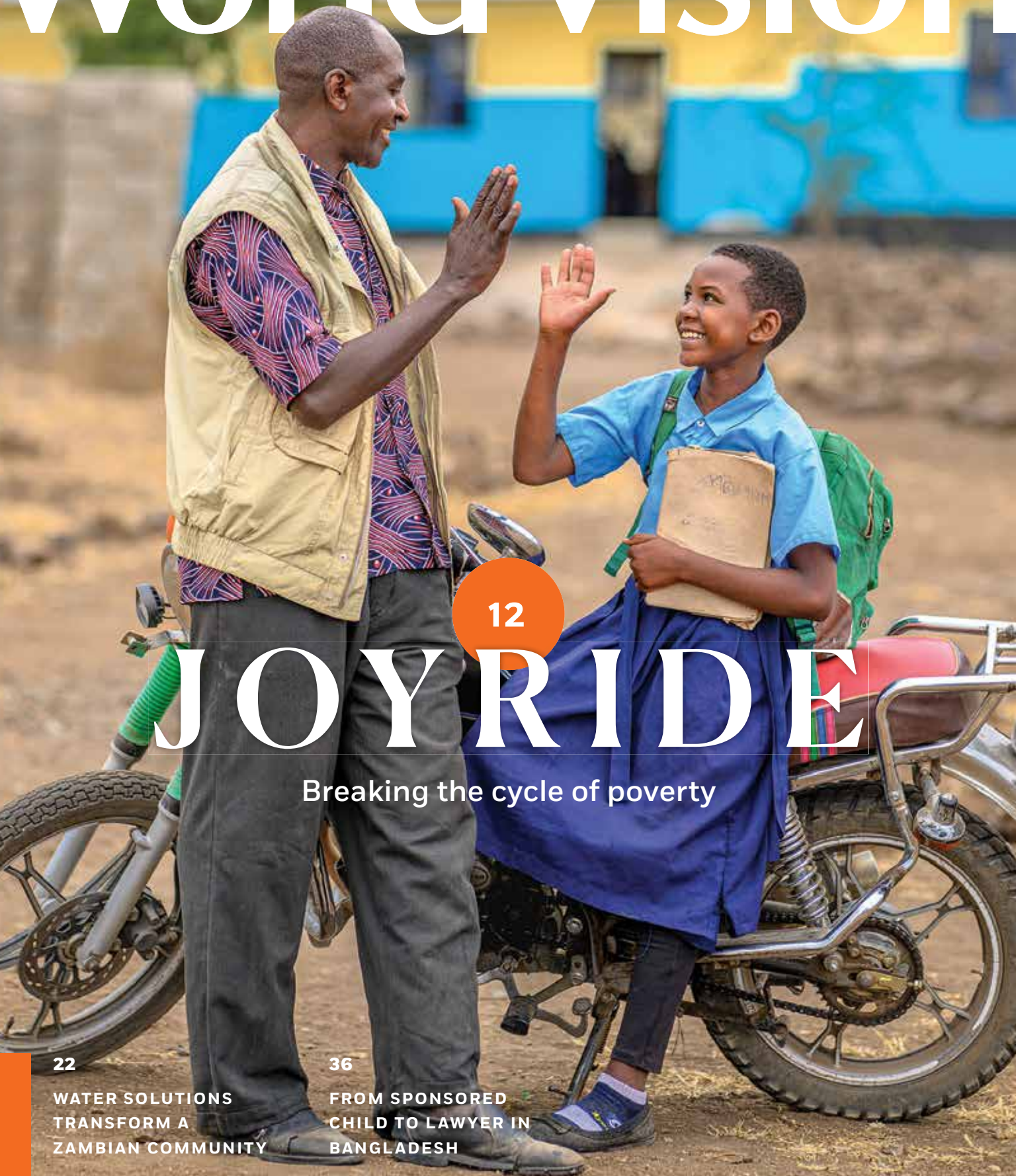


World Vision

SPRING 2024



12

JOYRIDE

Breaking the cycle of poverty

22

WATER SOLUTIONS
TRANSFORM A
ZAMBIAN COMMUNITY

36

FROM SPONSORED
CHILD TO LAWYER IN
BANGLADESH

A hassle-free meal kit. Or ... a hunger-free childhood.

Help create change that lasts longer than that meal kit delivered to your front door.

Hunger robs kids of their childhood. But now there's a new subscription that can feed children while empowering them and their families to leave extreme poverty behind.

The time is now to help kids reach their God-given potential and taste a future full of hope.

Subscribe to
world change



World Vision



CD19834-0224 © 2024 World Vision Inc.

World Vision

President and CEO Edgar Sandoval Sr.

Editor-in-Chief Kristy J. O'Hara-Glaspie

Copy Editors

Amy Bird, Sandra Boedecker, Anna Johnson Duque, Beth Gallick, and Aubrey Leasure

Contributing Editors

Kari Costanza, André Guardiola, Annila Harris, Sevil Omer, and Laura Reinhardt

Photo Editor Jon Warren

Photo Research Lauren Reed

Design Journey Group

Print Production Betsy Grabinski

World Vision, a free publication, affirms people responding to God's call to care for people living in poverty by providing information, inspiration, and opportunities for action, linking them with children and families through the work of our staff in nearly 100 countries. 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 9716, 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.

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. www.zondervan.com The "NIV" and "New International Version" are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.

Member, Evangelical Press Association



1.866.332.4453
Copyright © 2024 by World Vision, Inc.

World Vision

ON THE COVER

Meshack high-fives his daughter Faith after driving her to school in Tanzania.
JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

Contents

WORLD VISION MAGAZINE | SPRING 2024 | VOL. 27, NO. 2

PRESIDENT'S LETTER | 2

Edgar Sandoval Sr. shares about a young man who inspired him in Honduras.



BRITTANY FAN/JOURNEY GROUP

3

• Embark

- Uganda | 3
- Honduras | 4
- Afghanistan | 6
- United States | 8

9

• Discover

- Cambodia | 9
 - World watch | 10
- Explore five places where a disaster response was the start of long-term change.

31

• Inspire

- In the kitchen | 31
 - 5 ways to pray for lasting change | 32
 - On the move with Team World Vision | 34
- Try our recipe for Venezuelan arepas with your family.
- Long-term change is an ongoing, rarely simple, process. Here are some ways to pray when you're in the messy middle.
- Across the U.S., people are going the distance to fundraise for clean water around the world.

COVER STORY

The work of their hands: change that lasts | 12

A decade ago, Mbuyuni village faced many challenges, but after World Vision's Biblical Empowered Worldview training, its residents are embracing hope.

Dreams flow freely: Loveness and the gift of water | 22

Loveness's dreams for the future were at risk—but they're back on track now that her community has access to clean water.

From hardship to helping | 36

A former sponsored child in Bangladesh now works as a lawyer with a heart for women and children.

Life frames | 37

A mom in Laos is empowered to nurture her child's health.

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.

- Advocacy
- Child protection
- Child sponsorship
- Christian faith
- Clean water
- Disability inclusion
- Economic empowerment
- Education
- Emergency response
- Gender equality
- Health
- Hunger and food security
- Poverty in America
- Prayer
- Refugees

“Before Empowered Worldview, I couldn't believe I could have a good life.”

—Meshack

● President's letter

PHOTO COURTESY OF EDGAR SANDOVAL SR.



Ready to shine

By Edgar Sandoval Sr.

