Beyond the pail
Empowering women and girls
Discover Gifts That Bring New Life

President: Edgar Sandoval Sr.
Editor-in-Chief: Sevil Omer
Managing Editors: Kristy J O’Hare Gleaspe, Andrina Peer
Senior Editor: Heather Klinger
Copy Editors: Sandra Boedecker, Denise C. Koeng
Contributing Editors: Karl Custome, Carla Gaethrop, Chris Huber, Lauren Reed, and Kathryn Reed
Photo Editor: Jon Warren
Design: Journey Group
Print Production: Betsy Grabinski

World Vision, a free triannual 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.

We welcome your comments or address changes. Contact us at: World Vision magazine, P.O. Box 3776, Federal Way, WA 98063-9716. Email us: wvmagazine@worldvision.org. To request to be taken off our mailing list, email us or call toll-free 1.877.596.0290.


Member: Evangelical Press Association and Association Media & Publishing

In the kitchen | 31
Quick escape | 32
Life frames | 33

Embark
Guatemala | 3
Ecuador | 4
Bangladesh | 6
India, Armenia, Bangladesh, and Honduras | 8

Discover
Chosen | 10
Their own words | 12
Water facts | 13

Inspire
A global movement | 28
Unity in Jesus | 30

Delight
In the kitchen | 31
Quick escape | 32
Life frames | 33

“I don’t want you to wait in the water for us to catch up, but to be a part of the water. I want you to be able to give children access to water.”
—Lidada Manyozo
World Vision advisor in Malawi

“God created water, and when we are drilling, we make a deliberate effort to seek guidance from that same God to provide water.”
—Lidada Manyozo
World Vision advisor in Malawi

President’s Letter | 2
When World Vision brings clean water, a child’s burden is lifted, her potential and dignity restored.

Our new invitation provides a reason to celebrate.
Their own words
Travel with us to hear what kids have to say.
Take a look at World Vision’s role in ending the global water crisis.
The lack of water determines 8-year-old Ireen’s future in Malawi.
A World Vision team in Malawi hits water and celebration.
Making menstrual pads empowers both girls and boys.

@WVMAGAZINE
of the water, but from worrying that she’ll be late to class—and fearing that the water she carries might make her sick. Missing precious days of school directly impacts her dreams. For every child like this girl, there are millions more girls and women who have no choice but to endure the pain of carrying water. Collectively they spend an estimated 200 million hours gathering water daily. Women and children in developing countries walk an average of 6 kilometers (over 3.7 miles) and haul an average of 40 pounds of water every day.

Girls watch their mothers walk daily for water and know this is part of their future too. With each heavy step, their dreams of a different life seem further and further away.

Such suffering and lost potential are what motivate us to combat the global water crisis in every way possible. She is why we won’t stop until every jerrycan full of dirty water on a girl’s head is replaced by the tools that empower her to unleash her dreams. We will keep working until the only weight she bears is a backpack as she happily walks to school.

We believe God created each person—and every girl—with a purpose in his kingdom. And we can have faith that he will multiply our efforts beyond what we can expect or imagine. Do you believe our Lord has the power to change the picture for this girl and every single child who lacks access to clean water? I do. So does World Vision. With God’s power working through us, we’ve set an ambitious goal to reach by 2030: to set kids free to pursue their potential by helping to provide access to clean water, improve sanitation, and support hygiene behavior change in every community where we do development work. To enable every girl to trade a jerrycan for school books. To empower every mom to spend time caring for and enjoying her family and attending church. To help communities build environments where healthy children and families pursue their God-given purpose.

If the picture of thriving children motivates you, I pray you’ll join us in our efforts to deliver clean water access around the world.

FROM MY VERY first trip with World Vision in 2015, it was clear that clean water is a key focus for our organization. My window into this extraordinary work was a visit to a water project funded by child sponsorship in Zambia, where I saw a borehole well that had transformed the community of Bulanda.

World Vision has been providing clean water for decades. In the 1980s, we started drilling projects in Ghana. By the 2000s, we were rapidly scaling up water work across Africa and other regions. Today, World Vision is the leading nongovernmental provider of clean water in the developing world—reaching one new person every 10 seconds and three more schools every day. It’s a miraculous impact, achieved through God’s power and the generosity of his people.

Why is clean water such a focus for us? Impressive numbers are not the reason. For me it all comes down to a child, like the girl you see in the photograph here. When you look at her, what do you see?

I see Ireen bound by her circumstances. She’s a prisoner, yet she’s committed no crime. The bucket Ireen carries on her head is a burden that becomes increasingly hard to bear. The older she gets, the bigger and heavier it gets. And the weight of it crushes more than just her head and spine—it steadily crushes her hopes.

I can imagine her, during her daily walk, agonizing not just from the weight of the water, but from worrying that she’ll be late to class—and fearing that the water she carries might make her sick. Missing precious days of school directly impacts her dreams.

For every child like this girl, there are millions more girls and women who have no choice but to undergo the pain of carrying water. Collectively they spend an estimated 200 million hours gathering water daily. Women and children in developing countries walk an average of 6 kilometers (over 3.7 miles) and haul an average of 40 pounds of water every day.

Girls watch their mothers walk daily for water and know this is part of their future too. With each heavy step, their dreams of a different life seem further and further away.

Such suffering and lost potential are what motivate us to combat the global water crisis in every way possible. She is why we won’t stop until every jerrycan full of dirty water on a girl’s head is replaced by the tools that empower her to unleash her dreams. We will keep working until the only weight she bears is a backpack as she happily walks to school.

