

World Vision

WINTER 2020



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Wonders of His love

Families find
abundance at home

26

12 WAYS
WORLD VISION IS
FIGHTING COVID-19

World Vision

A special gift sent with love



Send your love through a Special Gift of \$100 or more to your sponsored child. In the economic fallout from 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.

Share joy this Christmas:
Send a life-changing gift to your sponsored child.

Call **1.800.423.4216** or visit myworldvision.org/SpecialGift

To help ensure your gift goes as far as possible to help meet your sponsored child and their family'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. Delivery time of Special Gifts varies and cannot be guaranteed by Christmas due to the many gifts given during the holiday season.

World Vision

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ON THE COVER

Sponsored child Eduardo, 9, swings in a traditional hammock after a community meal in Honduras.
JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

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EXPLORING OUR WORK

Each icon below corresponds to an area of World Vision's work. Use these to guide you topically as you explore this issue.

- Health
- Education
- Child protection
- Child sponsorship
- Poverty in America
- Christian faith
- Gender equality
- Economic empowerment
- Disaster relief
- Disability inclusion
- Clean water
- Hunger and food security
- Refugees and fragile states
- Prayer



A World Vision staff member in Honduras helps a girl put on a mask.

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

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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. 🍊



JOHN WARREN / WORLD VISION

Kristy J. O'Hara-Glaspie is an editor with World Vision. She has written stories of empowered children and families from Uganda and Bangladesh in *World Vision* magazine.

Embark

COME IN AND SEE THE WORLD

Give thanks to the LORD,
for he is good; his love
endures forever.
—1 CHRONICLES 16:34

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we thank
You for the ways You've
helped us care for so many
people this year.



OTGONKHUU DASHDORJ/WORLD VISION

Mongolia

Tserenpurev, left, receives food and other necessities from World Vision staff member Munkh-Erdene. His family already struggled before the pandemic, which has made it even more difficult for his father to find work, but thanks to child sponsorship and World Vision's community development model, 150 vulnerable families in the area received assistance.

● Embark

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

385,681
CHILDREN

550,368
ADULTS

1,589
VILLAGES



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





*THIS IS THE WORST
LOCUST OUTBREAK IN
KENYA IN 70 YEARS.
LOCUSTS CAN DESTROY*

50–80%

*OF VEGETATION
THEY ATTACK.*



Kenya

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.

CHARLES KARIUKI/WORLD VISION



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.

AGGREY NYONDWA/WORLD VISION

COVER STORY | 12

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

Discover

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



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.

JO SHUA SHELDON/WORLD VISION



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

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.

PUBLIC GRANT UPDATE
Standing against malaria

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.”

The logistics were daunting: storage sites, distribution teams, transportation, and where bed nets came from had to change. But team members rose to the challenge.

With COVID-19 affecting much of Mozambique in 2020, we face a new set of challenges. Instead of mass distributions of more than 10 million bed nets, team members will use personal protective equipment and observe physical distancing as they deliver bed nets door to door and remind families why and how to use them.



80%
OF FAMILIES
REPORT
SIGNIFICANT
LOSS
OF INCOME

318K
PEOPLE
ASSISTED
BY WORLD
VISION SINCE
JANUARY
2020

1/3
OF
CHILDREN
GO TO BED
HUNGRY

REFUGEE CRISIS
Venezuelans: Refugees or migrants?

The number of Venezuelans 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.



CATTY LOPES/WORLD VISION



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.

HISTORIC MOMENT
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.



MATT HADLEY FOR WANDER CREATIVE



Uganda

WORLD VISION STAFF

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 turnabout 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?



