

One of my favorite moments in Scripture

is found in 1 Samuel 7. The Israelites are

about to be attacked by the Philistines

again. Instead of panicking, they listen

to Samuel, who invites them to repent

and trust God for their protection.

God then uses thunder to defeat the

Philistines. After the miracle, Samuel

takes a stone and sets it up as an altar

of remembrance. Verse 12 tells us, "He

named it Ebenezer, saying, 'Thus far

the Lord has helped us." In Hebrew,

Ebenezer means "stone of help," and

I love both the meaning and the visual

picture as I envision Samuel doing this.

aren't a literal rock, they are an Ebenezer

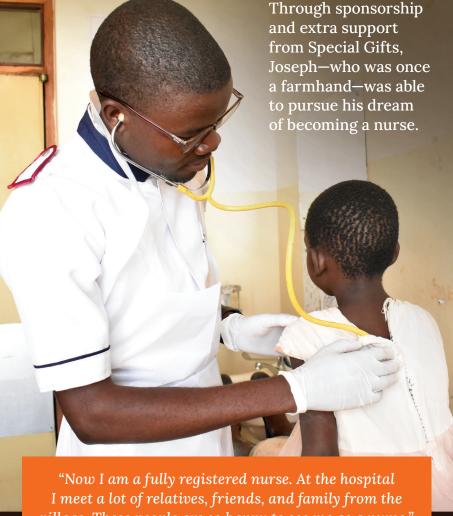
our team has created to remember how

the Lord has helped us. When we began

planning this special 75th-anniversary

While the pages of this magazine

CAN HELP DREAMS GROW BIGGER



village. These people are so happy to see me as a nurse."

-Former sponsored child Joseph (pictured above left), Malawi



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MAGAZINE

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How food multiplies hope

issue of World Vision magazine, the biggest question we faced was how we could bear witness to 75 years of God's faithfulness and to the miraculous ways He has changed the lives of children, families, and communities—and our own lives as well.

Scan the code to see

ON THE COVER In Rwanda, World Vision

staffer Allan Agaba

believes in children. JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

FROM THE EDITOR

REMEMBERING GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

AND TRUSTING HIM FOR THE FUTURE

It seemed an impossible task. There are too many stories, many of which we've shared in the pages of World Vision magazine since it began publishing in 1957 and on our website since it launched in 1997. None of these stories would have been possible without God's faithfulness—and your faithfulness in giving and praying for our work. We're so grateful for your partnership through the decades, and we invite you to believe with us in all God will continue to do.

So this issue (and its digital supplement online at wvmag.org/75) is an Ebenezer not just for us, but for each of you as well. After you immerse yourself in its pages, we invite you to keep it as an Ebenezer in your home. Perhaps set it on your coffee table and place your own rock on top of it, letting it remind you of all God has done and how you have been part of His work. Take a moment to journal how you have witnessed His faithfulness as you've participated in World Vision's story (and if you're willing to share, send us your story at stories@worldvision.org). Let this magazine remind you that God has provided thus far and will continue to be faithful, no matter how insurmountable the path seems and wherever He leads us next. 0

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





Kristy, pictured here in 2017, plays a jumping game with a girl named Bristy and other

girls in the community of Khulna, Bangladesh. Bristy used to work as a child laborer

but went on to get an education thanks to World Vision's child protection programs.

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75 years of belief

BY EDGAR SANDOVAL SR., PRESIDENT AND CEO

t's been a while since my kids were young enough to be spoon-fed, so I was nervous as I took up a bowl of porridge to feed a toddler named Mone in Habro, Ethiopia. Not only was I rusty, but a crowd was watching—moms and dads gathered for a World Vision cooking demonstration.

Luckily for me, Mone made it easy. She mimicked my wideopen mouth so that I could land the spoon in hers like a pro.

Unfortunately, not much is easy in remote Habro, where erratic rainfall has given way to drought, causing a daily struggle for food. Parents are doing their best to break out of extreme poverty: They work; they learn new skills; they try to save their money. But they're hampered by the lack of infrastructure, local markets, and economic safety nets.

It's the same in too many places around the world. People strive to hold on to their dreams even as it gets harder to feed their kids—no matter how skilled their spoon-feeding technique.

On a global scale, humanitarian needs continue to rise, fueled by conflict, extreme weather events, and other emergencies. But funding isn't keeping up—creating a widening gap. Those most likely to fall into it? Beautiful children like Mone.

This breaks my heart. And sometimes, it causes me to doubt. That's when belief kicks in. Belief in our all-powerful, unchanging, endlessly loving God. Belief in Jesus, the Miracle Worker, who challenges doubters like me in Mark 9:23: "Everything is possible for one who believes."

For 75 years, World Vision has clung to belief—especially in the face of the impossible. Bob Pierce, our founder, set the tone. He said: "Nothing is a miracle until it reaches the area where the very utmost that human effort can do is not enough, and God moves in to fill that space between what is possible and what He wants done that is impossible."

World Vision was born during the Korean War—in September 1950, when North Korean forces had overtaken most of the country

below the 38th parallel, all but a 5,000-square-mile area. U.S. soldiers fighting alongside South Koreans regained territory, but the capital, Seoul, was repeatedly overrun, devastating the city, its citizens, and its churches.

Irecently visited Seoul, South Korea, and Ilearned how pastors courageously stood in the gap during the war, caring for orphans, widows, and refugees. In particular, Pastor Han Kyung Chik, leader of Young Nak Church, became Bob's lifelong friend—and his church, World Vision's first partner. Bob believed so much in the passion and perseverance of these amazing servants of God that he started World Vision to support them. Today, Christianity thrives in South Korea, and its citizens bless other countries in need.

In this anniversary year, we're celebrating God's faithfulness throughout our history—remembering the Lord's deeds and miracles, as in Psalm 77:11.