We believe God created each person—and every girl—with a purpose in his kingdom. And we can have faith that he will multiply our efforts beyond what we can expect or imagine. Do you believe our Lord has the power to change the picture for this girl and every single child who lacks access to clean water? I do. So does World Vision. With God’s power working through us, we’ve set an ambitious goal to reach by 2030: to set kids free to pursue their potential by helping to provide access to clean water, improve sanitation, and support hygiene behavior change in every community where we do development work. To enable every girl to trade a jerrycan for school books. To empower every mom to spend time caring for and enjoying her family and attending church. To help communities build environments where healthy children and families pursue their God-given purpose.

If the picture of thriving children motivates you, I pray you’ll join us in our efforts to deliver clean water access around the world.

Lift her burden

By Edgar Sandoval Sr.

President’s letter

Embark

President’s letter

ONLINE
Learn 20 reasons to have hope in 2020 at wvmag.org/hope2020.

Embark

PRAYER
Almighty Lord, thank You for providing life-changing opportunities for families that struggle in extreme poverty.
Many families in Rioverde rely on fishing for their livelihoods. When anglers are able to share their bounty, it benefits everyone, as does sponsorship. “This town is very poor, so the support World Vision brings is greatly appreciated,” says Dexi Ballesteros, a school principal near Rioverde. “It doesn’t only benefit the [sponsored] children but the entire community.” Here, sponsorship provides school supplies, healthcare referrals, regular well-being checks from World Vision staff, educational training materials for teachers, and workshops that develop social and life skills.

CHRIS HUBER/WORLD VISION

3,500 CHILDREN BENEFIT FROM WORLD VISION SPONSORSHIP IN RIOVERDE.

Ecuador

Many families in Rioverde rely on fishing for their livelihoods. When anglers are able to share their bounty, it benefits everyone, as does sponsorship. “This town is very poor, so the support World Vision brings is greatly appreciated,” says Dexi Ballesteros, a school principal near Rioverde. “It doesn’t only benefit the [sponsored] children but the entire community.” Here, sponsorship provides school supplies, healthcare referrals, regular well-being checks from World Vision staff, educational training materials for teachers, and workshops that develop social and life skills.

CHRIS HUBER/WORLD VISION
Bangladesh

Fifteen-year-old Modhumala helps her mother, Shabitri Das, practice reading and writing. Shabitri, who was married at 11, is learning to read and has launched two businesses through World Vision’s Nobo Jatra program. “I thought throughout my life I would struggle with poverty and we would be unhappy forever,” remembers Shabitri. But now her kids are in school, and her family is thriving. “Nobo Jatra helped to make us independent,” says Modhumala, who dreams of being a lawyer.

JON WARREN/WORLD VISION
In celebration of Mother’s and Father’s Day, we want to honor the parents who love, who cherish, who mentor, and who care day in and day out.

PRAYER

We are grateful to You, Lord, for being our Source of living water—the One who satisfies our soul’s deepest desire with the joy of salvation.

The parched ground will become a pool, and springs of water will satisfy the thirsty land.
—ISAIAH 35:7 (NLT)

EXPLORE THE ISSUES FACING PEOPLE IN POVERTY

Venezuela-Colombia border

Five-year-old Sofia and her family are among the tens of thousands of migrants who have fled the turmoil in Venezuela. They live in a rented shack on a hillside in Cúcuta, Colombia. In her neighborhood, a World Vision Child-Friendly Space gives Sofia a safe place to play and to be a kid. Learn more about the crisis at wvmag.org/venezuela
Chosen celebrates empowered children

By Kristy J. O’Hara-Glaspie

Last autumn as the changing leaves marked the turn to a new season, World Vision launched a new invitation to sponsorship—Chosen. For the first time, children were empowered to choose their sponsor. In 10 countries, more than 10,000 children have approached a wall of photos and made, for some, their first important life choice by choosing a sponsor—someone who will believe in them, encourage them, and pray for them. Here are some of their stories.

Habiba Akter, 6
LOCATION: Bangladesh
SPONSOR: Sarah Dibbern, Minnesota

Habiba Akter’s older brother just finished ninth grade, but had to leave school because their parents couldn’t afford his exam fees. “It comes with tears,” says his mother, Hasina Talukdar. If Habiba’s parents can’t afford her fees, they will arrange a marriage north in the U.S., Barry and Lida were excited, too. “I see the kids choosing as a way to make them feel like somebody,” Barry says. Lida agreed. “This is such a good idea,” she says. “It gets people to act. It touches the heart.” With support from her sponsors, Cirila has a brighter future. “I want to be a teacher,” she says. “I want kids to learn.”

Laura Reinhardt and Heather Kliger of World Vision in the U.S. contributed to these stories.

Habiba Akter, 6
LOCATION: Bangladesh
SPONSOR: Sarah Dibbern, Minnesota

Habiba Akter’s older brother just finished ninth grade, but had to leave school because their parents couldn’t afford his exam fees. “It comes with tears,” says his mother, Hasina Talukdar. If Habiba’s parents can’t afford her fees, they will arrange a marriage north in the U.S., Barry and Lida were excited, too. “I see the kids choosing as a way to make them feel like somebody,” Barry says. Lida agreed. “This is such a good idea,” she says. “It gets people to act. It touches the heart.” With support from her sponsors, Cirila has a brighter future. “I want to be a teacher,” she says. “I want kids to learn.”

Laura Reinhardt and Heather Kliger of World Vision in the U.S. contributed to these stories.

