Marilee Pierce Dunker

World Vision Ambassador Emeritus
Expert in child sponsorship and global missions

For over 40 years Marilee has been a powerful and passionate voice to the church and especially to women who desire to use their gifts to make a difference for the Kingdom of God and for those in need. As an author, speaker, and international ambassador for children on behalf of World Vision, she inspires and equips others to use their time, talents, and treasure to expand God’s kingdom on earth and care for those living in poverty.

Marilee has traveled to nearly 40 countries, seeing firsthand the effects of injustice and oppression as well as World Vision’s transformational work. A highly sought-after speaker and author, she has been invited to address congregations, women’s groups, and development professionals spanning the globe, from Tanzania to Taiwan.

As the second daughter of Bob and Lorraine Pierce, founders of World Vision, she brings a unique perspective to every message, using illustrations from World Vision’s rich history and her personal faith journey to add dimension and biblical perspective to the powerful stories she shares.

Marilee has been a regular contributor to World Vision magazine. She is combining her talent for writing and passion for World Vision’s spiritual roots to produce her upcoming book, The Audacity of Faith. It focuses on the importance of her father’s many partnerships with missionaries and churches around the world, which laid the foundation for World Vision’s ministry today.

Marilee retired from World Vision in 2020 after 19 years of service on staff, yet she will remain part of the World Vision family. In her new journey she has been honored with the lifelong title of World Vision Ambassador Emeritus and plans to continue to speak, write, and advocate on behalf of those in greatest need.

Marilee currently lives in Vista, California, with her husband, Bob. They have two grown daughters and three grandchildren.