I'VE MET A LOT OF entrepreneurs in my day, but none like the young women and men at an entrepreneurship fair in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. With their business plans and products displayed on tables in front of them, they radiated enthusiasm and pride.

Each one of them had overcome considerable challenges to be there. Rampant unemployment and widespread domestic violence in Honduras hold young people back from reaching their dreams. Many turn to gangs to find purpose and identity. Others make the risky choice to migrate to another country in search of opportunity, leaving behind all they know and love.

I believe God intends more for these kids. So do the pastors who partner with World Vision in Honduras. They go into high-risk neighborhoods and seek out kids in these no-win situations, offering them a different path through Youth Ready—a World Vision program that provides job readiness training and mentoring for youth. With the practical skills they build and the supportive guidance they receive, these bright young people are empowered to resist harmful choices and dream big for their futures.

For one of the entrepreneurs I met, 23-year-old Kevin, Youth Ready was a lifeline at his lowest point.

Kevin was born with cerebral palsy and uses a wheelchair. Growing up, he faced discrimination and bullying because of his physical limitations. He felt that he was nothing but a burden to his parents, causing him to spiral into insecurity and

Edgar visits with Kevin, a Youth Ready program participant in Honduras.

depression. “I had no direction, and my dreams were dead,” he said. “This is why I wanted to die, because during that time I didn’t have a purpose in life.”

Such hopelessness hurts my heart, especially as the dad of a wheelchair-using daughter with cerebral palsy. I know how valuable each child is in our Father’s eyes. And yet I also know that in the world’s most difficult places, where poverty impacts access to medical care and social services, children with disabilities are often the most vulnerable.

Thankfully, that wasn’t the end of Kevin’s story. He learned about Youth Ready through a local church that partners with World Vision. He started attending the workshops and eventually pursued the entrepreneurship track, learning skills a business owner needs, like administration and finance. Now Kevin manages a thrift shop, earning an income to help his family while also saving up to open more shops and employ people with disabilities.

Youth Ready gave him the sense of purpose he craved—and much more. “I learned to believe in myself, in what I’m able to do, and best of all to have dreams and make them true,” he said.

What a change for Kevin! From feeling despair to gaining skills that will carry him confidently into the future. Now he hopes his experience can be an encouragement. “I want to advise other youth: You don’t need to risk your life and migrate to another country. You can be happy here,” he said. “You just need to have faith, trust God, and work hard to accomplish anything you want.”

Having the right tools and support is only part of the formula for such deep and lasting transformation. The rest comes from knowing who we are in the eyes of our Lord. As Ephesians 2:10 says, “we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

I left the entrepreneurship fair in Tegucigalpa inspired. The youth I met were equipped to do more than work—they were ready to shine as God’s handiwork and bring hope to their troubled communities. 🌟

Edgar Sandoval Sr.
is president and CEO
of World Vision.

FOLLOW HIM
ON SOCIAL MEDIA
📱 @EdgarSandovalSr
🌐 @EdgarASandovalSr

He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.
—ECCLESIASTES 3:11

Embark

COME IN AND SEE THE WORLD

What does child labor look like? See photos and learn more at wvmag.org/labor ahead of June 12, World Day Against Child Labor.

Uganda

📍 Harriet, a South Sudanese refugee and a young mother, celebrates her graduation together with her daughter. After a three-month fashion and design course in Uganda, Harriet has honed her craft with World Vision's support.

Her journey toward self-reliance is capped with the gift of a start-up kit funded by World Vision, which includes a sewing machine, a tape measure, and various clothing materials.



BRIAN MUNGU/WORLD VISION

WORLD VISION HAS AIDED OVER

2 MILLION

PEOPLE AFFECTED BY THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN VENEZUELA SINCE 2019, THROUGH PROGRAMS FOCUSED ON CHILD PROTECTION, EDUCATION, FOOD SECURITY, ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER, AND MORE IN SEVEN COUNTRIES.





Honduras

👤 Carla and José Luis, a young Venezuelan couple, set out on a challenging journey, driven by the dream of securing a better future for their son, Said, 4. Faced with Venezuela's deteriorating economic and political situation, which has been marked by food scarcity, low wages, and limited job opportunities, they left their homeland in pursuit of stability and security. When the family stopped in Trojes, Honduras—a gathering point for migrants—they received assistance at a World Vision and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees center. Here, they discovered a sense of unity among fellow travelers who harbored similar ambitions for fuller lives for their families.

ANDRE GUARDIOLA/WORLD VISION

● Embark

WORLD VISION
HAS ASSISTED OVER

3.3M

PEOPLE IN AFGHANISTAN
SINCE AUGUST 2021,
THROUGH PROGRAMS
FOCUSED ON HEALTH,
NUTRITION, FOOD SECURITY,
LIVELIHOODS, AND MORE.



Afghanistan

🕯️ In Herat province, a 55-year-old father named Amir shares a nutritious meal with his children. The family faces severe hunger due to conflict and displacement, but, Amir says, “World Vision helped us with flour, rice, beans, oil, and salt.” The ongoing humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan was intensified by the earthquakes that struck Herat in October 2023. World Vision’s local staff in the country remain committed to serving vulnerable families in the region.

AZIZULLAH HAYAT/WORLD VISION





• Embark

United States

👉 World Vision-trained advocates build relationships with their members of Congress and urge them to support legislation on issues pertaining to global poverty such as hunger, health, education, and child protection. Here, advocates from Maryland, along with World Vision staff, make their way to visit their members of Congress.

*IN 2023,
WORLD VISION
VOLUNTEER
ADVOCATES:*

*CONNECTED WITH
THEIR MEMBERS OF
CONGRESS THROUGH*

77,715

*MESSAGES
AND*

284

*IN-PERSON MEETINGS
OR OTHER HIGH-IMPACT
ENGAGEMENTS*

*INCREASED IN
NUMBER BY*

35%

*(SURPASSING
21,000!)*



Become a
World Vision
Advocate today!



LAURA REINHARDT/WORLD VISION

COVER STORY | 12

Learn how a community in Tanzania is experiencing lasting change through World Vision's Biblical Empowered Worldview program.

Discover

EXPLORE THE ISSUES FACED BY PEOPLE IN POVERTY

The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.
—PSALM 18:2



Cambodia

🔴 Chariya rides in a boat with her dad in the Kampong Svay district of Cambodia. Their lives have been transformed by World Vision's Safe Drinking Water for Cambodia project. As part of a community living in stilted homes over a lake, Chariya's family is among the 6,254 households to benefit from Procter & Gamble (P&G) water purifying tablets, which quickly turn contaminated water into clean drinking water.

Village chief and community leader Ho Vutha says of the community, "In the past, they knew less about hygiene. They used unclean water. Some used water directly from the lake to cook ... [and to] drink. People [were] infected with diarrheas, and there was no doctor in the village." He continues, "Now, I am so happy; when World Vision intervened, they provided P&G products [that are] purifying water and making people here healthy."

DARA CHHIM/WORLD VISION

From urgent aid to lasting change

Stories by Sevil Omer
PHOTOS BY WORLD VISION STAFF

🏠 In response to humanitarian crises, World Vision’s efforts go beyond providing immediate relief. We’re also dedicated to helping affected communities rebuild for the future. What starts out as delivery of urgent aid often evolves into a long-term development commitment, as we partner with communities to help identify ongoing needs and equip them to cultivate lasting change for themselves.