SIGN UP TO BE CHOSEN



HEATHER KLINGER/WORLD VISION

PARTNERSHIPS
Gifts that give back

When Rajesh Rafi was 19, he learned to make hand-crafted items to help provide for his mother and sisters. Now 48, Rajesh has his own workshop in India where he employs four artisans under fair trade conditions, which address workplace safety as well as fair wages. He encourages his artisans to do their very best so that they can have a bonus in the shop's annual profit-sharing event. This year, by working with our partner Gifts With a Cause, Rajesh and his staff were honored to make Melissa Joan Hart's hand-crafted gift, a heart ornament, for the World Vision Gift Catalog. Melissa, an actress, producer, and director as well as World Vision supporter, saw World Vision's work firsthand in Zambia in 2019 and visited our Give-back Gift Shop in New York City last year as well. This season, when you give a gift to the World Vision Fund, you can get Melissa's ornament to hang on your Christmas tree. See the insert between pages 18 and 19 to learn more.

Thriving

Impact fact

Sponsorship promotes stability—Yamaranguila municipality has the lowest migration rate in Honduras.

EDITOR'S NOTE: STORY AND PHOTOS WERE GATHERED BEFORE THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC BEGAN.

♥ *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



Ever, 16, and his mom, Carmen, are part of a thriving community in Yamaranguila, Honduras.

at home

BY KATHRYN REID PHOTOS BY JON WARREN

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.



Right: Students walk past color murals on their way to classes at the Lenca Institute, a secondary school in Yamaranguila.



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.

"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

Left: Ever and other students at the Lenca Institute play traditional songs that celebrate the Indigenous Lenca culture.

Below: Yamaranguila Mayor José Rodríguez is a former World Vision sponsored child.

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 prepped, encouraged, and often helped with funding through the municipality.

World Vision is a major supporter of the secondary school, having supplied books, science equipment, building materials, teacher training, and the first instruments for the band. "We've worked together many years for many different projects that raise youth development," says Evaristo.

Ever and his peers don't take their high school education for granted. Few of their older siblings or parents went beyond secondary school, if they graduated at all. For the most part, their grandparents had even less education. Nationally, fewer than 65% of Honduran students graduated from secondary school in 2017, according to the most recent U.N. data. Intibuca, the department (state) where Ever's family lives, has an even





“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

Above: Checking on sponsored children, World Vision Program Manager Elda Solorzano meets 36-year-old Virginia and her children, 6-month-old Angel and 4-year-old Denilson.



WHAT BRINGS JOY?

See what makes people in Yamaranguila happy by scanning the code.

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.”

Top: Patricia prays in church with her 12-year-old nephew Wilson (left) and 8-year-old son Noe (center). **Below:** On a Sunday afternoon after church, Patricia, Noe, and two of his friends spend time together on her shady porch.



Right: Gladys, 3, sings a song about water and demonstrates washing her hands and face for her mom, Maria, 32, and siblings, 13-year-old Hector and 6-year-old Nellie.



Below: Alejandro, his son, and his father—three generations of coffee producers—show off their family's top-rated coffee.

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 every three months. "When I started, we would see 10, 12, or maybe even 15 children a month that needed to go to the doctor for immediate help," she says. Now there are no more than two or three kids each month who need to be referred to a doctor for more care.

Carmen also makes home visits to new moms to make sure they're comfortable with breastfeeding and caring for their infant. She also teaches child development workshops. "Kids now are healthier and smarter," she says. "Moms know more now, and they take child development more seriously."

World Vision gave Carmen training and opportunities to refresh and expand her skills, and she wants to make sure what she's learned will continue to benefit her community. "I'm training these mothers and my own daughters. When I'm gone, they'll be ready to serve others," she says.

When she sees a child who's underweight and may have been sick, Carmen makes dietary suggestions. "We watch them, follow up, and counsel the mother," she says.

Back before the child health monitoring started, Carmen realized one of her own daughters was malnourished. She asked friends what to do, and they helped. At the time, she never imagined that one day she'd be helping others the same way.