Cirila Fabian Carrillo, 9
LOCATION: Guatemala
SPONSORS: Lida & Barry Stewart, Indiana

Cirila sings a song about a cow named Lola with pure, innocent joy. Sadly her family life isn’t so happy. Her father drinks a lot and doesn’t support the family, which makes life hard for her, her two siblings, and their mother, Gregoria Carrillo. But last year, Cirila got the opportunity to choose her sponsor. When she approached the wall of photos, she thought, “It is difficult to choose because there were so many photos.” But in the sea of smiling faces, her eyes narrowed in on one woman—Sarah Dibbern, a child and youth minister from Minnesota. Cirila chose her because, “She is beautiful and her smile.” When coworkers from Sarah’s church texted her from Bangladesh and shared that she was the first person chosen, that day in Bangladesh, she began to cry. She says, “It’s incredible that we have a God who chooses all of us and will continue to choose us, no matter what.”

“I felt very happy, very content. She gets to decide who is going to be a part of her life.”
—Gregoria Carrillo, mother of Cirila, on her daughter’s sponsorship through Chosen

Sarah Dibbern holds up a photo of Habiba Akter

I was captivated with my new friend’s smile.”
—Matilda Mweemba, 9
Zambia

“They look like they like to give hugs. And that they like to play.”
—Kelmer, 6
Guatemala

“You’re united, and you’re a cute family.”
—Greisy Garcia, 3
Guatemala

Visit worldvision.org/chosen to sign up
Spoken

Kids have a way of expressing of what’s on their hearts easier than grown-ups do. Travel with us as we explore what children have to say.

By Lauren Reed

"I don’t suffer thirst. When I drink water, I just run to the borehole and drink clean water.”

ROMAN, 11
a sponsored child

"I believe in God because without him, I am sad. I believe in him because he gives us wisdom, love, and happiness.”

NEIVI, 7
plays and smiles outside of a church in Colombia, where she and more than 30,350 children are benefiting from World Vision programs.

"My dream when I grow up is to be a teacher to teach other kids. I like to ride a bike and take care of my dolls. I like to go to school. I have learned the vowels and some colors.”

LINETH PRISCILA, 5
a sponsored child

"In the past, I had to go a long way to fetch water. It took me a lot of time, and I had less time to play and write my homework. Now water is near my home, and I come to fetch water whenever I have the opportunity. It’s just as fun and enjoyable as playing. I am happy to help my family and playing more.”

WAKIL, 9
Afghanistan

Water facts

By Kathryn Reid

IN THEIR WORDS

World Vision is reaching ONE new person every 10 SECONDS and THREE more schools every day with clean water.

World Vision is the leading nongovernmental provider of clean water in the developing world.

IN 2019, WORLD VISION HELPED:

- provide access to clean water for 3.3 MILLION people
- support hygiene behavior change for 3.8 MILLION people
- train 6,307 faith leaders on water-related behavior change
- form 5,582 water committees
- improve sanitation for 2.5 MILLION people
- support hygiene behavior change for 3.8 MILLION people
- train 6,307 faith leaders on water-related behavior change
- form 5,582 water committees
- improve sanitation for 2.5 MILLION people

TO LEARN MORE about the global water crisis, visit wvmag.org/watercrisis

#1

World Vision is the leading nongovernmental provider of clean water in the developing world.

844 MILLION people, globally, lack access to clean water.

World Vision commits to reach everyone, everywhere we work with clean water BY 2030

200 MILLION hours are spent collecting water daily by women and girls, who are disproportionately impacted by the global water crisis.

Water facts

IN THEIR WORDS

World Vision is reaching ONE new person every 10 SECONDS and THREE more schools every day with clean water.

World Vision is the leading nongovernmental provider of clean water in the developing world.

IN 2019, WORLD VISION HELPED:

- provide access to clean water for 3.3 MILLION people
- support hygiene behavior change for 3.8 MILLION people
- train 6,307 faith leaders on water-related behavior change
- form 5,582 water committees
- improve sanitation for 2.5 MILLION people
- support hygiene behavior change for 3.8 MILLION people
- train 6,307 faith leaders on water-related behavior change
- form 5,582 water committees
- improve sanitation for 2.5 MILLION people

TO LEARN MORE about the global water crisis, visit wvmag.org/watercrisis

#1

World Vision is the leading nongovernmental provider of clean water in the developing world.

844 MILLION people, globally, lack access to clean water.

World Vision commits to reach everyone, everywhere we work with clean water BY 2030

200 MILLION hours are spent collecting water daily by women and girls, who are disproportionately impacted by the global water crisis.

Water facts

IN THEIR WORDS

World Vision is reaching ONE new person every 10 SECONDS and THREE more schools every day with clean water.

World Vision is the leading nongovernmental provider of clean water in the developing world.

IN 2019, WORLD VISION HELPED:

- provide access to clean water for 3.3 MILLION people
- support hygiene behavior change for 3.8 MILLION people
- train 6,307 faith leaders on water-related behavior change
- form 5,582 water committees
- improve sanitation for 2.5 MILLION people
- support hygiene behavior change for 3.8 MILLION people
- train 6,307 faith leaders on water-related behavior change
- form 5,582 water committees
- improve sanitation for 2.5 MILLION people

TO LEARN MORE about the global water crisis, visit wvmag.org/watercrisis

#1

World Vision is the leading nongovernmental provider of clean water in the developing world.

844 MILLION people, globally, lack access to clean water.

World Vision commits to reach everyone, everywhere we work with clean water BY 2030

200 MILLION hours are spent collecting water daily by women and girls, who are disproportionately impacted by the global water crisis.
Thirsty for change

BY KARI COSTANZA | PHOTOS BY JON WARREN
he most beautiful of constellations, Orion, hangs low over the village in central Malawi. The stars around it are as uncountable as the grains of sand bordering Lake Malawi, 60 miles away. Far below Orion's shimmer, a rooster crows—an alarm clock with feathers, strutting through the darkness past a row of huts where adults and children yearn for a few more hours of rest.