These ongoing partnerships reflect our commitment to strengthening community resilience—and our conviction that God desires all people to experience fullness of life.

Here are just a few of the partnerships we’ve nurtured together over the years.



Famine to farmlands in Ethiopia

In the 1980s, Ethiopia faced a devastating famine that affected millions. World Vision, having been present in Ethiopia since 1971, recognized the impending crisis and took proactive measures to save lives. We initiated food airdrops to drought-affected communities even before the global community was aware of the widespread suffering. We also established emergency feeding centers to keep starving children alive and continued to provide essential aid for the duration of the crisis.

Following the famine, our recovery efforts focused on resilience-building activities such as cultivating seedlings, establishing nurseries, creating employment opportunities, building schools and healthcare facilities, installing water pipelines, and supporting food security, nutrition, and healthcare. Today, many families have access to clean water and have been trained in enhanced agricultural practices. In 2022, our programs reached over 7.6 million people, and our sponsorship program in the country has expanded to include over 38,200 children. Despite significant progress, challenges are ongoing, especially in the conflict-affected northern regions of Afar, Amhara, and Tigray, where our efforts to combat hunger continue.

From fear to hope in Honduras

In 1998, World Vision responded to catastrophic Hurricane Mitch and the subsequent hurricanes in Honduras with immediate aid—and stayed to support vulnerable communities through long-term recovery projects.

We remain committed to the communities we serve in Honduras, where people still face ongoing challenges like crime, violence, poverty, and economic instability. Through our Hope at Home program, we’re equipping people in both urban and rural communities with tools to build resilience and create sustainable livelihoods, including access to clean water, quality education, economic opportunities, and violence prevention. We aim to reach 2.7 million people by 2030. In addition, we’re committed to reaching everyone in the areas we work in Honduras with access to clean water by 2027—a total of 650,000 people.





JANUARY 2010



NOVEMBER 2010

Rebuilding after earthquakes in Haiti

In response to the devastating 2010 earthquake in Haiti, World Vision swiftly coordinated what was then our largest-ever response there. In the first 90 days, our relief efforts supported nearly 2 million people, offering essentials like food, shelter, and access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene solutions. After the initial response period, we remained in communities and supported families as they rebuilt their lives, helping restore infrastructure, improve livelihoods, safeguard children through our child protection programs, and ensure education continuity. When another earthquake struck Haiti in 2021, our local teams responded immediately, aiding over 155,000 people.



From genocide to reconciliation in Rwanda

Following the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, World Vision delivered immediate emergency aid to nearly 3 million people. We also supported healing by facilitating a reconciliation and peacebuilding program that was then replicated throughout the country. Our dedicated local staff have been working in Rwanda ever since, expanding our programs across all 30 districts and reaching more than 1.8 million people with child protection measures, education support, economic empowerment programs, and spiritual development training. And in 2023, we fulfilled a commitment we made in 2018: to equip everyone, everywhere we worked in Rwanda—over 1 million people—with clean water access.



NOVEMBER 1994



SEPTEMBER 2013



FEBRUARY 2012



OCTOBER 2023

Path to recovery after Super Typhoon Haiyan

In November 2013, Super Typhoon Haiyan, which affected over 14 million people and claimed 8,000 lives, underscored the crucial need for disaster readiness in the Philippines. World Vision had been working in the Philippines since 1954, and we immediately responded in affected regions—North Cebu, Panay, West Leyte, and East Leyte—providing vital aid to 1.6 million people over three years. In subsequent years, our staff have focused on helping repair damaged infrastructure, implementing child protection measures, promoting quality education programs and disaster preparedness, and helping restore livelihoods. +



WITH YOUR CRUCIAL SUPPORT, our local staff around the world offer a beacon of hope amid disasters affecting children and families, including these lesser-known crises.



Nagorno-Karabakh armed conflict

We delivered critical aid to 6,000 people displaced in Armenia in late 2023.

Amazon Basin drought

We've committed to supporting 10 million people over seven years with life-saving essentials and helping conserve over 61 million acres of vital habitat, benefiting both indigenous communities and wildlife.

Political unrest in Sri Lanka

We reached 1.7 million people with food security and nutrition programs between July 2022 and September 2023.



Learn more about World Vision's lesser-known disaster responses.

THE
WORK OF
THEIR
HANDS:

CHANGE

HAT LASTS

STORY BY
**KARI
COSTANZA**
PHOTOS BY
**JON
WARREN**

• Discover

IF EVER A PLACE NEEDED CHANGE,

it was Mbuyuni village in Tanzania. “Mbuyuni was in a bad condition,” says 53-year-old Sanare, dressed in a beanie, worn farming clothes, and heavy plastic boots, sitting in the wooden shed where he stores his farming equipment and grows seedlings. “Water was a big problem for livestock and humans.” It’s an understatement. Water for the village of 3,000 was more than 12 miles away, forcing women to spend hours walking to collect it. It was much too far away to be used for farming. Rains came at the wrong time or not at all. The only thing growing in Mbuyuni village was a feeling of futility.

Decisions were made based on immediate needs. If someone managed to grow

crops, they sold them all. “People used to harvest their produce, take it all to the market, and then they would be left with nothing in their storage,” Sanare says. With nothing to eat, Sanare’s eight children often went hungry.

It was so miserable in Mbuyuni that Sanare’s wife, Anna, had once threatened to leave. In the early days of their marriage, she packed a bag to return home to her parents where life would be easier for her and the couple’s baby, Robert. Sanare convinced her to stay, but their lives plodded along a dreary path. He couldn’t put food on the table, and he struggled to send Robert, and the children who came after, to school.



Global impact fact:
More than 1.7 million adults and children in 26 countries benefited from Biblical Empowered Worldview training between 2016 and 2022.

Below
Dry and barren. This is what Mbuyuni village looked like in 2013 when villagers began digging their first water pans.



Seeing change

In August 2013, World Vision staff invited Sanare and 50 others from the village to travel by bus eight hours north to Yatta, Kenya, to see what could be. Only four of the villagers had ever been out of the country. As the bus left Mbuyuni, group members burst into song, as if instinctively realizing that something incredible was on the horizon.

What they saw in Yatta was startling. “The environment there had been similar to or even worse than here in Mbuyuni,” says Sanare. And yet, even with only one rainy season, the people of Yatta were growing vegetables. Sanare and the others learned how they had reclaimed control over the elements. People had dug water pans—some lined with plastic. When it rained, they were able to collect water in the pans to use for household and agricultural needs.

Beginning to thrive

Inspired, the group came back to Mbuyuni and started digging water pans to collect water. It was part of a World Vision pilot project called Securing Africa’s Future, later renamed THRIVE—Transforming Household Resilience in Vulnerable Environments—with input from a staff member from Kenya, Dr. Daniel Muvengi, who focuses on the role of faith in community development. Daniel found that the rural poor, most of whom are farmers, were often locked into a mindset of dependence. He headed up the development of an innovative new curriculum called Biblical Empowered Worldview to address it.

Over five days, World Vision trained Sanare and the villagers in Biblical Empowered Worldview and its truths: that each of us is made in the image of God and that by loving our neighbors and working in community, we can change our futures. “For me personally, I will say [Biblical Empowered Worldview] brought

me from a state of slavery into a state of light,” says Sanare. “I began to experience my faith differently.”