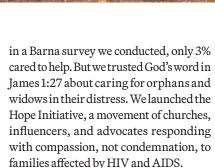
We remember the 1970s, when refugees fled Viet Nam by boat, facing death on the South China Sea, yet no country would take them in. But we believed God was calling us to stand—or sail—into the gap. World Vision launched a rescue ship, Seasweep. As a result of our response, people are alive today—including Vinh Chung, a lifesaving surgeon and former World Vision Board member.

We remember the 1990s, when genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda shocked the world. Knowing that only God can heal hearts, we emphasized faith and reconciliation in our programs—and witnessed miraculous acts of forgiveness. And two years ago, Rwanda was the first country where World Vision finished the job of providing access to clean water for everyone, everywhere we work in the country.

We remember the 2000s, when AIDS was ravaging entire communities in Africa, leaving millions of children without parents. American Christians didn't understand the urgency—



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION



And we remember the people God raised up to serve Him through World Vision despite danger and heartbreak. These heroes of the faith include Minh Voan, our deputy director in Cambodia, who led people to Christ before being killed by the Khmer Rouge. Indian evangelist Sam Kamaleson quietly provided spiritual support for Eastern European pastors behind the Iron Curtain. American nurse Dorothy Scheffel brought dying babies back to health in Somalia and Sudan. Leaders like Jean Bouchebel in Lebanon and Corina Villacorta and Caleb Meza in Peru sustained World Vision's work amid war and violence.

Above: In Ethiopia in June 2025, Edgar feeds 1-year-old Mone who is recovering from malnutrition. World Vision staff taught her mother to prepare a nutritious porridge using ingredients she brings from home, along with yellow peas, sorghum, and vegetable oil from the U.S.

Left: Pictured in Malawi in 2001, Pastor Mchwere Banda (left) praying with Alice Takula (right), who died the following week. At the time, Pastor Banda was losing three members of his congregation to AIDS every week. The perseverance of those who came before us paved the way for game-changing innovation. We developed Last Mile Mobile Solutions®, harnessing technology for stronger efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability in the delivery of relief supplies during a crisis. Now, it's adopted by other aid organizations. Through Chosen®, we flipped the script on sponsorship by giving children the power to choose their sponsors—transforming everyone involved. And our faith-based program Biblical Empowered Worldview is supporting families to change their mindsets and equipping them to lift themselves out of extreme poverty.

God is at work in the world! Remembering His miracles builds our belief, drives out doubt, and gives us confidence in what He will do next.

Today, we're mightily trusting our God of the impossible as we attempt something even bigger than we've done before. Through God's power and the generosity of our supporters, by 2030 we aim to equip 300 million people in more than 70 countries to free themselves from the grip of extreme poverty and experience the fuller lives God intends for them.

Just like that moment when I fed Mone, there's an audience. The world is watching what happens when people of faith come together and step into the gap for vulnerable children. Together, we can end extreme poverty in our lifetime—proving that with Jesus, everything is possible! •



a foundation of fait BY KRISTY J. O'HARA-GLASPIE

THE SEED WAS PLANTED SIMPLY AND HUMBLY IN 1928 WITH A Christmas gift bearing a short inscription from a Sunday school teacher to one of the teens in her class.

To Bob from Miss Hunter. My prayer and deepest desire for you is Matthew 28:18-20: "Therefore go and make disciples of all the nations ..."

The book? A biography of a missionary to China that must have inspired a young Bob Pierce, who found himself traveling around China leading evangelistic meetings with Youth for Christ in the 1940s. It was in these travels that God worked in Bob's heart and inspired him to help hurting and vulnerable people. Just a few years later, he founded World Vision.

His teacher didn't know that that inscription would inspire a boy to grow into a man who wanted to serve God. She didn't know that he would go on to lead evangelistic rallies and lead people to Christ. She didn't know he would start a ministry that would impact the lives of millions of people around the world.

No, she didn't know all of that, but she believed in his potential when she saw a boy whom God loved.

Likewise, Bob didn't know that it was the dawning of a new ministry that would grow brightly for decades to come. He didn't know that millions of people around the world would gain access to clean water, healthcare, education, and training to grow their incomes and livelihoods. He didn't know that tens of thousands of fellow Christians around the

world would join World Vision staff, signing up to be the hands and feet of Jesus in nearly 100 countries—including in some of the hardest places to be a child—prompting the question to which Jesus is the answer.

No, he didn't know all that, either.

But he did know that children were hurting. He did know there was great pain in the world. He did know that every single person, regardless of where they were born and what they looked like, was made in the image of God and deeply loved by the Almighty. And he did know that God was calling him to do something about it.

And he obeyed.

Now, 75 years later, World Vision has helped people around the globe see vulnerable children through eyes of faith. We've united others in pulling up the roots of poverty and planting seeds of real change because we believe in children, families, and communities. We believe that God is at work in our lives and in the lives of vulnerable people all over the world.

Throughout the past 75 years, we've seen not just individual lives change as hearts and mindsets change but also entire families and communities transform as the chains of poverty are broken. By partnering with local churches and faithful donors like you, time and time again, we've experienced God's faithfulness and witnessed His miraculous provision.

And we're believing that He has more in store. •



1920s

MOMENTS OF BELIEF

Since World Vision's founding in 1950—and in the history leading up to that moment—we have witnessed countless examples of the Lord's great love and faithfulness through our ministry. Journey through these pages to remember some World Vision milestones with us—and scan the code to dive deeper into the miraculous moments we've witnessed together.



*BECAUSE OF THE LORD'S GREAT LOVE WE ARE NOT CONSUMED, FOR HIS COMPASSIONS NEVER FAIL. THEY ARE NEW EVERY MORNING: GREAT IS YOUR FAITHFULNESS." -LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23

1928

A seed is planted when Bob Pierce, just a teenager, receives a book as a Christmas present from his Sunday school teacher, Elizabeth Hunter. The book was entitled James Hudson Taylor, Pioneer Missionary of Inland China, and it was inscribed: "To Bob from Miss Hunter. My prayer and deepest desire for you is Matthew 28:18-20: 'Therefore go and make disciples of all the nations ..."

