Identifying neighbors

It’s a question we still ask ourselves today. Who are our neighbors? And what does it mean to be a loving neighbor? For the rabbi and the Levite in the parable, they chose to look the other way. They didn’t want to get involved. They were Good Samaritans caring for my immediate needs. When I marched in a peaceful protest alongside other pastors, two friends who are white pastors showed up at the rally. They stood by my side to show me that they saw me. They came to say, “We validate your pain.”

My wounds and those of people of color are not as obvious as the man in the parable, but their invisibility doesn’t make them any less life-threatening. My wounds cause stress and can lead to all sorts of long-term health issues. The world says that we can figure out ways to lay down that stress for a period of time so we’re able to pick it up again later.

The Word of God says I can place this stress at the foot of the cross and walk away from it. I don’t have to go back and pick it up again. We serve a perfect Savior who can address everything personal in our lives. God uses His followers in His plan. He’s using my brothers and sisters in the dominant culture to come alongside me and shoulder some of that burden until we can lay it down forever at the foot of the cross. He used my friends who marched alongside me. They were like the Good Samaritan getting the wounded man to the inn.

Courageous repentance

The Samaritan’s assistance didn’t stop there. He paid for the man’s ongoing care. That might not have been easy for him. It cost him, and there’s a cost for Christians to live for and be obedient to God.

Part of that cost in speaking out for racial justice is repentance. So often today that word is used as another word for seeking forgiveness. But it actually means a complete change of heart and mind.

I would ask as part of that repentance that you build or strengthen relationships with people who don’t look like you. Really listen to another’s stories—the difficulties, the heartbreaks, and the joy. The church can be on the forefront of change when people who have power to change our system find the courage to speak out. The church can lead the way to a world where we all live in unity in Christ Jesus. Unity doesn’t mean sameness. Instead, we can celebrate a beautiful diverse world of believers who care for, support, and love one another.

Just as the Good Samaritan did.

Pray for justice

The Lord promises healing for the land when His people pray. Intercession that includes lament, repentance, and restoration is part of our biblical tradition. We invite you to use the following prayer guide on the journey to seek healing for yourself and our nation.

"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” —2 Chronicles 7:14

Lord, as we lament over injustice and repent of our sins, hear us.

"The Lord detests dishonest scales, but accurate weights find favor with him.” —Proverbs 11:1

"And the heavens proclaim his greatness.” —Psalm 50:6

Lord, we humbly ourselves in Your presence. Help us love mercy and act in ways that are just and right.

"But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-falling stream.” —Amos 5:24

Lord, imprint more of Your just character on our souls. Then we will see things like You do and treat every person in a way that honors You.

"... And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with Your God.” —Micah 6:8

Lord, we long for the day when we will see justice rolling through our streets and neighborhoods. Amen.

Thoughts on justice:

"It’s a matter of taking the side of the weak against the strong, something the best people have always done.”

—HARRIET BEEcher STowe

"The moral arc of the universe bends at the elbow of justice.”

—MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

"God’s mill grinds slow, but sure.”

—GEORGE HERBERT

"Underneath all notions of justice is a set of faith assumptions that are essentially religious, and these are often not acknowledged.”

—TIM KELLER

The Rev. André Sims, Ph.D., is senior pastor at Christ the King Bible Fellowship in Federal Way, Washington. He works with World Vision’s Corinthians Council on issues of diversity and inclusion. His church is a partner with World Vision and has distributed Family Emergency Kits during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"... And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with Your God.” —Micah 6:8

Take the next step

Learn about our new pastor’s curriculum, “May We Be One,” that addresses issues of racism and justice.

Lord, we repent of the sin of favoritism—treating people based on appearances. Thank You for Your Word that corrects and sets us on the right path.

"Do to others as you would have them do to you.” —Luke 6:31

"And the heavens proclaim his greatness.” —Psalm 50:6


"But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-falling stream.” —Amos 5:24

Lord, imprint more of Your just character on our souls. Then we will see things like You do and treat every person in a way that honors You.

"... And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with Your God.” —Micah 6:8

Lord, we long for the day when we will see justice rolling through our streets and neighborhoods. Amen.