Compelled by the discovery of their true identity and potential, the villagers of Mbuyuni became open to the project, which promoted techniques they hadn’t tried for working the soil, sowing seeds, and irrigating and harvesting crops. They also began exploring new ways to manage their finances and strengthen their earning potential, including through diversified income sources (such as beekeeping and chicken-rearing), savings and investment groups, and producers’ groups that would allow them to sell together for higher profits.

Belief replaces doubt

“So, it is after World Vision came to bring [Biblical Empowered Worldview] that everyone opened their minds,” says Sanare. Gone was the brokenness that held them back. “That’s why you

can witness how vibrant the village is now.” Men began to believe in women, watching them soar as they joined savings groups, which give members who otherwise might not have access to financial services a chance to save, borrow money, and increase their incomes. “They now know how to save money, and in case a problem arises, they can now deal with that problem without any worries. They know how to save for their children’s school,” says Sanare. Before in Mbuyuni, only the fathers contributed to school fees, he says.

One of Sanare’s classmates from primary school, 52-year-old Meshack, watched as Sanare dug his water pan. Meshack was discontented. Although he had been ranked second in his class, poverty had forced him to drop out of school at age 15. “Before Empowered Worldview, I couldn’t believe I could have a good life,” he says. His wife, Helena, 42, agrees. “Life was difficult. We



Today, Sanare’s vegetables thrive in the garden next to his water pan.

“I BEGAN TO EXPERIENCE MY FAITH DIFFERENTLY.” —SANARE



Signs of change: Meshack's daughter Faith sees new possibilities when she looks in the mirror.



Members of Sanare's church, Mbuyuni Lutheran, now have the time to give back, harvesting beans together to fund church programs.



Sanare's brother, Raymond, is building a new house for his family and a new church for parishioners.



Stay-at-home dad Sifaeli earns money as a beekeeper while his wife Rose attends divinity school.

• Discover

couldn't do anything," she says. Meshack had nothing to hope for. "I couldn't believe I could have a nice house," he says. "I couldn't believe that I could send my children to school."

Meshack is open about how he used to lose his temper before his worldview changed. "In the past, it was painful because we did a lot of work and used a lot of energy for little success," he says. Youngest daughter Faith, 11, remembers those dark days. "We didn't know how to go to school, and we didn't have food." When he couldn't provide for his wife and five children, Meshack would sometimes get so angry he'd storm out of the house without speaking.

"BEFORE EMPOWERED WORLDVIEW, KIDS DIDN'T GO TO COLLEGE."—LULU

But, he says, Sanare believed in him. And as he followed Sanare's example, he began to believe in himself, too. "After seeing what Sanare was doing, I was transformed, and I started participating in different trainings by World Vision," Meshack says. "I also started digging a water pan."

A family healed

After digging the water pan, Meshack and Helena began working together on the farm, growing vegetables to feed their five children and to sell. They bought a pump that operates like a StairMaster® machine, only without electricity. Meshack provides the power. As he operates the pump with his legs, water runs from the pan through a long hose, which Helena holds high to water beans. "I am blessed by having this, for now we have a good life," she says of the bounty that surrounds her.

The couple, who were born and raised here in Mbuyuni, believe that Biblical Empowered Worldview has forever changed the community. "Kabisa," says Helena firmly—"absolutely" in Swahili. "It is a different place." Their son Alex, 15, who is studying to become an electrician, listens as his mother describes how the family now has food to eat for holidays.

"It's not only Christmas we celebrate as a family. We celebrated my birthday," he says. It was a first. The family dined on watermelon and pilau rice with chicken, a favorite in Tanzania. "You can see we have food," he says. "We have peace. Because we are stable, there is love." He nods toward his parents in the field. "You can see the love in the way they farm," he says.

Daughter Lulu, 17, is in her second year of university in Tanzania's largest city, Dar es Salaam, a 12-hour drive away. "We are the first people [from the village] to go to college," says Lulu. "Before Empowered Worldview, kids didn't go to college." Lulu is studying gender and development. She exudes confidence. "I want her to come

back to this community and teach about it," says her proud father.

Faith loves school and wants to become a teacher one day. She no longer walks two miles to get to school. Instead, she rides on the back of her father's new motorcycle, holding on tight and grinning all the way. Attendance at her school has doubled since parents in the village participated in Biblical Empowered Worldview training.

"I am building a house," says Meshack. The new house will have four bedrooms, a sitting room, a kitchen, and a bathroom inside. He's paused construction for now. "I was planning to move in fast, but I have now directed my income to support the children's education," he explains. He's slowed his pace for another reason as well: Sanare, his dear friend and mentor, needs him.

Life without Anna

In April 2023, Sanare lost his beloved wife, Anna, to throat cancer. It was a loss for the entire community and all those whose lives she had touched. Among them was Melinda Gates, of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, who met Anna and Sanare in 2014 to learn more about the challenges women face in rural settings. Anna's quiet honesty and candor about village life made

THE IMPACT OF **THRIVE:** A 7-YEAR STUDY

In 2020, World Vision commissioned an industry-leading researcher, TANGO International, to evaluate the THRIVE program in Tanzania, studying 9,000 farmer households, including in Mbuyuni village. The study revealed that THRIVE drove significant impact across key measures—with incomes growing by nearly 10 times, farmers increasing diversified income sources from 44% to 95%, almost all the farmers handling shocks without negative coping strategies, and food insecurity decreasing by half.

Top left
This is what 10-times growth looks like: a bumper crop of beans for Esther, one of Mbuyuni village's finest farmers.

Top right
All over Mbuyuni, children like Joshua, 13, are benefiting from their parents' success. Here he tends his family's cows, goats, and donkeys, which now number more than 100.

Bottom
Biblical Empowered Worldview trainees participate in "The Longest Line," an activity that helps people practice working together.





Right
Sanare, in the house Anna decorated, holds her memory close.

a lasting impression on Melinda. She chronicled Anna's story in her book, *The Moment of Lift*. (Use the QR code below to watch Melinda's video about Anna.)

Anna lived long enough to witness the marvels in Mbuyuni. She watched her oldest children, including Robert, marry and start families of their own. She saw her younger children flourish at vocational colleges and in secondary school. She was there to welcome a granddaughter to the family, 4-year-old Dorcas. In the years that followed, Anna and Sanare became inseparable. Sanare cooked for Anna when she was sick and



tractor for farming—her second. Sifaeli, a friend from primary school who raises bees, has chosen to become a stay-at-home dad so that his wife can attend divinity school in Arusha, an hour away.

“IN EMPOWERED WORLDVIEW, WE ARE TRAINED TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER.”—MESHACK



WATCH MELINDA GATES'S VIDEO ABOUT ANNA

Top left
By raising chickens, Anjela, a widow, sent both of her children to college.

Top right
Sanare's niece Feith reads aloud in English from her Bible. Over the last 10 years, church attendance in Mbuyuni has increased as villagers now have time for worship.

Bottom
Mbuyuni village celebrates the engagement of college graduates Belinder and Leshai.

washed her clothes. Her last words to her husband were: “Take care of the children.”

“Since Anna's death I am comforting him and making sure he is not worried,” says Meshack. “In Empowered Worldview, we are trained to love one another. I feel like I have a responsibility to do this for my friend Sanare, because we love one another.”

Sanare at home

The setting sun paints Mbuyuni's blue skies pink as Sanare finishes another day on the farm. His younger brother, Raymond, 49, has stopped by for a cup of chai with their mother, Natang'amwaki, 97, who lives in Sanare's compound, a collection of houses called a boma. As the oldest son, Sanare takes care of his mother. Natang'amwaki is energetic. Raymond says she is strong because she's never eaten processed foods.