1947 Bob Pierce travels through China speaking about the gospel at evangelistic meetings with Youth for Christ. ▶ Bob Pierce meets Beth Albert, a nurse caring for people with leprosy in China. He credits her as "the



trigger of the vision God gave me for missions."

A child called White Jade, about age 10, accepts Christ after hearing Bob Pierce speak but is then abandoned by her family for it. Her teacher, Tena Holkeboer, challenges him to

it at the time, World Vision was born that day."

-BOB PIERCE

Tena the last \$5 in "I didn't know his pocket and savs he'll get more help.

He later said, "I didn't know it at the time, but in a real, practical sense, World Vision was born that day."

help her. He gives

Bob Pierce, pictured in Korea in 1965 while making a film, lived a life steeped in prayer. One story goes that he kept

Billy Graham awake by praying aloud in his sleep when the men shared a room during their travels through Korea for evangelistic meetings. But a private prayer written on the inside of his Bible—"Let my heart be broken with the things that break the heart of God"—became the clarion call for his work and the work of future generations of World Vision staff.

but in a real, practical sense,

World Vision believes in children because Jesus believes in children. In Matthew 19, when His disciples tried to keep them away,

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these" (verse 4).

World Vision founder Bob Pierce, the father of three girls, felt the same way. His experience during the Korean War, seeing mothers left widowed and children orphaned by the war, sparked World Vision's beginnings. When the war ended in 1953, Bob began to connect Korean orphans with sponsors in the United States who would write them encouraging letters and send a monthly donation to provide food, uniforms, schooling, medical care, and Bible training. Over the next two years, the number of children in Korean orphanages supported by

Chaom, 6, (center) and her children's club friends wash their hands at a health center. In Cambodia, years of partnership have equipped local people with access to clean water and improved healthcare, education, and opportunities for a brighter future.

World Vision sponsors jumped from 800 to nearly 8,000. Today, 75 years after Bob Pierce founded World Vision, 2.9 million children

are supported by sponsorship programs in 49 countries, including 859,000 children supported by sponsors in the United States. From 800 children to nearly 3 million. Only God can do that.

Our child sponsorship model has evolved since Bob Pierce's days, but the one-on-one relationship remains central. Children still directly benefit from the letters sponsors write, which they treasure, some even keeping them under their pillows at night. And sponsors can send Special Gifts to support their unique needs.

Today, sponsorship supports essential programs that help children not only survive but also grow and thrive. These programs include protection from child labor and child trafficking, education support, and an emphasis on children with disabilities. Programs such as Let the Children Come support children in Sunday schools, teaching them the Word of God through stories, songs, and games.

Sponsored children continue to enjoy personal relationships with their sponsors, a hallmark of the sponsorship experience. Another distinction is World Vision's community-based model, as sponsorship benefits the rest of the community as well. Even non-sponsored children participate in Christian discipleship, education, disability inclusion, and child protection programs. For the kingdom of heaven belongs to them all. •



In Bangladesh, we care for children by giving them safe spaces to laugh, play, and enjoy games with friends and World Vision staff who are committed to protecting their future.

A World Vision staff member named Nadia measures the height of a sponsored child named Erickson, pictured at age 10, at a health center in Honduras. Staff at the center conduct child monitoring to ensure children are growing up healthfully.

1950s

1950

▶ Bob Pierce travels to Korea for evangelistic meetings, partnering with Pastor Han Kyung Chik of Young Nak Presbyterian Church in Seoul. The two work to meet the needs of people suffering in the wake of the Korean War.



△ North American churches respond to Bob Pierce's appeal



WORLD VISION IS FOUNDED. DOCUMENTS OF INCORPORATION ARE FILED IN LOS ANGELES (SEPTEMBER 22).



1951

◆ ▲ As a U.N. correspondant, Bob Pierce reports from Korea for the American Christian Press.

▶ The William Carey Baptist Church in Ƙolkata, India, becomes World Vision's first international support partner.

1952

▶ Bob Pierce sees more than 120 babies severely malnourished and dying at an orphanage in Korea during the Korean War and vows that World Vision will help.

△ • Child sponsorship formally launches to care for Korean War orphans.



□ Bob Pierce meets Lillian Dickson, known as "Typhoon Lil" for her spirit in surviving a particularly powerful storm. Lillian hiked with medical missionaries across Taiwan

helping people

in need. In those

early days of her

work, World Vision



supported her ministry, which continues to this day through Mustard



ONFERENC

▶ Bob Pierce and Pastor Han Kyung Chik organize a time of rest and fellowship for hundreds of war-weary Korean pastors creating a model for World Vision's Pastors Conferences. Pastors Conferences expand globally over the decades

to come.

We believe in children

Lifting burden of water

STORY AND PHOTOS BY LAURA REINHARDT

"JUST ADD WATER." In the mid-twentieth century, those three words were like magic, freeing up time for many Americans with the introduction of pre-packaged foods like cake mixes, drink mixes, or even instant mashed potatoes. The baby boom generation was among the first to experience the thrill of seeing toys fantastically grow to several times their original size—just by adding water.

But what happens when you add water to a person's life—specifically, clean, easily accessible water? For 15-year-old Grace and her widowed mother, Margaret, the arrival of clean water close to their home in southeastern Kenya was the start of a series of remarkable transformations—starting with improved health and hygiene, and expanding into new opportunities in education and economic empowerment.

A history of heartache

Grace was only a year old when her father died suddenly, leaving Margaret with seven children to raise on her own. "When



my husband passed on, life changed. It [was] difficult, looking for school fees for my children [and] taking care of their health," Margaret says. His job as a police officer had provided for the family's needs.