Carmen has seen vast improvements in children's health in her 12 years as a health monitor. Some changes she directly attributes to reduced poverty, such as improved housing. Where there used to be dirt floors, now there's concrete. Leaky thatch roofs have been replaced with sturdy metal ones. Better housing has eliminated the chinchas—commonly called "kissing bugs"—that spread Chagas disease, a parasitic infection that leads to congestive heart failure.

Other dramatic changes have been achieved thanks to access to clean water. The steep mountainsides surrounding Yamaranguila are now threaded with water pipes, like arteries, that connect to every home and school. "We have 100% access to clean water," says Mayor José. "World Vision has been a major partner in that achievement." World Vision has helped with training, organization, and construction, including water tanks, filtration systems, and water connections to schools and health centers.

Up into the 1990s, people walked miles to fill their clay pots

at the river, a spring, or a shallow well. In Renpoche, one community within Yamaranguila, neighbors came together to tap a mountain spring. They worked together, carrying heavy pipes and sacks of cement high up the mountain, to build a pipeline that was completed in 2001.

"By 2017, our community had grown from 26 families to 40, and now there are 60 families," says Water Council President José Cornelio Bautista, 38. With the influx of people, the old water system was failing, and there wasn't enough water. To get the funding to upgrade, the water council learned how to conduct a needs assessment and put together a plan that they turned into proposals for the municipality, World Vision, and other humanitarian organizations. With community management, each partner fulfilled their role while coordinating with the others.

The new system was inaugurated in October 2019, bringing clean water to every home in Renpoche. In each location, there are now pipes for drinking water and others for irrigation. Each community water system is managed by its own elected council. There are committees dedicated to maintenance, sanitation, and health—including encouraging families to build latrines. Council members monitor the pipes to make sure leaks are fixed right away. They also monitor water use, collect member fees that pay for upkeep and repairs, and check water quality. They are running a business in which every household is an investor—and a beneficiary.

Having access to clean water has transformed the lives of local farmers as well.

"In this place, we have everything we need for a good life," says coffee farmer Alejandro Perez, 43. He didn't always feel that way. In fact, there was a time when he was ready to migrate. He grew vegetables on others people's land then, and it seemed he couldn't catch a break from bad weather, back-breaking work, or a lack of work.

"I didn't know how to improve my life. But I knew that if I left, I'd not only lose my land, I'd lose my family," says Alejandro. World Vision's THRIVE (Transforming Household Resilience in Vulnerable Environments) program helped him turn his life around. He learned how to improve his crop yields, increase his profits, and expand into other products including fruits, vegetables, chickens, and eggs. He even learned to tend tilapia ponds, harvesting and selling the protein-rich fish. "It's good nutrition and money for my children's education," he says.

Alejandro's formal education ended in ninth grade, but he proudly considers himself a lifelong learner because of the opportunities he's received through World Vision. His children are evidence of



At age 13, sponsored child Nahomy is a child rights advocate, community organizer, and Yamaranguila's youth mayor.

community change, as his oldest son, 20, recently graduated from secondary school and plans to study coffee production in college. Alejandro's 9-year-old son, Erlin, is a sponsored child learning to raise hens under his mom's supervision.

And others in his 15-member growers' group are learning from Alejandro and now follow his lead for planting, harvesting, and processing. Applying the methods he learned through THRIVE has paid off. Where the average farmer produces 30 100-pound sacks of coffee on 1 acre, Alejandro gets 100 sacks. He's able to command a higher price, too, because his coffee is higher quality. Even with the global price of coffee declining, Alejandro and the other coffee farmers in his group are making a profit and have strategies to remain competitive.





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 turned away from alcohol and dedicated himself to his family and community.

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,

"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."

— ROGER

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, Wencelas 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 Rodríguez. 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 delivered them. The Lenca Institute students we followed in this story continued with their work and the boys are on track to graduate.