Mother and son sip hot chai, bonded by love and shared experiences. They have so much to chat about. Raymond's wife, Grace, now has her own successful decorating business. Their 11-year-old daughter is first in her class and aiming to become a doctor. She's learning to read the Bible in English. Other neighbors are doing well. One is building a new house and has a daughter who is getting a master's degree in business. Another just bought a new

Next door is the house Sanare shared with Anna. For all the transformation in his life, this is one place where nothing has changed. The doors are still painted a periwinkle blue. The chairs are still covered in soft cotton, one in black-and-red plaid and one with pink flowers with long green stems. The coffee table is still covered with a red cloth with beaded white flowers. It is as neat as a pin. The walls are covered with fabric—some in a Delft blue and others in colors of the American Southwest. Pictures of Jesus and a 2023 farming calendar adorn the walls near framed pictures of Anna. This is a woman's house, kept up by a man who cherishes her memory. One can imagine her sitting here. Watching the change around her, how her friends have come together, turning belief into action. So proud of the man her husband has become and how he's being cared for—and caring for others. A light wind blows through the window catching the fabric, rustling it like the ripple of waves on a pond. Anna may have passed, but her memory lingers, as soft and warm as the breeze. 🍃

Equip families to lift themselves out of poverty with gifts that lead to lasting change. See the insert between pages 18 and 19, visit wvmag.org/spring24, or call 1.866.332.4453.

DREAMS
FLOW
FREELY:
LOVENESS
AND THE
GIFT OF
WATER

—
STORY BY
LAURA REINHARDT

—
PHOTOS BY
AMY VAN DRUNEN







LOVENESS DREAMS OF BECOMING A DOCTOR, BUT FOR A LONG TIME THAT DREAM FELT OUT OF REACH. THAT’S BECAUSE, AS THE ELDEST OF

four children living with their grandmother in Zambia, Loveness (pictured at age 14) was responsible for collecting daily water for the family—an incredibly time-consuming task. Women and girls like her across the developing world spend a collective 200 million hours every day gathering water.

Loveness struggled in her studies because she spent up to six hours each day walking to the nearest well for water.

Sometimes the task took even longer because the shallow well would often run dry. When that happened, she would have to sit and wait until the well filled up again.

“I had no time to study. Most of the time for studying was spent getting water,” she says. Not only did she not have time for homework, but the morning walk for water regularly made her tardy to class.

“When I [would] come late for school, I would find my friends had already learned something,” says Loveness. “I would miss the whole first lesson.”

There are no make-up lessons at Loveness’s school, which is typical in rural Zambia. And that left Loveness falling further and further behind.

Dangers on the walk to water

Carrying a heavy water bucket on your head for long distances, as women and girls like Loveness do, exacts a toll on the body. “It was too heavy for me,” says Loveness. “My neck was burning.”

And then there were the dangers she faced on the way to the well. She regularly started off for her first water gathering of the day at 3 or 4 a.m., long before sunrise.

“It was so scary. Sometimes we’d hear a lot of sounds in the dark,” Loveness says. “I was afraid of wild animals.” She also feared men who might lurk in the darkness waiting to assault a solitary girl as she walked. Ngandu, a local teacher, says that many of the teen pregnancies in the village during that time could be attributed to the vulnerability girls faced as they gathered water in the dark hours.

Absenteeism and bullying

Ngandu explains that tardiness and absenteeism were common due to the lack of clean water access. Girls and

boys alike suffered from illnesses due to dirty water—and the teachers did too because they drank the same water as their students.

But teen girls like Loveness often missed school for another reason: up to five days a month during their periods, they had to stay home because the school lacked facilities to accommodate their needs. As Ngandu explains, “Schools that have only pit latrines see a lot of absenteeism when girls have their periods.” Plus, boys at the school would taunt menstruating girls with comments like “You are losing your blood. This blood makes you dirty.” Understandably, this discouraged girls’ attendance even further.

These combined factors contributed to Loveness’s failing grades. And her personal dream—of one day becoming a doctor—was in danger of disappearing.

Communitywide change

Seeing the challenges faced by students like Loveness, in 2017 World Vision

ABOVE LEFT
Lack of access to clean water once nearly robbed Loveness of her dreams.

RIGHT
Loveness no longer misses school lessons because her walk to get water is so short now.





FINISHING THE JOB

Globally, 703 million people lack basic drinking water access within a 30-minute round trip from their home. Women and girls bear a disproportionate burden of this water crisis, walking an average of 6 kilometers every day to get water for their families.

In 2015, World Vision and our partners committed to reach a total of 50 million people with clean water by 2030—everyone, everywhere we worked based on our footprint at the time. This demonstrated our commitment to help achieve U.N. Sustainable Development Goal #6, the “availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all” by 2030.

To ensure we stay on track, we’ve set multiple milestone goals.

Between 2016 and 2022, we reached 25.5 million people globally, surpassing our first milestone goal.

In 2018 we committed to reach 1 million people in Rwanda alone with access to clean water—“finishing the job” by reaching everyone, everywhere we worked in the country. We surpassed this goal in 2023, reaching a total of nearly 1.2 million people in all 39 sectors where we had program areas.

We’re now committed to reach 30 million more people with access to clean water between 2023 and 2030—and like in Rwanda, we now have finish-the-job plans for all of our program areas in Zambia, through which we’ll reach 800,000 people in 125 subdistricts by 2025.

WHY ZAMBIA?



Zambia is a landlocked country in sub-Saharan Africa. Many areas have unsafe water sources and

limited access to sanitation facilities. This leads to health problems. Schools and healthcare facilities also lack access to clean water.

Of Zambia’s population of 17 million, 7 million (41%) lack clean, easily accessible water sources.

World Vision began water programs in Zambia in 2008, and we scaled up this work significantly in 2011. Since then, we have:

- constructed **8,465 new water points** that serve approximately **1.5 million people**
- reached **229 schools** and **108 healthcare centers** with clean water.



FAR LEFT

Loveness plays a WASH UP! game at school, stepping from one daily activity to another in a specific order to ensure proper sanitation and hygiene.

LEFT

Loveness (right) and her friend Mavis use their school's handwashing station. Students fill the water tank each day from a piped system established by World Vision.

worked with community members to drill a borehole and establish water access for Loveness's school and the surrounding area.

Clean water access has made a huge difference for not just girls but all the community's children, who can now count on having access to clean drinking water at school. As Ngandu says, "They concentrate. They have no worries that when they go home [at lunch], they have to get water."

There's also less absenteeism, as children are rarely ill with waterborne sicknesses like diarrhea. Because students are no longer missing class, grades across the school have improved.

This is due in part to World Vision's introduction of a water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) club at the school, which Ngandu leads and Loveness participates in. Club members meet every week for two hours for lessons about safe sanitation and hygiene, and together they decide

on ways to share what they've learned with other students and their own families. Loveness's favorite lessons are about menstrual hygiene and general sanitation.

From taunting to advocating

As a result of this training, the boys in the community have made a remarkable shift in their attitudes toward the girls. Ngandu has even included the boys in the process of making homemade sanitary pads for the girls' menstrual cycles.

They've gone so far as to become advocates for the girls' needs. Ngandu says that if the boys notice a girl has started her period during class, they'll say, "Hey, let's go outside to give a chance for the girl to prepare herself." Loveness says about the change she sees in the boys, "They understand. They no longer laugh at us. We feel free to mingle."