Before his passing, Margaret had operated a food stall in the local market, bringing home 4,000 Kenyan shillings—about \$30—each week. This small business helped to pay those school fees along with hospital or clinic costs when anyone in the family got sick.

But when her husband died, Margaret had to quit that work and stay home with her children—especially little Grace. She began doing casual work for neighbors, including washing and working in their fields, just to try to keep her children fed and in school. But she only earned about 2,000 Kenyan shillings—about \$15—each week.

When Margaret wasn't working or caring for the children, she was walking to get water. The nearest watering hole required a two-hour round trip, which she had to do twice a day just to have enough for her family. But then she developed chronic stomach issues and could no longer make the grueling trip. She had to send her children.

What lack of water means

According to UNICEF, women and girls worldwide spend 250 million hours per day on water collection. It's a mind-boggling statistic that speaks to the time and opportunities that so many girls and women sacrifice in the effort to get such

a basic resource—and it looked to be the same fate that would define Grace's life too.

For four years, Grace joined her siblings collecting water. Margaret would wake them at 5 a.m., before sunrise. "I was a little bit scared," Grace says, despite having her siblings along. "I am scared of the darkness." The children got up early to try to make it to school on time. But they also wanted to be among the first to the water source because more sediment got stirred up as the day went on, causing the water to become even dirtier.



Grace, pictured here in 2018, once had to walk a long way to collect this dirty water.

Grace carried a 10-liter jerrycan, which holds a little more than 22 pounds of water. Between the heavy load, the long distance, and time spent filling the container, Grace always risked being late for school. "Sometimes we [would] take so long at the watering point, by the time we reach[ed] school it [was] 9 a.m.," recalls Grace. Lessons would already be underway. "So, the teacher would have to discipline me for coming to school late."

Even when they made it to school on time, Grace and her siblings often arrived wearing dirty clothes. They had to ration their precious water so they'd have enough to drink.

"[W]e would wear our clothes for three days before we washed them," Grace says.

But worst of all, the muddy brown water they carried home was often contaminated with bacteria that made them sick. Margaret says, "We used to have cases where my children [would] get ... cholera or diarrhea and ... other waterborne diseases."

Grace vividly recalls the pain caused by illness from dirty water: "I would feel like there is a needle or a thorn poking inside my stomach."

That sickness kept the children from attending school—something Margaret highly values. "I want my children to go to school because without education life can be so difficult," she says. "In fact, [between] a homestead where children are going to school and a homestead where children are not going to school, you can

see quite a difference because [in the first case] they're able to sustain themselves."

A change coming

Margaret continued to struggle, but in 2009 World Vision began working in her community and inviting families to register their children for sponsorship. Grace was registered in 2011. With World Vision's community-focused sponsorship model, for every child who is sponsored, four more children benefit, too—not just ones who've been matched with sponsors. That meant that although Grace wasn't sponsored for a few years, Margaret and her kids received much-needed support right away—including emergency food and help with school fees, school uniforms, bookbags, and solar lamps to support their studies. And another big change was coming.

In consultation with local leaders, World Vision had identified access to clean water as one of the community's most urgent needs. That meant finding water sources, drilling for water, building water tanks, and installing taps throughout the community, all of which require time. In the interim, through a partnership with Procter & Gamble (P&G), World Vision was able to provide families with a temporary solution: P&G Purifier of Water packets, which remove 99.9% of common waterborne bacteria and viruses from dirty water.

Grace remembers the look of the water after the cleaning. "When we get water from the old watering point, the water is

a bit reddish, but when you put the P&G packets, the water becomes colorless."

Margaret says, "The water was so sweet ... when you take it you feel, yes, you are taking clean water that is purified."

What water access means

Globally, World Vision is the largest nongovernmental provider of clean water and reaches a new person with clean water every 10 seconds—people just like Grace.

Between 2018 and 2020, World Vision completed work on a more permanent water solution for Grace's community, installing two water points, including one at Grace's school. First they drilled a borehole, then they laid piping to the water storage tank.

"When we got the water project here, our life completely changed," says Margaret. Now, instead of two hours, the walk for water is just 15 minutes from their home. "The diseases that we used to suffer from also reduced because we could now access clean water. ... The community is happy because of that."

Grace is happy too. "Now that the water came, we clean our clothes every day." And not only does she go to school clean. Now she can get there on time.

Seeing potential

Because of her access to clean water, Grace began to excel at school, especially in her favorite subjects of mathematics and Swahili. She got extra support from her favorite teacher—Mr. Katana.

"He would really encourage me to ... learn a lot so I would be able to pass the exams," says Grace.

Stephen Katana has taught for 15 years at the community's primary school. In that time, he's seen a lot of changes. When he began teaching here, the school's infrastructure had fallen into disrepair. But through child sponsorship funds, World Vision constructed latrines and handwashing stations at the school. They also refurbished classrooms, installing cement floors, which helped end an infestation of jiggers—a type of flea that burrows into people primarily through their feet—that plagued the students. These changes have led to an increase in the number of students. Five years ago, 274 students were enrolled. Now that number is 453.

Stephen remembers Grace as "a bold girl, bright." But he knew that she faced many obstacles growing up without a father.

"I [would] sit with her [and] try to counsel her here and there so she put more effort toward the goal," he says.

She heeded his words and excelled in school. So much so that she was recruited to a prestigious high school that recruits girls with the highest grades from across Kenya.

Stephen says, "Because of World Vision, we are seeing her there. It is a surprise. A single-parent girl, succeeding to join high school. It's not something that is easy, especially [in] our community."

It's clear he feels proud of his former student. "She's a girl that has a bright

1960s

1955

Child sponsorship expands to Taiwan and India.