Eight-year-old Ireen is fast asleep in her grandmother's one-room hut. Next door in her mother's house, her sister, Jekina, 4, stirs as the rooster continues the hullabaloo, no snooze button to silence him.

The girls' mother, Happiness—Chimwemwe in her native tongue of Chichewa—wakes in the dark to make her first walk of the day to collect water under the night sky. She ties her 1-month-old baby, Secret, securely to her back with a colorful piece of cloth, then walks with her twin sister, Gift, in single file from their huts to a stream where as many as a thousand people will collect water and wash clothes from morning until night. Although it is dark, the 26-year-olds don't need a flashlight. They know this path. They have been walking its treacherous terrain since they were 4.

Their family lives in the Great Rift Valley, the geological marvel that stretches nearly 4,000 miles from Lebanon's Bekaa Valley in the Middle East to Mozambique in southeastern Africa. The valley, actually a series of adjoining trenches, is the result of a rift: a fracture in the earth that continues to tear open the crust, causing chunks of earth to sink and molten rock to rise in the form of volcanic eruptions. The stream where the family collects water is within the Great Rift. The hills are rocky, the valleys slippery, and the changes in elevation make for a grueling and potentially dangerous climb—especially carrying a heavy bucket of water on your head in temperatures swelling over 90 degrees, your neck and calves aching, sweat trickling into your eyes and momentarily blinding you.

The stars above the path are dizzyingly spectacular, but their magnificence is lost on Happiness. The single mother worries about her house—at only 12 feet across, it’s too small for all four of her children. She worries about leaving Jekina alone every morning—what if someone tries to abduct her? She worries about feeding her son, Beauty, who is staying with his father, her ex-husband, tonight—the growing 11-year-old is always hungry, and there’s only one bag of maize left. She worries about Secret, adorable but fussy. And she worries about Ireen, the daughter who reminds her so much of herself—smart and feisty. How can Ireen reach for the stars in a place where food and water are unreachable?

In the Great Rift Valley region of Malawi, poverty and the lack of clean water create fractures that cut through society—producing rifts in families and communities, and hardships for girls like Ireen.

When Happiness returns with the day’s first supply of water, she is relieved to find Jekina still safely asleep in her small, round mud house. As the sun rises with a resolve that foretells another hot day, Ireen emerges from her grandmother’s hut. “I wake up happy,” she says, her joy taking the form of a brilliant smile. Ireen’s energy pulsates. Now that it’s daylight, it’s her turn to go for water.

Last year, Ireen asked her mother if she could start gathering water. She saw the weight her mother was carrying, pregnant with her fourth baby, struggling to feed and clothe her children. “I told her she was too young,” says Happiness. “Ireen insisted.” Although it’s a task she volunteered for, it’s not one Ireen enjoys. “It makes my neck hurt,” she says. But for girls in Malawi, carrying water is a rite of passage. “These kids have a heart to work on their own,” says Happiness. “Getting their own water shows independence—that they don’t need their mother to do it.”

Barefoot, Ireen can balance 20 pounds of water on her head, trying with all her might not to trip and fall. Injury is just one fear. The other is breaking the red plastic bucket. As her mother has warned her on many occasions, there’s no money for another. For us, it would be like wrecking the family car.

Ireen will walk for water up to three times a day, unless she helps with laundry. Then, she will go four times. Throughout the course of their daily water-col-
Playing helps ease that anxiety, if only temporarily. Ireen and her friends play games like Mira, a game played with three sticks that are moved apart to form a tower of rocks while avoiding being hit by a performer despite the challenges caused by the lack of water. 

Ireen searches for food in an empty maize storage bin, finding nothing.
Happiness bounces between Happiness’ and his father’s homes. He likes staying with his mother, but it comes at a cost. “The hardest part about staying here is being hungry,” he says. “It’s different at my father’s. At my father’s, I get to eat.” But at his father’s house, he doesn’t feel loved.

“The area is so big that there’s a lot of water-related conflict—most of it, in fact.” And if there were clean water? He sighs. “My life would be much easier.”

The chief of Ireen’s village could no longer settle a lot of disputes over water. “There was fighting and there was blood. They broke each other’s buckets. They wanted to wash clothes so their family to cook and sell. Far right: Ireen with her sponsor, Mereena. Right: A moment of joy as Ireen and her cousins find mice for the family to cook and sell. Far left: Ireen’s brother, Beauty, who bounces back and forth between divorced parents, is struggling.

The chief settles a lot of disputes over water. “The area is so big that there’s a lot of water-related conflict—most of it, in fact.” “If there were clean water?” He sighs. “My life would be much easier.”

The chief of Ireen’s village could no longer settle a lot of disputes over water. “There was fighting and there was blood. They broke each other’s buckets. They wanted to wash clothes so their family to cook and sell. Far right: Ireen with her sponsor, Mereena. Right: A moment of joy as Ireen and her cousins find mice for the family to cook and sell. Far left: Ireen’s brother, Beauty, who bounces back and forth between divorced parents, is struggling.

The chief settles a lot of disputes over water. “The area is so big that there’s a lot of water-related conflict—most of it, in fact.” “And if there were clean water?” He sighs. “My life would be much easier.”

The chief of Ireen’s village could no longer settle a lot of disputes over water. “There was fighting and there was blood. They broke each other’s buckets. They wanted to wash clothes so their family to cook and sell. Far right: Ireen with her sponsor, Mereena. Right: A moment of joy as Ireen and her cousins find mice for the family to cook and sell. Far left: Ireen’s brother, Beauty, who bounces back and forth between divorced parents, is struggling.

Happiness bounces between Happiness’ and his father’s homes. He likes staying with his mother, but it comes at a cost. “The hardest part about staying here is being hungry,” he says. “It’s different at my father’s. At my father’s, I get to eat.” But at his father’s house, he doesn’t feel loved.