Another thing Loveness feels free to do now is learn. Part of that freedom comes

WHAT DOES WORLD VISION'S WATER WORK LOOK LIKE IN ZAMBIA?

WE FOCUS ON FOUR AREAS:

ACROSS ZAMBIA, THESE EFFORTS WILL RESULT IN:

1



WATER SOURCES

We work with local partners and community members to install water systems and ensure equitable access to water.

2

SANITATION AND HYGIENE

We support sanitation and hygiene behavior change for families, including helping them build and understand the proper use of latrines and handwashing stations; work with local companies to develop market-based solutions for latrine improvements; and construct latrines in schools and health centers.

We've partnered with the Sesame Workshop™ WASH UP! program, including Muppet Raya, to help students learn how to practice and share about safe sanitation and hygiene with their families and communities.



3



GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE

In every country and area where we work, we support capacity-building at the government, community, and private business levels—including supporting existing government efforts to deliver water access and provide tools and systems for ongoing operation and maintenance.

4

WATER SECURITY AND RESILIENCE

We help communities develop plans to address water pollution, water scarcity, and watershed management issues, and equip families with tools to conserve water.



- More than **40,000** new or repaired water points in communities, schools, and healthcare facilities.
- **350** schools gaining access to clean drinking water on site.
- **125** healthcare facilities gaining access to water on premises—essential for cleaning and handwashing.

With the support of our generous partners and donors, we'll be able to "finish the job" of reaching everyone, everywhere we work in Zambia—and ultimately, worldwide.

—Gregory Gee contributed to this article.



“I NOW
HAVE
ENOUGH
TIME TO
STUDY.”

—
LOVENESS

from the sanitation and hygiene facilities that World Vision built at the school in 2020. They include flushable toilets—seven for the girls and five for the boys. Two of those are wheelchair accessible, indicative of the strides the community is making toward equal access and opportunities for all people.

“This time around, the girls are very assertive. They’re able to stand for their rights,” Ngandu says of the positive changes that the new facilities have helped bring about. “That system of staying at home for five days is no longer.”

—
From lack to plenty

Access to water has also impacted the lives of Loveness’s entire family.

Her grandmother, Valleria, belongs to a club that weaves baskets from sticks and dried grasses. In the past, she had only a

small amount of time to make the baskets and sell them at a local market. The rest of her time was spent collecting water.

But with water access nearby, she can now spend more time weaving the baskets and thus earn more income for the family.

The family is also better able to care for their livestock. Before they gained reliable access to water, most of their animals died during the dry season. They could sustain only one pig and three goats. Now they’re tending eight pigs, six piglets, five goats, and 15 chickens. “We have ample time now” for the activities that help the family thrive, says Valleria.

Loveness is experiencing the benefits of that abundance in her studies, too. “I now have enough time to study. I no longer [come] late for school,” she says. “Because we get clean water, then we come every day because we are not

LEFT
Loveness and her grandmother, Valleria, pump water at a drilled well near their home.

RIGHT
Valleria now has time to make baskets and sell them for extra income.

BELOW
Loveness with her mother, grandmother, and siblings in front of their home.





Loveness gets to spend time playing instead of collecting water.

“BEFORE, LOVENESS USED TO HAVE TO BE ASKED TO CLEAN THE DISHES AND SWEEP AROUND THE COMPOUND. NOW SHE DOES THESE CHORES BEFORE SHE’S EVEN ASKED.” — VALLERIA

getting sick ... What we learn in WASH [club], it [helps us] come to school regularly and improves my grades in the end.” She’s gone from failing grades to achieving marks of 85% to 95%.

She’s even able to play games with her siblings and friends. That’s something that she rarely had time to do before.

Valleria sees a change since Loveness joined the club. “Before, Loveness used to have to be asked to clean the dishes and sweep around the compound. Now she does these chores before she’s even asked.” That’s

because she knows the importance of sanitation and hygiene in keeping her whole family healthy and strong.

Loveness’s dream of saving lives as a doctor feels within reach now. She says that having clean water and the knowledge from the WASH club will help her to achieve her goal.

Imagine all the lives she will touch in that profession. There’s no telling what the people she might save will go on to accomplish. Because of access to clean water, she now has the opportunity to work toward her career dreams—and to create an impact in her community well into the future. 📌

Help equip families with access to clean water. See the insert between pages 18 and 19, visit wvmag.org/water24, or call 1.866.332.4453.

... being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.
—PHILIPPIANS 1:6

Inspire

MOTIVATING YOU TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

How can we be more Christlike in word and deed in the run-up to the November 5 U.S. election? Get ideas for how to pray for our country at wwmag.org/election.

IN THE KITCHEN:

Venezuelan arepas

By André Guardiola

While visiting migrants at a World Vision Child-Friendly Space in a park in Danlí, Honduras, I met 7-year-old Dennys and his father, Xavier, 30, a man with tired but determined eyes.

Xavier and Dennys had traveled a long road, mostly on foot, from Venezuela to Honduras, a temporary resting place, to escape the difficult situation in their home country. Before he was a migrant, Xavier was a baker and a bakery teacher in Venezuela.

On this day in the park, Xavier was a baker once again, cooking Venezuelan arepas for his son. “We made these arepas with the most similar ingredients we could find,” he said with a smile on his face. Those arepas, even when cooked far from home, served as a connection to their homeland and a way to keep their culture alive during their journey.

My brief encounter with Xavier and Dennys was a reminder of how food can forge friendships and create bonds between people like us, from different cultures and backgrounds. It was also a testament to the resilience and determination of a group of people who, despite the adversities they’ve faced, continue forward in search of a better future.

World Vision supports the thousands of migrants passing through Honduras daily with mobile information systems, child protection offices, and Child-Friendly Spaces. +



Get the recipe.

5 ways to pray for lasting change

By Beth Gallick

AS CHRISTIANS COMMITTED TO WORKING for a more just world, we at World Vision believe that lasting change is possible. But we also know it's very rarely simple. In so many areas of life—personal, social, political—transformation can be a long and sometimes arduous journey, punctuated by unexpected setbacks. But our faith tells us that God works through even the messiest of processes to make all things new—including our very selves. “We all ... are being transformed into his image,” says 2 Corinthians 3:18. As Paul makes clear with his choice of verb tense, it doesn't happen all at once.

Whether you're longing for change in your own life, in the life of a loved one, or in the world more broadly, prayer is one way in which you can be part of the transformative work God is doing. Here are a few ideas to get you started—and keep you going—as you pray for lasting change.



Start with lament

When we pray about something that needs to change—whether it's an injustice in the world or a problem in our own lives—it can be tempting to jump immediately to supplication. But before asking God to fix something, take a moment to be honest about how things are now. In other words, don't overlook the important—and biblical—place of lament. One of the most common types of prayer in the Bible, lament is an expression of pain, grief, or confusion. It's a chance to be vulnerable before God in all our human limitations and uncertainties. In fact, laments often take the form of a question—*Why? How long?*—as when Jesus prays the words of Psalm 22 from the cross: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Matthew 27:46). When we bring our pain—or that of the world—to God in lament, that in itself is an act of faith in the One who hears our cries.