1956

begins recording a weekly radio program broadcast across the U.S. and Canada sharing stories of missionaries and Christian workers meeting the needs of vulnerable people around the world.





1957

The Korean
Children's Choir
launches for
musically gifted
children who were
orphaned by the war.

► The first official fundraising office outside of the U.S. opens in Toronto, Canada.

► Evangelism events take place in the Philippines and Korea.



1960

A DECADE IN, 13,600 CHILDREN IN

159 ORPHANAGES THROUGHOUT

ASIA, AS WELL AS 170 KOREAN WAR

WIDOWS, ARE BEING CARED FOR BY

WORLD VISION SUPPORTERS.



1961

The Korean Children's Choir begins a global tour, performing for dignitaries like President Eisenhower.

An evangelism event takes place in Japan.



 $Grace\ attends\ a\ prestigious\ all-girl\ high\ school.$

future," he says. "When I see her succeed, in fact it will be a blessing to me. And a great thanks to the Almighty God."

This is Grace's first year in high school, and she continues to thrive. Owino Loid, Grace's biology teacher, applauds her hard work. He explains that most students have an adjustment period after arriving, but between her first and second exams in his class, she's jumped 22 points. "That shows a very good improvement," he says. "It needs a lot of concentration, commitments, and a lot of consultations [with] the teachers." Owino believes that with Grace's rising grades, she's destined for good things.

Learning to believe

Grace isn't the only one learning new things. When World Vision started a Savings for Transformation (S4T) group in Margaret's community, she signed up. Now she leads the group.

Larry Mwendwa, World Vision's project officer for livelihood and resilience in the community, explains that in rural communities, people don't readily have access to banking systems. That makes it hard to get loans. And even if they were considered for a loan, they'd lack the necessary collateral to make

them a good loan candidate. That's why World Vision establishes these groups in rural communities like Margaret's.

At meetings, members contribute money to a pooled account from which they can request a loan. Most members use their loans for school fees, farm supplies, or starting or expanding a business.

Margaret started her own business—raising chickens. "I started the poultry project after I secured a loan from the savings group," she says. "We are now rearing them with the anticipation that once they are ... grown up, we will be able to sell."

But how did Margaret come up with the idea to start a poultry business? She and the other S4T members all participate in World Vision's Biblical Empowered Worldview training. The curriculum helps each person understand that they are a child of God, capable of many wonderful things. This knowledge comes with a responsibility to care for others and our environment as stewards of God's gifts.

"The training ... changed my mindset," Margaret says. "I was able now to put the lessons that I learned into practice. I had to come up with a practical project." As she considered her available resources, she decided on raising chickens, which grow quickly, are relatively cheap, and are easy to care for in the Kenyan climate. Plus, they would have plenty of water.

Margaret says before her community got water, she never would have considered starting a poultry business: "I could not have started the business because water [was] far off and the chickens need a lot of water to drink." Access to clean water marked the beginning of the transformation—and the training Margaret received through World Vision equipped her to carry that change forward in her own life: "It helped me to be courageous that whenever I start something, I'm able to sustain it. I'm able to work on it and I'm able to succeed."

Margaret is now raising 112 chickens. When they reach maturity they'll lay eggs, which she can sell for 20 Kenyan shillings, or about 15 cents. One chicken sells for 700 Kenyan shillings, around \$5.40, and a rooster for 1,000 Kenyan shillings, or about \$7.75.

Becoming a new creation

There are even more improvements in Margaret's home now that clean

water is so accessible. She's growing a home garden because she has extra water for thirsty plants. The homegrown vegetables mean that she buys fewer groceries. Where Margaret once

struggled to provide enough food for the family, now she grows abundant produce to feed her kids—and improve

their nutrition.

Signs of improved sanitation and hygiene are evident all around the home. "We do a lot of handwashing," says Margaret. And there's plenty of water to wash dishes, too. When she's home, Grace helps with this chore as well

as watering the vegetables and tending the chickens.

Even better: After the chores, there's time for singing and dancing together as a family. Grace especially loves a song about butterflies.

In many ways, she and Margaret seem like butterflies about to emerge from their cocoons.

Grace studies diligently so she can achieve her dream of becoming a doctor. And Margaret is on her way to becoming a successful poultry farmer and achieving financial freedom after so many years of struggle. It's amazing to see the

transformation made possible through the implementation of that deceptively simple phrase: "just add water." •

Grace and her family now have

Tom Costanza works for World Vision and contributed to this article.



Empower communities like Grace's with the gift of clean water. See the insert between pages 18 and 19, call 1.888.852.4453, or visit wymag.org/water25.

1970s

1962

► Bob Pierce airs the last of his weekly radio messages.

► World Vision responds to an earthquake in Iran and a typhoon in Hong Kong—the start of its disaster response work.

<u>1963</u>

▶ World Vision installs an IBM computer system.

1969

Stan Mooneyham becomes president of World Vision.





1970

▶ During the Viet Nam War, Stan Mooneyham leads a convoy bearing \$100,000 worth of relief goods through enemy lines from Saigon, Viet Nam, into Cambodia's capital, Phnom Penh.

172

▶ Stan Mooneyham preaches at

evangelism events in Cambodia, the first public events of this kind ever held in the country.

▶ "Children of Zero," World Vision's first TV special, airs.

1973

► World Vision begins fundraising on television.

► Love Loaf fundraising launches for U.S. churches.

1974

► Evangelism events take place in Cambodia and the Philippines.

▶ World Vision has a large presence at Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization in Switzerland.

<u>1975</u>

FOR ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY,
WORLD VISION DECLARES 1975 "YEAR
FOR A HUNGRY WORLD" AND
INITIATES PROJECT FAST (FIGHT
AGAINST STARVATION TODAY).

torn Viet Nam and Cambodia collapsing, World Vision evacuates 47 children from orphanages in Saigon and Phnom Penh to the U.S. in Operation Babylift.