Inspire

Inspire
Child sponsorship prepared Lenny Lyn (left) to respond to COVID-19.

Masking fear with faith

By Ramon Jimenez and Joy Maluyo

WHEN THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC struck the Philippines in March 2020, former sponsored child Lenny Lyn suited up. As a government health worker, the 27-year-old monitors cases in her community with a check-point crew, scanning temperatures of people crossing a main road in South Cotabato, a province in the southern Philippines.

“I am worried that I have an infant waiting for me at home,” she says. “But I need to take on this task because it is where I am most needed.”

Lenny is the youngest of three. Her parents are farmers who didn’t earn a regular income. “I remember our roof,” she says. “My father would put a lot of heavy stones because there weren’t enough roofing nails. During rainy season, we [would] have a standby bucket in the living room because rainwater would leak into our house.”

Keeping Lenny and her siblings in school, especially when they reached college, was a challenge for her parents. “All I wanted then was for our life to get better and for me and my siblings to finish school so we can help our parents,” she says.

It was a blessing for the family when World Vision supported Lenny’s education. “World Vision was willing to support me, but the organization could not shoulder everything,” she says. “The university, meanwhile, said that I could take a laddered program, starting off with midwifery, nursing then medicine—all costs to be shouldered by the school. I grabbed that opportunity.”

Through it all, Lenny knew she was not alone. “Thank you to my sponsor, Barbara, for supporting my education. It was the push that I needed to have that opportunity.”

Their correspondence continued through college. “Barbara never failed to write me letters and encouraged me to keep dreaming,” she says.

Those dreams changed when tragedy struck Lenny’s family. “I started really dreaming of becoming a doctor in 2011, when, on my first year in the midwifery program, a cousin—who was like an older sister to me—died with her unborn baby,” she says. Since then, I wanted to learn more about the field of OB-GYN to prevent deaths like that of my cousin.”

Before the pandemic, Lenny worked as a World Vision volunteer community health worker assigned to far-flung areas where access to medical services is a challenge. She provided prenatal care, infant care such as immunizations, and check-ups for adults, traversing hours of rough roads to reach her assigned area and bring health services to the mostly indigenous people.

With COVID-19, God called Lenny into a new kind of service.

“At first, I was really afraid,” she says, “…There is still fear, especially because next month, I will be assigned the municipal isolation unit. I will be on duty for seven straight days and will be on quarantine for 14 days. I will be away from my child for a longer period of time.”

Faith sustains her. “I’ve seen God provide for my needs, especially when we did not have much. There were times when I also felt like He left me, especially when I failed my first nursing board exam. I was frustrated, but it was also during that experience that He impressed on me that He will finish the good works that He began in me, …I trust that His protection upon me and my family, since I was a child, is still the same protection that He is giving me now.”

And, of course, there’s Barbara. “I consider Ms. Barbara as my encourager and my second mother,” she says. “She helped provide for my needs when my parents could barely give them to me.” The risks may be great, but Lenny knows she’s not alone.

Muscle memory

WHEN 11-YEAR-OLD Eric flexes his muscles to his friends’ delight, I rely on muscle memory to record the moment before it disappears. Click.

You see the proof that this delightful encounter in Honduras happened. It’s evidence of my driving passion—photography. People open their lives to me, and in turn, through pictures, I can introduce you to them.

I don’t remember the mechanics behind this photograph, but Eric, a sponsored child, is burned into my mind. I can hear his animated chatter as he herds cattle home in the fading light. I remember his inner strength. I hurt, knowing the struggles he faces growing up in a dysfunctional family. But they all stopped what they were doing to give me hours of their time.

I have to ask myself: Have I developed a muscle memory about sharing? The ways of the heart? Is generosity as instinctive as my photography has become?

They’re sobering questions as Thanksgiving and Christmas draw near and every day offers a new chance to give. A thousand clicks later, I have proof of Eric’s and his family’s big hearts. But I wonder: Does my heart have muscle memory, too?
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Any gift given to the World Vision Fund on Giving Tuesday, December 1, will be matched.*

*up to $1 million

Nathan, 9, Zambia

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