“The area is so big that there’s a lot of water-related conflict—most of it, in fact.” “And if there were clean water?” He sighs. “My life would be much easier.”

The chief of Ireen’s village could no longer settle a lot of disputes over water. “There was fighting and there was blood. They broke each other’s buckets. They wanted to wash clothes so their family to cook and sell. Far right: Ireen with her sponsor, Mereena. Right: A moment of joy as Ireen and her cousins find mice for the family to cook and sell. Far left: Ireen’s brother, Beauty, who bounces back and forth between divorced parents, is struggling.

The chief settles a lot of disputes over water. “The area is so big that there’s a lot of water-related conflict—most of it, in fact.” “And if there were clean water?” He sighs. “My life would be much easier.”

The chief of Ireen’s village could no longer settle a lot of disputes over water. “There was fighting and there was blood. They broke each other’s buckets. They wanted to wash clothes so their family to cook and sell. Far right: Ireen with her sponsor, Mereena. Right: A moment of joy as Ireen and her cousins find mice for the family to cook and sell. Far left: Ireen’s brother, Beauty, who bounces back and forth between divorced parents, is struggling.

Happiness bounces between Happiness’ and his father’s homes. He likes staying with his mother, but it comes at a cost. “The hardest part about staying here is being hungry,” he says. “It’s different at my father’s. At my father’s, I get to eat.” But at his father’s house, he doesn’t feel loved.

“The area is so big that there’s a lot of water-related conflict—most of it, in fact.” “And if there were clean water?” He sighs. “My life would be much easier.”

The chief of Ireen’s village could no longer settle a lot of disputes over water. “There was fighting and there was blood. They broke each other’s buckets. They wanted to wash clothes so their family to cook and sell. Far right: Ireen with her sponsor, Mereena. Right: A moment of joy as Ireen and her cousins find mice for the family to cook and sell. Far left: Ireen’s brother, Beauty, who bounces back and forth between divorced parents, is struggling.

Happiness bounces between Happiness’ and his father’s homes. He likes staying with his mother, but it comes at a cost. “The hardest part about staying here is being hungry,” he says. “It’s different at my father’s. At my father’s, I get to eat.” But at his father’s house, he doesn’t feel loved.

“The area is so big that there’s a lot of water-related conflict—most of it, in fact.” “And if there were clean water?” He sighs. “My life would be much easier.”

The chief of Ireen’s village could no longer settle a lot of disputes over water. “There was fighting and there was blood. They broke each other’s buckets. They wanted to wash clothes so their family to cook and sell. Far right: Ireen with her sponsor, Mereena. Right: A moment of joy as Ireen and her cousins find mice for the family to cook and sell. Far left: Ireen’s brother, Beauty, who bounces back and forth between divorced parents, is struggling.

Happiness bounces between Happiness’ and his father’s homes. He likes staying with his mother, but it comes at a cost. “The hardest part about staying here is being hungry,” he says. “It’s different at my father’s. At my father’s, I get to eat.” But at his father’s house, he doesn’t feel loved.

“The area is so big that there’s a lot of water-related conflict—most of it, in fact.” “And if there were clean water?” He sighs. “My life would be much easier.”

The chief of Ireen’s village could no longer settle a lot of disputes over water. “There was fighting and there was blood. They broke each other’s buckets. They wanted to wash clothes so their family to cook and sell. Far right: Ireen with her sponsor, Mereena. Right: A moment of joy as Ireen and her cousins find mice for the family to cook and sell. Far left: Ireen’s brother, Beauty, who bounces back and forth between divorced parents, is struggling.

Happiness bounces between Happiness’ and his father’s homes. He likes staying with his mother, but it comes at a cost. “The hardest part about staying here is being hungry,” he says. “It’s different at my father’s. At my father’s, I get to eat.” But at his father’s house, he doesn’t feel loved.

“The area is so big that there’s a lot of water-related conflict—most of it, in fact.” “And if there were clean water?” He sighs. “My life would be much easier.”

The chief of Ireen’s village could no longer settle a lot of disputes over water. “There was fighting and there was blood. They broke each other’s buckets. They wanted to wash clothes so their family to cook and sell. Far right: Ireen with her sponsor, Mereena. Right: A moment of joy as Ireen and her cousins find mice for the family to cook and sell. Far left: Ireen’s brother, Beauty, who bounces back and forth between divorced parents, is struggling.
the sponsor and the whole family," she explains. And through economic empowerment programs funded by sponsorship, parents get support to start small businesses and establish better household finances. The increased income means they’re able to send their kids to school, put nutritious food on the table, and provide choices for the future.

One of the most immediate impacts sponsorship can have on kids’ health and overall well-being is funding borehole wells and water systems. Once a community has easy access to clean, safe water, they no longer suffer from water-related diseases like diarrhea and cholera—and women and girls are no longer trapped in the cycle of walking for water. Working alongside Mereena to bring that reality to Ireen’s community is Liddah Manyozo, 37, a World Vision technical advisor to a team of drillers who are charged with bringing water to communities across Malawi.

“My hope for Ireen is that one day she will have a borehole in her village with safe water,” says Liddah, who also carried water as a girl—“it was a part of life,” she remembers. For Liddah, who holds a bachelor of science in agriculture with an emphasis on nutrition, finding clean water is not just a technical exercise, but a spiritual one. “God created water,” she says, “and when we are drilling, we make a deliberate effort to seek guidance from that same God to provide water.”