■ With war-





World Vision believes in families because Jesus believes in families.

In Luke 8, when hearing of the death of Jairus's daughter, Jesus tells the grief-stricken father: "Don't be afraid; just believe, and she will be healed" (verse 50). And she was.

A strong family gives a child a place to grow in every way, especially spiritually and in relationship to others.

But most of the children in our programs are part of families that live in poverty. That's why, as part of our commitment to helping end poverty in our lifetime, we offer programs that equip families to build new futures and provide the strong foundation a child needs to grow.

Empowered Worldview, a Bible-based training that helps

Kenyan mother Naidimu treasures the brief moments of quiet she has while feeding her youngest child, Masela.

participants see themselves and others in a new way, as people made in the image of God. In 2024 alone, 425,000 people were trained in Biblical Empowered Worldview workshops.

World Vision also strengthens families by paying special attention to women—including pregnant mothers who need a safe place to deliver their babies and single moms who need access to economic opportunities so they can earn enough to provide for their families.

For families who are struggling, World Vision's Celebrating Families program helps parents understand the root causes of marital discord. Participants revisit their pasts to understand their childhood experiences and how they have impacted how they are raising their children. This allows participants to make smart choices as they seek to become aware and respectful of each family member's different roles, identities, and realities. Celebrating Families works to ensure that families World Vision serves enjoy positive and loving relationships, can have hope and vision for the future, and become one of the factors that will allow children to experience the love of God.

Helping families thrive economically, access good healthcare, and learn to care for one another all make life better for children. It's what we believe.

Edinson, age 4, lives with his grandparents in the Dry Corridor of Honduras—an area subject to long periods of drought. World Vision trained his grandfather on how to build a fishpond and raise tilapia—a project they enjoy doing together.

In Guatemala, Juana's 7-year-old son Hamilton, who is deaf, has struggled with his schoolwork. World Vision child sponsorship ensures he and his family get the additional support they need.

One way World Vision works with families is through Biblical

restructuring the

a federalist model.

The Declaration of

is signed, and World

Vision International

administrative office.

is created as an

1976

▶ World Vision's TV special "One to One" airs, starring Julie Andrews and the Korean Children's Choir.

1978

▶ World Vision completes the process known as internationalization, organization around Internationalization

▶ World Vision's Operation Seasweep rescues families drifting in the South China Sea after fleeing war-torn Viet Nam. Vinh Chung, a child who is rescued, will later go on to become a board member for World Vision.



The sponsorship model has shifted from working through orphanages and Christian schools to a familyto-family model, extending benefits to a sponsored child's siblings and family members.

Gene Daniels, World Vision director in Indonesia. pioneers a new model for sponsorship communities that integrates programs for children and community development. This marks a new, holistic approach to ministry with a goal

to help families and communities achieve self-reliance.

▶ World Vision supports underground churches in Romania.

1980

▶ Annual Robert W. Pierce Award is created to honor missionaries.

▶ Bob Dylan donates the proceeds of four Los Angeles concerts to World Vision for

▶Dr. Roberta Hestenes is the first woman to join World Vision's board of directors.

Cambodia relief.

1981

▶ Annual Day of Prayer is established on Oct. 1 for all World Vision offices.

WORLD VISION LAUNCHES ITS U.S. MINISTRIES (LATER U.S. PROGRAMS) DIVISION TO SERVE FAMILIES IN THE U.S.

□ ► Ted Engstrom becomes president of World Vision.





aria is a good mother. It shows in her eyes. They sparkle as she studies her daughters gathered around the kitchen stove, hot drinks warming their hands. It can be heard in her laugh as she listens to them recount the events of their jam-packed days: Josselyn, 23, with a baby on the way; Beverlyn, 21, who runs the family businesses; and Kimberly, 20, partway through dental school. Only 5-year-old Hanny is quiet, nestled in Kimberly's arms. It's been a busy day for Hanny, tending to her menagerie of stuffed animals, including her favorite, a soft, purple turtle named Chanely.

It's a moment to treasure. For many years, this Guatemalan family had virtually nothing. But after joining a World Vision savings group in 2021, Maria's world began to brighten, just as a cracked door lets in light. With hard work, business training, seed money, child sponsorship, and chickens from the Gift Catalog, Maria flung that door wide open.

Today, she has built a new life for herself and her children.

A struggle from the start

Maria's past was painful. "That period of my life hurts so much," she says, "and I thank the Lord for where I have ended up."

Maria was born in a small town in western Guatemala. Her parents divorced and began shuttling the children back and forth between them. Maria started working when she was



It's where dreams begin for a mother and her daughters, around the kitchen stove. From left, Kimberly holding Hanny, Maria in the left corner, Beverlyn pouring coffee, and Josselyn, right.

8, struggling to pick corn from stalks far beyond her reach. She met Carlos and became pregnant with their son when she was 14. Child pregnancy was not uncommon then and continues to be a problem in Guatemala today. Guatemala's National Registry of Persons reported that between 2018 and 2024, nearly 15,000 girls under 14 gave birth.

Maria became a statistic.

The challenges of young motherhood Guatemala is a challenging place to be a young mother. Pregnant teens drop out of school. They lack income and access to healthcare. It's a difficult place to be a young wife. A culture of machismo, a profound sense of masculine pride, keeps women down. "Back then, we had to ask our husband even for 25 cents," Maria says. "Before, we didn't have the right to go to work or to go out without asking permission."

While Maria was still in her teens. Josselyn and Beverlyn were born. She was only 20 when Kimberly was born. And then, at 24, she was a single mom. The differences between Maria and Carlos had become insurmountable. "There was a moment when my husband and I split up, and I was left with nothing," she says.