Pray for disruption

It's quite possibly the last thing anyone would want to pray for: That God would disrupt the status quo. That things would fall apart. But if we're struggling to make a change, sometimes what's holding us back is an unwillingness to let go of something—a relationship, a habit, an old way of doing things—even if it's not working. In truth, we may never be ready to see God making a new way forward unless we have no other choice. So if lasting change is feeling out of reach, try praying that God would dismantle what is, in truth, already broken. Have faith that God's grace accompanies you through the disruption of the old—and that He is already building something new. Ask for the strength to follow Him into that new place.

3

Ask for support through the long haul

Because transformation is a process rather than a one-time event, in addition to praying for hearts and minds to be changed at the outset, pray as well for practical, long-term support for ongoing change. In humanitarian work, for example, the miracle of striking water is only the first step in a community's transformative journey toward clean water access. After the drilling is done and the pipes have been laid, change is sustained only when community members and leaders have the resources to protect water sources, promote good hygiene, and ensure water system maintenance.

Similarly, sustaining progress on a personal level requires the often-unglamorous work of following a daily plan, identifying setbacks, and committing to improvement—and all of this requires practical support. Perhaps God has given you the will to make a change, but you need financial resources, a way to carve out time for a new commitment, or someone to offer accountability: Boldly ask God to provide. If you're praying for lasting change on a global level, particularly in the humanitarian sector, pray for critically needed funding, for legislation that supports progress, for people to carry out the work, and for the daily bread of encouragement for all those who serve.

4

Pray for renewed mindsets

When Paul urges the Christians in Rome, “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind” (Romans 12:2), he's suggesting that true transformation requires a shift not only in our behaviors but in our very ways of thinking. As mental health counselors know well, it can be virtually impossible to change a behavior without first addressing the conscious and unconscious thought patterns behind it. Some of our deep-seated beliefs about ourselves—our worth, what we're capable of, our place in the world—can even keep us from believing that change is possible.

So when you're praying for lasting change, whether for yourself or for the world at large, pray that God would renew minds, revealing entrenched ways of thinking that hold us back. And because the culture we live in shapes so many of our conscious and unconscious beliefs according to “the pattern of this world,” consider also praying for the artists and storytellers among us. Ask that God would gift them with a clear, prophetic vision of people as God sees them—beloved and worthy. Pray that their art would reflect this truth, counter harmful lies, and help to renew our cultural imagination.

Thoughts on change

“Perhaps that is how we are bound to live: glimpsing what ought to be, then struggling with the way things actually are. However, the only way to live with that is to pray with that; to hold the vision and the reality side by side as we groan with the groaning of all creation, and as the Spirit groans within us so that the new creation may come to birth.”

—N.T. WRIGHT

“[T]ransformation ... often happens not when something new begins, but when something old falls apart.”

—RICHARD ROHR

And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

—2 CORINTHIANS 3:18

5

Pray through your actions

Prayer is incomplete unless it includes action. Consider Paul's encouragement to believers to “pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17, ESV). This is, on its surface, an impossible task—unless it means that everything we do, our deeds as well as our words, can count as prayer. As you pray for something to change, trust the Holy Spirit will move you to act in some way. Be listening for those nudges. What actions is God leading you to, big or small, to support the change you're praying for? Offer them as an “amen”—a continuation and affirmation of your prayer.

Here are just a few ideas of actions that could affirm your prayer for lasting change:

- Use your voice to advocate for legislation that affects the issue God has placed on your heart.
- Volunteer with a local organization to foster change in your own community.
- Commit to a regular donation, however small, as a form of reliable, ongoing support for the lasting change you're praying for.

As you take practical steps like these, be mindful of the Spirit working in and through you—both for your own transformation and for that of the world. +



On the move with Team World Vision

Team World Vision members across the country are moving their feet and raising money for clean water around the world. As they do, they're also being transformed.

Stories and photos by
Laura Reinhardt



Danita never saw herself as a runner, but now she's completed ultramarathons.

Stepping into God's calling

In 2018, Danita Castor was at a crossroads. Her youngest child, Jillian, was heading to college, and Danita wondered what was next as an empty-nester. One Sunday at her church, Team World Vision staff shared a powerful message about clean water and the impact it could have, especially on the lives of children. As the mother of three girls, Danita says, "I loved that it was about kids. That was the impetus."

Danita, who describes herself as "not a runner," stepped out in faith and signed up to run the Indianapolis Monumental Half Marathon with Team World Vision.

When friends and colleagues heard about Danita's new endeavor, they peppered her with questions—and their reservations. "Why is a 55-year-old learning how to run a half marathon?" "This is your time to relax." "You're too old. You waited too long. Why don't you learn how to play golf?"

Danita says, "I went against a lot of advice I got from people." She trained hard and pushed through the physical demands—and her training paid off. She finished her race and had such a good time that, as she says, "I've been coming back every year."

After that race, World Vision's Indiana team coordinator at the time, Amy Claire Patterson, called Danita and said, "I think you have what it takes to be a team captain." Danita demurred.

"I'm a fairly shy introvert," she says. But Amy persisted—she saw leadership potential. Danita agreed to be co-captain the following year (2019), and she's been the captain every year since then. Now she's the encourager who sees potential in her team members.

Her inspiring words for everyone: "You need to trust God and not be afraid to step into whatever He's calling you to do."

In the past 18 years, Team World Vision participants have:

RAISED OVER
\$100M

FUNDED CLEAN WATER ACCESS FOR
1.76M
PEOPLE

GROWN TO OVER
100K

In 2023, Team World Vision participants:

RAISED
\$9.7M

CONNECTED
1,365
CHILDREN
WITH SPONSORS

NUMBERED
5,610

Running to support kids' dreams

Brittany needed a new reason to run. She'd first gotten into the sport after leaving an abusive marriage. Running helped her heal and rediscover who she was, but after a few years, she felt that her healing journey was drawing to a close. That was a blessing, but it meant she no longer had an impetus to get her past the 3-mile mark.

She knew she needed a team to keep her motivated. "Running made me feel grounded," she says. "I wanted to run [the] longer distances and I just couldn't without a purpose ... without a community."

She prayed for a team. And then she heard about Team World Vision, a community of people who ran for a different purpose: to bring clean water access to people around the world.

But she didn't jump at this opportunity right away—partly because she feared fundraising. "I am a very behind-the-scenes person," she says. "I don't like to go out and talk to people."

For years she listened to the pitches from Team World Vision, and year after year she said no. Until April 2023, when she realized she was ready. "I was so moved, and I knew that I couldn't say 'no' for another day," she says.

But she needed to understand what was enabling her to tackle the fundraising, to articulate her "why" to others. And one fact stood out: Children who don't have to spend long hours collecting water, who aren't constantly sick from waterborne diseases, can regularly attend school.

Brittany—a former schoolteacher—knew she'd found her why. "I'm running for clean water," she says, "but running so that [children's] dreams can be fulfilled."

She set her 2023 fundraising goal at \$5,000, but ended up raising more than \$10,000—an incredible achievement for a behind-the-scenes person who once feared asking for money.

Brittany found a new reason to run through Team World Vision.



A physical disability didn't keep Amanda from becoming a top fundraiser.

"You can find a way to do it."

In 2020, Amanda Wolf cheered a friend running an ultramarathon in their hometown of Seymour, Indiana, with Team World Vision. Her friend's tenacity impressed Amanda, who decided she would support this worthy cause—raising money for clean water access around the world—through her financial donations. But things were about to change for Amanda in a big way.

Another Team World Vision runner and now World Vision staff member, Annie Ferret, casually asked Amanda: "Would you ever consider doing that?"