Rounding out the team of strong women in Ireen’s life is Irene Chongwe, 33, a World Vision staff member who teaches families how to stay clean and healthy through sanitation and hygiene practices. Irene started carrying water for her family at the age of 10, when her mother died. Although she moved from home to home after her mother’s death, she clung tenaciously to the chance for an education, eventually earning an advanced diploma in community development from Malawi Polytechnic. As an expert in sanitation and hygiene, Irene has her work cut out for her: Only 50% of the families in this community have latrines and hand-washing stations.

World Vision staff play a special role in the lives of the children they serve, and Mereena knows it’s particularly important for them to see women in leadership. “We are like role models to Ireen,” says Mereena. “She can have hope that she can make it.”

Together, the three women, World Vision staff, and community members are working diligently to empower Ireen and other children like her to become change makers. “World Vision focuses on children. Children are the future of this country,” Mereena says. “So working with children, I know I am contributing to the development of this country.”

**HOPE IN THE VALLEY**

It’s evening in the village. Gift’s sons are crab-walking in the dirt. Jekina is dancing to music of her own making, and Ireen is playing with her friends. Beauty is at his father’s house; otherwise he’d join in the fun.

Things have taken a positive turn: Happiness has called the chief and told him that World Vision has come. “They want to meet with him,” she says with a smile, holding Secret in her arms. “He’ll be here on Tuesday.” Working with the chief—even if he has moved away—is crucial to ensure that any progress made is lasting.

The idea of a borehole in the community is exhilarating. “It would bring so much change in my life and the community,” says Happiness. “It would mean the end of walking for water. We would be able to rest. We would be able to work in the garden. My children could play and do their schoolwork.” She’s equally intrigued by the idea of child sponsorship, especially for Ireen. “By being in the program, it would help Ireen know that she is remembered,” she says. “It would help her work harder in school and have a better future.”

A gentle breeze blows through the palm trees and the clouds turn the color of roses as the sun fades. Orion will soon appear. The rooster struts by, preparing for tomorrow. He needs to be ready. Morning comes early in the Great Rift Valley.

Charles Kabena and Wezzie Nungu of World Vision’s staff in Malawi contributed to this story.
WATER AND CELEBRATION erupt when a drilling crew blasts a burst of air into a borehole they are drilling in Mpondagaga village in Malawi. Once the water runs clear, the drilling team will cap the borehole until the water can be tested to make sure it is safe to drink and they be forced to walk to the nearest village center, an exhausting distance of four miles each way, when the water hole dries up.

A 10-member World Vision drilling team in Malawi ushered in the big splash in October 2019. The team works to bring clean water to communities across Malawi, and with your support, hopefully could bring to Ireen’s in the near future (see page 14). They spend seven months in the field each year, camping in the communities they serve. Along with other World Vision water teams around the globe, they ensure World Vision provides clean water to a new person every 10 seconds.

In each community, World Vision works with local leaders to determine the best sustainable solution to provide clean water, whether it’s a borehole well, capped spring, or a solar-panel mechanized system. Here, trucks traversed great distances to drill 170 feet underground, using 17 drilling rods, to tap into water aquifers.

“We provide safe water to children,” says Stafford Labani, 39, a World Vision drilling team member. “We are proud of that. Water is life. We provide life given by God.”

One joyful mother, Faliness Nirenda, danced and sang all day as the drilling crew worked. She joyfully declared, “This will restore our dignity!” Women and girls in her village will no longer have to walk to a 6-foot-deep hole, where people waited in long lines to collect milky-colored water that slowly seeps out of the ground. They won’t have to risk encounters with poisonous snakes, buffalo, hyenas, and belligerent cattle along the way. Nor will a building crew come to install a hand pump.

In each community, World Vision works with local leaders to determine the best sustainable solution to provide clean water, whether it’s a borehole well, capped spring, or a solar-panel mechanized system. Here, trucks traversed great distances to drill 170 feet underground, using 17 drilling rods, to tap into water aquifers.

“We provide safe water to children,” says Stafford Labani, 39, a World Vision drilling team member. “We are proud of that. Water is life. We provide life given by God.”
Discover

HERE’S HOW CHILDREN MAKE MENSTRUAL PADS.

By Kristy J. O’Hara-Glaspie

**Make a reusable menstrual pad**

**WHEN GIRLS START** their periods, it’s usually met with either feelings of excitement or dread, depending on how each girl views the coming changes that prepare them for womanhood. But for many girls in developing countries, it often comes as a ticking clock that marks the beginning of the end of their education.

Many schools don’t have latrines where girls can take care of themselves during their periods, and beyond that, most girls in poor countries don’t have access to—or could they afford—reusable pads or tampons. Without feminine products, many girls skip school while on their periods. That means they miss up to a week of school every month so girls start to fall behind and eventually drop out. Alternatively, some girls make their pads using products that can be unhygienic or even dangerous, such as newspaper, grass, hay, or cow dung.

To help ensure periods don’t mark the end of a girl’s schooling, World Vision dedicates part of its water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) work to address this critical issue. This means working with communities to install latrines at schools so girls can care for themselves during their periods and, beyond that, most girls in poor countries don’t have access to—or could they afford—reusable pads or tampons. Without feminine products, many girls skip school while on their periods. That means they miss up to a week of school every month so girls start to fall behind and eventually drop out. Alternatively, some girls make their pads using products that can be unhygienic or even dangerous, such as newspaper, grass, hay, or cow dung.

To help ensure periods don’t mark the end of a girl’s schooling, World Vision dedicates part of its water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) work to address this critical issue. This means working with communities to install latrines at schools so girls can care for themselves during their periods. And in partnership with Sesame Workshop—the nonprofit that brings us “Sesame Street”—we work with both boys and girls through our WASH behavior change clubs to reduce the stigma surrounding periods by teaching how it’s a natural part of life. Kids even learn how to make and care for reusable hygienic pads—girls for themselves, but boys too so they can support their sisters and moms. Here’s how children make menstrual pads.