It was 2004. Maria and her children lived on a dirt floor with no indoor plumbing, just a hole in the ground, and often had very little food. The children would dip tortillas into a watery soup. "What she would do was make a bit of broth, like a soup, and then we'd all have a little plate, each one, just water with broth, and that's how we ate," says Beverlyn.

Maria and her neighbors used to eat bread shipped from the closest big city, Quetzaltenango. It would be eight to 10 days old and spotted with green mold. "We had to scratch off the mold and eat it," says Josselyn. They would dip it in coffee to hide the taste, which was like dust.



Beverlyn, left, and Josselyn, right, are quick to comfort their mother, who has lived through hard times—a childhood in extreme poverty, a failed marriage, and life during COVID-19. But she's always kept Christ at the center.

Like many in the area, the family needed change.

Child sponsorship comes to San Bartolo

Change was on the horizon. World Vision had started a child sponsorship program in nearby San Bartolo in 2013 to help children and families improve their lives. In west-central Guatemala, San Bartolo is stunning with its red dirt and pine-covered hills, mornings and evenings draped in a blanket of fog. The mountain roads that connect San Bartolo to Quetzaltenango, 90 minutes away, are winding and steep, crowded with brightly colored buses many of them retired, repainted school buses from the U.S.

Child sponsorship programs operate for 10 to 15 years in communities with thousands of children sponsored by donors who give monthly. Those funds are pooled, allowing sponsors to fund long-term, sustainable projects that the community decides on in partnership with World Vision experts. When child sponsorship began in San Bartolo, there was much to do. Children in the area needed access to clean water, nutritious food, and healthcare. Their parents longed for meaningful jobs that allowed them to earn and save money.

Sponsorship strengthens families

Child sponsorship programs promote savings groups for parents. World Vision trains savings group members to save and lend money to one another. Groups of about two dozen meet regularly and form strong bonds by trusting each other with their finances. Banks, which require collateral, are often not an option for people like Maria who don't own anything.

Once Maria's savings group was up and running, World Vision gave each member 24 hens. The hens changed Maria's world.

"It was news I couldn't believe," she says. "The hens came—24 hens. And then after the 24 hens, I kept adding more and more until I had 100 hens." With sales from the eggs, Maria started a grocery store in a little wooden building next to their house. That year, they began to build a new house, replacing the dirt floors with cement. For Maria, the sky seemed to be the limit, except for a virus that had rolled like thunder around the world.

By 2022, COVID-19 had shut down life in Guatemala.

A global pandemic

"The pandemic took all the businesses down," says Maria. "There was no way we could produce incomes." In Guatemala, COVID-19 drove food prices up and lowered incomes. The family relied on stock from their grocery store. "We grabbed things from the store for a year or [so] until we realized the supplies were finishing," says Beverlyn. "I remember it was a hard time. We couldn't buy anything anywhere."

The entire family fell ill except for Maria's mother. "She lived separately," says Beverlyn, "so she came to give us

1984

□ In October, World Vision's plane transports a BBC news crew to the scene of deepening famine in Ethiopia. The broadcast shocks the world. World Vision scales up relief operations from \$3.5 million to \$70 million due to an outpouring of donations.



▶ Urban pastors attend a retreat in Chicago; refugee Vietnamese pastors gather in California.

▶U2 lead singer Bono and his wife, Ali, visit Ethiopia for a month, working alongside World Vision staff responding to the

1986

In the wake of the Ethiopian famine, the ministry model begins to include transitioning communities

▶ World Vision begins to scale up programming in several African countries.

from relief to

development.

1987

□ ▼ Bob Seiple becomes president of



1988

► Jeopardy! host Alex Trebek visits Ethiopia to meet children and families affected by the famine. The trip greatly impacts him and motivates him to support World Vision for more than four decades.

1989

▶ World Vision responds to the San Francisco earthquake through U.S. churches.

▶ World Vision begins special programs to help thousands of children orphaned by AIDS.

1990

△ Following the overthrow of Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceaușescu, World Vision sends \$8 million worth of medicine and other relief assistance to the country and begins a program to help abandoned children in orphanages.



1990s

WORLD VISION PARTNERSHIP WITH THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME BEGINS, FOCUSING ON FOOD DISTRIBUTION IN CONFLICT AND DISASTER ZONES

all-natural medicines. She didn't want us to be taken to the hospital because here in Guatemala, when people had COVID-19, they would go to the hospitals just to die."

Maria's oldest daughter, Josselyn, says softly, "I felt desperation. I saw how many families lost family members, and I understand it is one of the biggest things someone could suffer." Josselyn watched as life around her closed down. "Education was limited. It affected us," she says. "It was also hard for business. Livelihoods were reduced, and it was a really tough moment."

The challenges posed by the new reality of life during COVID-19 required a new way of thinking.

A new worldview

World Vision's work in San Bartolo did not stop during the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath. It was needed then more than ever. In 2023, staff began offering classes in Biblical Empowered Worldview. In a country with 37 volcanoes, Biblical Empowered Worldview was a tectonic shift in mindset for people who grew up thinking they'd always be poor.

World Vision teaches Biblical Empowered Worldview in 46 countries around the world. Hundreds of thousands of people like Maria learn in week-long Bible-based classes how they were made in the image of God. How to work together to achieve new dreams. Food and Nutrition Facilitator Victor Manuel Chaclan Pech, 25, began

working with World Vision during COVID-19 and is a staunch believer in Biblical Empowered Worldview. "It tells families that they are not poor," he says. "They need guidance on how to use their wealth in the community."

But there was a challenge in forming women's groups: machismo. "Sometimes it was hard at the beginning," he says. "Husbands didn't allow their wives to go to the group." Victor's work was met with jealousy and suspicion. "They didn't want their wives near a man," he says. So Victor met with the husbands. "I helped them see that it was my job," he says. "I asked them to give me a chance to see the work I was doing with their wives."