It's a question that seems normal to ask of any Team World Vision supporter, but for Amanda, it wasn't just a matter of getting out and training. She was born with sacral agenesis and is missing parts of her lumbar spine, along with her tailbone and sacrum. Doctors said she would never crawl, let alone walk, but Amanda proved the doctors wrong.

Her parents never exempted her from household chores or anything else expected of her sibling. They just adapted the chores to a way she could do them. That's where Amanda gets her grit and determination.

Then a family friend introduced her to swimming, and she excelled—becoming a champion. Annie says, "She is such a determined woman. When she says yes, she's going to go all in."

And that's just what Amanda did with Team World Vision. Using a hand bike, she's completed four half marathons. Each time she's been one of the top 10 fundraisers for Team World Vision in Indiana, hitting the #1 spot twice. In total she's raised \$82,261, which means clean water for 1,645 people around the world.

Amanda encourages people who might be considering joining Team World Vision: "You can find a way to do it. Once you start, you won't stop." 🍊



Learn how you can get involved with Team World Vision.

From hardship to helping

By Kristy J. O'Hara-Glaspie

📍 **WHEN KALPANA WAS GROWING UP**, she and her family felt rejected by their community. “There was a time when people used to avoid my family members in fear if we ask[ed] any aid from them,” Kalpana says.

They lived in Bajua, a poor community about 23 miles outside of Khulna, Bangladesh’s third-largest city. Her father, Josheph, worked as a carpenter, but earned very little and struggled to provide for Kalpana and her three younger siblings. “We were in such financial crisis that three meals in a day were uncertain,” Kalpana says. “[Higher] education was far beyond thinking.”

When Kalpana started school, she had a lot stacked against her. Her mother, Nipali, explains that Kalpana was raised through hardship, and as the oldest child, she was responsible for helping her parents with chores and looking after her siblings. In Bangladesh, only 64% of children finish high school, and poverty often forces children—especially girls—to grow up early. By age 18, more than half of girls are married and nearly a quarter have children.

But Kalpana remembers when things started to change: When she was in first or second grade, World Vision began working in her community and enrolled children for sponsorship. “My mother introduced me with a field facilitator and enlisted my name,” she says. “I did not know much about it.”

She would soon find out, as she and other children in the community—sponsored and non-sponsored kids alike—began benefiting from World Vision programs made possible through sponsorship. Through the various opportunities she received, Kalpana was encouraged in her studies; learned values like kindness and honesty, and more about the Bible; and gained knowledge of public speaking, human rights, and the intrinsic value of each person. “The [World Vision staff] inspired and guided us, just like our parents,” she says. “I believe after my family members, if there is anybody [who] contributed in life, [it] is World Vision.”

World Vision also helped provide vital school supplies like notebooks, pencils, and backpacks to ensure children had not just access to education but also tools to succeed. Kalpana worked hard in school, became a tutor when she was in eighth grade, and took other jobs to help her family. And after high school, Kalpana did what was previously unimaginable: She attended college, earning three degrees, including a law degree.

Today she works as a lawyer in Khulna, and many of her cases focus on helping women and children who are victims of violence. Beyond the

knowledge she provides, she also brings compassion and strives to keep the fees low, sometimes even offering her services pro bono, as she remembers what life was like for her family when she was a child.

Her family’s own financial struggles are now in the past. “Today, after suffering a lot, I have reached the stage where I can give full support to my family,” Kalpana explains. Her younger siblings also benefited from Kalpana’s sponsorship, as they were each also able to gain an education and are all doing well today.

Kalpana is also now the mother of a daughter who won’t face the same hardships she did. Kalpana says, “The needs, sufferings, and hunger I had in my life, no one in my family, [including] my child, has to face now. This is my achievement.” For her daughter, education won’t be a question mark. “I have a dream with her,” Kalpana shares.

“The day the dream will be fulfilled, she will also [be able to serve] the vulnerable people of this society.”

Kalpana’s parents are incredibly proud of her and how hard she has worked. Josheph shares, “She is my pride, pride of our village and of this country. ... We are thankful to God!”

Kalpana remembers her childhood and how people ridiculed and rejected her and her family. She is amazed by how their situation has changed. “Now when I go back home [on the] weekend, people wait at [the] roadside to meet me to share their problems and to take law-related advice,” she says. Reflecting on how she once felt marginalized, Kalpana expresses gratitude for the transformation in her life: “I give thanks to God and to World Vision!” 📍



SUBORNO CHISIM/WORLD VISION

Suborno Chisim and Lipy Mary Rodrigues of World Vision’s staff in Bangladesh contributed to this story.



Malnutrition and miracles in Laos

FOR 26-YEAR-OLD NAUK, the blissful satisfaction of holding her child in her arms is uncontainable. Beaming with joy, she gently cuddles him. Her genuine sense of contentment, despite the challenging circumstances, radiates across her face, lightening the darkened space around her. As I attempted to capture this purest form of love between a mother and her child, I couldn't help but wonder what would have happened if their needs, in particular the need to address the deadly condition of malnutrition, had not been met. The statistics were grim, with over half of the households in Phonexay, Laos, reporting stunting in children and over two-thirds of households facing moderate to severe food insecurity. The situation reminded me of the miracle of Jesus' feeding of the 5,000, where Jesus acknowledged the physical needs of the people—to be fed and nourished—and met them with the limited resources at hand. The Lord knows every dire need, and He uses whatever we can offer—including ourselves—to make the provision. In Nauk's community, to address malnutrition, World Vision staff offer an

integrated health and nutrition program to build the capacity of health workers and counsel mothers about maternal and child health. Mothers learn to cook nutritious meals with locally available food like rice, sweet potatoes, green leafy vegetables, pork, and more. Health clinics are equipped with tools to monitor the weight of mothers and children. This photo encapsulates the joyous moment of one of those mothers celebrating that her child is healthy and no longer suffering from stomachaches or fever. The Lord is truly the Provider. He sees the tears of mothers and hears their cries for the well-being of their children. In a world where needs are growing, I pray God uses what we have to provide for those in need, that we would leave behind a legacy of service and care for humanity as a testament to His faithfulness. +

Written and photographed by Annila Harris, regional senior manager for communications and public engagement for World Vision in East Asia

Nikon D750
24mm lens
1/500th at f/3.2
ISO 800



World Vision
**GLOBAL
 6K**
 FOR WATER

**EVERY STEP YOU TAKE
 is one they won't have to.**

Join us for the
Global 6K for Water
 on **May 18, 2024!**

**Walk.
 Run.
 Roll.**

Register today at
worldvision6k.org

World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. Teams World Vision, 6K for Water, Global 6K for Water, The Bib that Matters Most, and the design of the Bib are all registered trademarks of World Vision, Inc. CD19848_0224 © 2024 World Vision, Inc.



Mahano, 9, Niger, carrying water for her family

Published by
 World Vision, Inc.
 P. O. Box 70172
 Tacoma, WA 98481-0172

Nonprofit Organization
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 World Vision

If you have questions, comments,
 or a change of address, you may
 call toll-free: 1.866.332.4453



GIVE A UNIQUE GIFT TO THE GRADUATE, MOTHER, OR FATHER IN YOUR LIFE
 THIS SEASON BY CHOOSING A LIFE-CHANGING GIFT FROM THE WORLD VISION
 GIFT CATALOG. SEE THE INSERT BETWEEN PAGES 18 AND 19 TO LEARN MORE!