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Cut the piece of cotton into a long shape with rounded ends. Then cut the plastic piece slightly larger than the cotton piece.
2. Cut the fabric longer than the previously cut pieces and with wings on the edges of the long sides.
3. Thread your needle and sew the cotton piece to the plastic piece.
4. Sew that combined piece to the fabric piece, the cotton side facing outward and plastic side between the fabric and cotton.
5. On the edge of one of the wings, sew the button on.
6. On the opposite wing, also along the edge, cut a small, narrow hole for the button to fit through.
7. To wear it, place the pad in your underwear, wrap the wings under, and use the button to secure it in place.

**MATERIALS NEEDED:**

- A piece of light, flexible plastic, like a plastic bag
- A piece of clean, absorbent material, like cotton
- A piece of fabric
- A needle and thread
- A button
- Scissors (preferably fabric or sharp enough to cut through fabric)

**MOTIVATING YOU TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

At the start of the Global 6K for Water at Chicago, Joshua Wittig, 8, happily spots Uganda’s flag. Joshua was adopted from Uganda when he was 3. His family joined more than 52,000 people worldwide for the 6K. “It’s such a tangible connection to people around the world,” says his dad, Mark (center, blue shorts). “You can go together as a family and make a difference.”

**INSPIRATIONAL ESSAY | 30**

The church and World Vision are uniting to create a better life for kids in El Salvador.

**PRAYER**

Loving God, we ask for Your blessings on children and their families who are thirsty. Purify, protect, and multiply their water sources.

**INSPIRATIONAL ESSAY | 30**

The church and World Vision are uniting to create a better life for kids in El Salvador.

**PRAYER**

Loving God, we ask for Your blessings on children and their families who are thirsty. Purify, protect, and multiply their water sources.
INSPIRE

Thousands of people worldwide are gearing up for World Vision’s Global 6K for Water on May 16. Six kilometers, a little more than 3 miles, is the average distance people in the developing world walk for water—water that’s often contaminated with life-threatening diseases. We caught up with a few participants who shared the motivation behind their 6K efforts past and present.

Ashlyn and Victor Fernandez, both 35
Hayward, California

“Being in service to make an impact in the life of a child is amazing, and the Global 6K for Water opens that door for everybody,” says Ashlyn. Diagnosed with cerebral palsy, she used leg braces to walk the 2018 Global 6K “to prove to myself that I could do it.” When she was unable to finish the course, she learned that “it was okay.” What she didn’t expect at the 6K’s end was a heart-melting surprise: a wedding proposal from her college sweetheart, Victor.

Chloe Unson, 24
Yokohama, Japan

Last year, Chloe, a teacher at Yokohama Christian Elementary School, helped lead 22 kids through the 6K. A few kids complained of the distance but soon realized “how their peers couldn’t stop because their lives depended on it, even if it was to gather contaminated water that made them sick.” She had them write an essay about their experience. “Our students wanted to be the source of their relief. They wanted to do it again. I’ve grown in my faith,” she says. “Before, I helped my family, my church, and the people I love. Now, I’m learning to help the stranger.”

Justus Koech, 48
Nairobi, Kenya

“By running, I can be the voice of that child, that girl, that woman who has never imagined that water can be found just a few minutes from their home. I want to be a voice for the women who break their backs walking long distance carrying 20 liters (4 gallons) of water which is not enough to cook and clean in the household. I am motivated by the fact that by helping mobiles others to run in Kenya, we can make a difference in the lives of our communities.”

By Sevil Omer

ON MAY 16, join the world’s largest 6K walk for water. Find a host site near you or host your own 6K. LEARN MORE AND REGISTER AT wvmag.org/6K.
Gangs are known for the murders and violence that spread hopelessness and poverty and make El Salvador one of the world’s deadliest nations. But surprisingly, they have respect for the church. Gang members will often tell each other, “God is strong. Don’t get on his bad side.”

As we reflect on Easter and Jesus’ death and resurrection, I think of the criminals who hung beside Jesus on the cross. One of the criminals said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom” (Luke 23:42). And despite his crime, Jesus welcomed him into paradise.

Before he was crucified, one of Jesus’ final prayers was for unity among his followers. Jesus said, “I pray … that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me” (John 17:20-21).

In El Salvador, the church is united for the well-being of children. The church is following Christ in welcoming former gang members and criminals and making a direct, life-giving impact in the lives of men, women, and children. For the first time, Protestants and Roman Catholics are coming together to help heal and protect their communities. World Vision is at the heart of this work through the church. We are mobilizing resources for pastors, priests, Sunday school teachers, and youth leaders. These are used with their skills and support to lead clubs, classes, and small groups for parents and caregivers as well as for children and teens.

Through our Creciendo con Jesús (Growing with Jesus) program, we are training thousands of pastors and priests to help them become our indispensable partners in protecting children.

As part of this program, church leaders learn what Scripture has to say about parenting, marriage, family, and discipleship. Our motivation is to help parents raise their children with kindness instead of perpetuating the cycle of domestic and societal violence. They also learn how to train their congregations to put these values into action.

The vision of a peaceful El Salvador—held by staff as well as of Salvadoran pastors and priests—is dramatically expanding. “The government cannot solve the problem alone. Nor can the police or schools. It is the church, which is in every community in El Salvador, that can change our country,” says Edwin Alberto Mira, World Vision’s Christian discipleship coordinator in El Salvador. “Our goal is to catalyze the church to change this country.”

The impact of these efforts? Churches and leaders are equipped to help further reduce violence faced by families. Churches are coming together to learn, pray, and to make a life-saving difference in communities. Parents are improving their marriages and parenting skills. Children are learning how to protect themselves. Youth are learning options to avoid gangs and violence. Young lives are being saved. Hope is being restored. God is honored.