Elda Solorzano, World Vision program manager for Yamaranguila, says the community holds firm to its vision for continuing development. Facing the pandemic has even increased their appreciation for living in the countryside and caring for natural resources. 📌



MAKE A GIFT

to the World Vision Fund to empower children and families like Ever's. See the insert between pages 18 and 19, call 1.888.852.4453, or scan the code to give online.



The GIFT of GOATS

Photographs by
LAURA REINHARDT

By
KATHRYN REID

EDITOR'S NOTE:
STORY AND PHOTOS WERE GATHERED BEFORE THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC BEGAN.

📍 **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, Better, 9, and his sisters, 7-year-old Loveness and 4-year-old Hannah, dig into plates of *nshima*,* a corn-flour porridge, and *mundyoli*,* 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 Better, mimicking Mazuba, the mother goat who gives lots of milk. Shyly, Loveness chimes in with a “ba-a-a,” the high and pleading 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.

Impact fact

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



*GET THE RECIPES

Scan to get these and other recipes to try with your family.



“
A YEAR
AGO,
we had
TWO
GOATS.
Then
WORLD
VISION
gave us
FIVE
MORE.
”
—ELIOT

“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 agricultural economists and climate scientists to realize that more goats, better goats, and better goat husbandry could make the difference between success and failure. Goats can be the sustainable income source they need.

Left: Loveness waters greens in the family garden after getting water in a bucket from a stream nearby.

Right: Better uses his staff to herd his family’s goats. He takes great care of the animals and makes sure they have plenty of food and water.

Far right, top: Better, second from left, leads the pack when the boys in his school play soccer during a break.

Far right, bottom: Patricia, the children’s mom, serves a nutritious lunch from maize and vegetables her family grew and harvested.



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.

“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 care-

fully and makes sure each one gets a drink when he pours water for them from a jerrycan into two pans.

Better may be a good goat herder, but he’s an even better student. Both he and Loveness 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.” 📌

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 Loveness’ 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. 📌



GIVE *the* GIFT
of a GOAT

Help families like Loveness’ and Better’s. See the insert between pages 18 and 19, call 1.888.852.4453, or scan the code to give online.

Impact fact

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

12 ways World Vision is fighting

COVID-19



BY KATHRYN REID



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.

WATCH COLLINS' AND HIS SPONSOR'S STORY

by scanning the code.



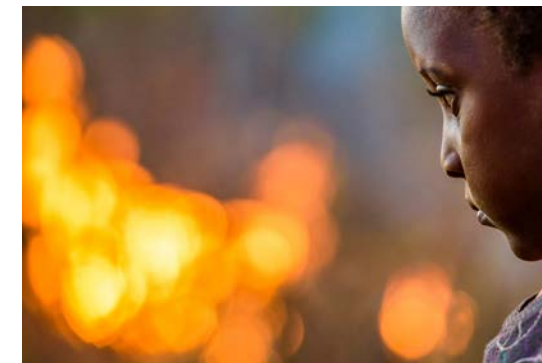
KONDWANI-JERE FOR WORLD VISION

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.*



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

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.



D. OTGONKHUU/WORLD VISION

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 women 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.*

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.*



Bangladesh

THOMAS ABRAHAM/WORLD VISION

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.*



KRIS WAMBLEY/WORLD VISION

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.*



WHAT CAN WE DO IN 120 DAYS?

Scan the code to see an interactive timeline of World Vision’s U.S. response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Refugees and fragile contexts

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 Ohab, 48, 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.*

Disabilities



XU WEN/WORLD VISION

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.

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



NEOLA D SOUZA/WORLD VISION

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: *Dear Lord, 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.*

 **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.*


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.



 **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

A CALL FOR JUSTICE | 34

Pray for justice and explore racism through a biblical lens with the Rev. André Sims.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER | 32
Edgar Sandoval Sr. shares his heart not only as World Vision U.S. president but also as a father.



Christmas crafts around the world

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.



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 how 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 sponsorship that put the power to choose in children's hands. Chosen was the result of several years of diligent and prayerful

work, but ultimately, we regarded it as a gift from the Lord. We couldn't wait to fully unwrap it in 2020 as we engaged more churches and sponsors in this mutually transformative relationship.

In November 2019, I had the pleasure of attending a choosing party in Bangladesh, where I met Masrafi, a 4-year-old boy who chose my wife, Leiza, and me as his sponsors. He and his parents live in an ultra-poor community of 41,000 people. I'll never forget Masrafi's shy smile and his mom, Surmi, telling me, "Masrafi will serve his community when he grows up." I was so 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 and experience Chosen, 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,



Masrafi chose Edgar as his sponsor in 2019.



Masrafi and his mother
JULIET MONDOL/WORLD VISION

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 Christ overcomes! It never failed us. And we are bearers of that hope. That's how I choose to look back on this year: as a time when thousands of sponsors faithfully and often sacrificially cared for children like Masrafi, when Americans gave so families in their communities wouldn't go hungry.

It was a year when faith flourished—online instead of in

churches. When a Zoom call with a friend could go from chatting about the weather to a deep conversation about Jesus in record time. A year when more people than ever waded into the turbulent waters of racial injustice by reading books, listening to their Black friends, and taking action. In our physical distance, we learned that community is not only a place but also a way of being.

Looking ahead, our mission 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. 🙏



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

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 me 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. Sometimes the most well-intentioned people do that around issues of race. They choose not to engage because it’s political.

Or maybe they think they don’t

have enough information to discuss it well and fear they will say the wrong things. I get that. It’s uncomfortable, but Jesus never promised His followers comfort. Instead, He calls us to take up His cross. He calls us into relationship with one another, into relationship with people who don’t look like us. He calls us to celebrate with those who are joyful and to weep with those who mourn.

Enter the Good Samaritan

The Good Samaritan passed and saw a man lying in the ditch, bleeding, with his clothes torn. The Good Samaritan didn’t ask if this man might have deserved the beating or what the circumstances were around him being robbed.

What he saw was a man in need of his assistance. He demonstrated compassion and mercy by tending to the injured man’s immediate needs as best he could, but then got him to an inn where long-term healing could take place.

This summer, in the days following

the deaths of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd, friends of all races checked in on me to see how I was handling the grief, anger, and stress. They mourned with me as I mourned.

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.

But 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 perilous 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 one another’s stories—the difficulties, the heartbreaks, and the joy.

The church can be on the forefront of change when people who have the 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 beautifully diverse world of believers who care for, support, and love one another.

Just as the Good Samaritan did. 



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.




TAKE THE NEXT STEP

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

Pray for justice

By Denise C. Koenig

 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, heal us.

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

Lord, we lament the many ways people are valued differently based on wealth, skin color, and other factors. Help us remember that You made every person in Your image and love each of us deeply.

“My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious LORD Jesus Christ must not show favoritism. ... But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers.” —James 2:1, 9

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

Lord, help us follow this simple command. Every. Single. Day.


“And the heavens proclaim his righteousness, for he is a God of justice.” —Psalm 50:6

Lord, we humble 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-failing 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

Image: Desert In Jordan

JON WARREN/WORLD VISION



RAMON LUCAS JIMENEZ/WORLD VISION

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 ladder 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 a big dream and work hard for it,” she says. “I always looked forward to [her] letters,” she says. “In my letters to her, I would tell her how I did in school. Her answers were always encouraging.”

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. 📍



FIND WAYS TO CONNECT

with your sponsored child in your My World Vision account.



Muscle memory

EDITOR’S NOTE: THIS STORY AND PHOTO WERE GATHERED BEFORE THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC BEGAN.

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? 📍

Written and photographed by Jon Warren

Nikon Z6 camera

50mm lens

1/200th at f/1.8, ISO 200

#GIVINGTUESDAY

December 1

A DAY TO GIVE BACK



Nathan, 9,
Zambia

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