Young lives are being saved. Hope is being restored. God is honored.

Unity in Jesus

By Torrey Olsen

Gangs are known for the murders and violence that spread hopelessness and poverty and make El Salvador one of the world’s deadliest nations. But surprisingly, they have respect for the church. Gang members will often tell each other, “God is strong. Don’t get on his bad side.”

As we reflect on Easter and Jesus’ death and resurrection, I think of the criminals who hung beside Jesus on the cross. One of the criminals said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom” (Luke 23:42). And despite his crime, Jesus welcomed him into paradise.

Before he was crucified, one of Jesus’ final prayers was for unity among his followers. Jesus said, “I pray … that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me” (John 17:20-21).

In El Salvador, the church is united for the well-being of children. The church is following Christ in welcoming former gang members and criminals and making a direct, life-giving impact in the lives of men, women, and children. For the first time, Protestants and Roman Catholics are coming together to help heal and protect their communities. World Vision is at the heart of this work through the church. We are mobilizing churches to act and help their communities. World Vision developed resources for pastors, priests, Sunday school teachers, and youth leaders. These are used with their skills and support to lead clubs, classes, and small groups for parents and caregivers as well as for children and teens.

Through our Creciendo con Jesús (Growing with Jesus) program, we are training thousands of pastors and priests to help them become our indispensable partners in protecting children.

As part of this program, church leaders learn what Scripture has to say about parenting, marriage, family, and discipleship. Our motivation is to help parents raise their children with kindness instead of perpetuating the cycle of domestic and societal violence. They also learn how to train their congregations to put these values into action.

The vision of a peaceful El Salvador—held by staff as well as of Salvadoran pastors and priests—is dramatically expanding. “The government cannot solve the problem alone. Nor can the police or schools. It is the church, which is in every community in El Salvador, that can change our country,” says Edwin Alberto Mira, World Vision’s Christian discipleship coordinator in El Salvador. “Our goal is to catalyze the church to change this country.”

The impact of these efforts? Churches and leaders are equipped to help further reduce violence faced by families. Churches are coming together to learn, pray, and to make a life-saving difference in communities. Parents are improving their marriages and parenting skills. Children are learning how to protect themselves. Youth are learning options to avoid gangs and violence. Young lives are being saved. Hope is being restored. God is honored.

And what does this mean for us in the U.S.? We who follow Jesus must commit anew to work together with other believers so our communities will see him as they see love between his people.
What would you take if you had to suddenly leave your home because it was too dangerous to stay? Emergencies, including conflict and natural disasters, force millions of families to make difficult choices.

Find out what decisions you’d have to make if you were forced to flee. The goal of this activity is to help your children differentiate between wants and needs, as well as imagine the choices refugees and displaced people must make in the most challenging times.

PLAY THE GAME:

A massive storm is heading for our state, so we have to leave for safety and will need to live far away while the state is cleaned up and rebuilt. Close your eyes for a minute and imagine where you will go. How will we get there, what will it look like, and who will we meet? Okay, open your eyes. What’s similar and what’s different about what each of us imagined?

WHAT YOU’LL NEED:
- A representative item or photo for everything on the packing list
- A bag or backpack big enough for all of the items or photos

1 NOW, LET’S PACK:
- Food
- Candy
- Water
- Music
- Movies
- Books
- Toys and sports equipment
- Money
- Clothing
- Clean air
- Bed
- Medicine
- Family
- Computer
- Phone
- Games
- Identification
- Toiletries

2 WAIT! Our transportation (car, bus, train, etc.) has limited our cargo space to 10 items. What do we want to take, and what do we need to take? Take out items.

3 UH-OH. More people had to join us, and an emergency announcement just came through that there is even less space available. We can only take seven items total. Take out three more items.

4 ARRIVAL. We reached the place where we will be living. We know nobody. We speak a different language. How will we get settled and build a life here with what we brought?

OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS, people have fled Syria, Venezuela, South Sudan, Haiti, Puerto Rico, and Myanmar, just to name a few. They often left suddenly to avoid sudden violence or storms. Learn more about what life is like for people fleeing at wvmag.org/real.

Written and photographed by Chris Huber
Canon EOS 6D Mark II
50mm
1/500th at f/7.1, ISO 200

What? Delight
Food
Candy
Water
Music
Movies
Books
Toys and sports equipment
Money
Clothing
Clean air
Bed
Medicine
Family
Computer
Phone
Games
Identification
Toiletries

Quick escape

By Carla Gaethrop and Kristy J. O’Hara-Glaspie

I HAD JUST VISITED
families all over Ecuador to
gather stories. My task now?
Capture pictures of kids
with alpacas from the
World Vision Gift Catalog. I
was tired but ready to cap off
the trip with two days of fun
in the Andean highlands with
these cuddly, fluffy animals.

After hours of driving to
12,500 feet above sea level,
the lack of oxygen was get-
ing to me. My local cowork-
ers packed an oxygen tank,
just in case, and I was hoping
I wouldn’t need it.

Now I had to coax
baby alpacas to a particular
spot, think up funny things
to say to make kids laugh—in
my second language—kind-
ly fend off young children
peeking over my shoulder at
my camera screen, and dis-
patch community elders to
wrangle jumpy and wayward
alpacas like this one.

Finally, all the elements
came together with 11-year-
old Andy hooting with joy
as he fell over and this baby
alpaca with its intense
expression. And I didn’t
need the oxygen tank, so I’d
say it was a successful day.
Join the world’s largest 6K for water on May 16, 2020!

Family fun. Global impact.

Sign up now at worldvision6k.org