One year later, jealousy and suspicion were replaced by acceptance and enthusiasm. Women now clamor to join savings groups and learn Biblical Empowered Worldview. "And now even their husbands want to be part of the groups," Victor says. He's allowed men to join, but not so many that the men's voices overpower the women's. "Maybe three or four out of 25," he says. "That's why I limit the number of men in the group, so we have a female majority." In Maria's community, 700 people are now part of savings groups. One group has already saved \$10,000.

But even with Biblical Empowered Worldview training, with stock from the grocery store running low during COVID-19, Maria and her family were in trouble.

Chickens bring change

In 2023, 24 more chickens arrived—donated through World Vision's Gift Catalog, which gives donors a chance to give life-changing items to families in need, with donation amounts ranging from \$10 to \$15,000. Options include farm animals, clean water systems, economic empowerment services, healthcare support, emergency food, clothing and school supplies, and more. "When the Gift Catalog chickens came, it was a great moment," says Maria. "It helped us in the right moment to move forward." And with the gift came invaluable training from World Vision staff.

"When the Gift Catalog project came, they taught us how to take care of our chickens—the medicine we should give them," she says.

Now, they had protein daily. "We ate eggs for breakfast, lunch, and dinner," says Beverlyn. "Then we had a surplus. People were able to buy eggs from us. My mom sold them to stores."

By 2024, Maria and the family had grown the flock to 200, so many that they moved the chickens into the old grocery store and built a new grocery store next door. Maria bought pigs with the money she made from selling chickens and eggs. And she didn't stop there. Next to the grocery store, she started a much-needed business—a hair salon. Beverlyn would run it.

The only problem: Beverlyn didn't know how to cut hair.



Hanny and Maria in their sturdy chicken coop with some of the Gift Catalog chickens that got the family through COVID-19.

1991

- The 30 Hour Famine launches to engage youth groups in understanding how hunger affects children around the world.
- ► World Vision suspends operations in Peru after two staff members are fatally shot and four more



THE
MILLIONTH
CHILD IS
SPONSORED.

- disappear during rebel violence.
- ► World Vision conducts more than 125 Christian witness and leadership development projects around the world.

1992

- ► World Vision responds to Los Angeles riots through local churches.
- ► World Vision reaches 20,000 people with relief goods in Louisiana and Florida after Hurricane Andrew.

1993

- ▶ In Somalia, World Vision provides food, medicine, and medical care to 430,000 people.
- ► World Vision's Artist Associate program begins partnering with major Christian recording artists to help find sponsors for children.

<u>1994</u>

- ▶ By now, most child sponsorship work is operated by agreements with communities
- pledging to work together for 15 to 20 years. Sponsorship programs target 50,000 to 200,000 people and are managed by local staff.
- As the Rwanda genocide unfolds, World Vision's communications team provides some of the first footage



to the international press. World Vision launches a \$10 million response within Rwanda and in border camps in neighboring countries where 1.9 million people fled. Three U.S. government grants provide supplies for more than 1 million Rwandans.

1995

- Four years after suspending operations in Peru due to terrorist violence, World Vision reopens the office in Lima and restarts programs.
- ► In Gulu, northern Uganda, World Vision opens the Children of War Center to care for
- escaped forced combat by a rebel group called the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).

1996

- ▶ Bob Seiple visits Cambodia and observes the rebirth of Christian churches after Khmer Rouge persecution.
- ▶ World Vision begins offering a holiday Gift Catalog for donors.

1997

- More than 500 church leaders and 60 NGOs participate in World Vision's workshops on peacemaking and reconciliation in Rwanda, Burundi,
- Democratic
 Republic of the
 Congo.

 World Vision

Kenya, and the

- ► World Vision launches its first website.
- ► U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright visits World Vision's Children of War Center in Gulu, northern Uganda.



Businesses boom

"I really didn't know how to cut hair, but I started cutting hair," says Beverlyn, laughing. For the first few months, she practiced on her neighbor, a very patient man. "If it had been someone else, he would have been annoyed with me, but that person was there with me, supporting me, allowing me to use his hair, even though I messed it up, and he would say to me, 'It doesn't matter, the hair grows back."

Maria bought clippers for her daughter, but Beverlyn needed more. She joined World Vision's Youth Ready program, which prepares young people to enter the workforce. "There, they taught me how to cut men's hair. There, they also taught me how to cut women's hair, to apply dyes, also to do the nails a little," she says. Beverlyn learned critical soft skills as well. "They taught me to provide better service to my customers."

The bakery came next.

Above: Beverlyn and Maria in the grocery store, which is packed with everything, including a small pharmacy that the family would like to expand. Their bakery is next door.

> Right: Beverlyn can now cut, style, and color hair, having taken classes from World Vision's Youth Ready program.

Maria gets a believer

Maria was determined to start a bakery, and World Vision provided the seed money. The family was tired of eating moldy bread and watching their neighbors suffer. "I believed in Maria because I really saw in her the desire to improve herself, to get ahead at some point," says Victor. With the seed money, Maria installed big ovens to make the bread and bought a mixer. But like Beverlyn's first haircuts, the results were disappointing. "When I tasted the bread, I felt that something was missing," says Victor. Maria felt like giving up, but Victor pushed her on. "We looked for a very experienced instructor," says Victor, who would stop by the bakery after work to see how things were going. The instructor taught Maria



Next to the grocery store is the bakery, where Maria consults with World Vision's food and nutrition security facilitator, Victor Manuel Chaclan Pech. He's never stopped believing in Maria.

new recipes. "And now the bakery is a success," says Victor.

The bakery has been so successful that Maria has been thinking about transportation. Her beloved pickup truck might get a companion. "My dream is to make the bakery so big that we have a van to go and deliver bread to the communities and provide jobs for other people," says Maria. "That [Beverlyn] is no longer the one who bakes the bread, but rather that she is now in charge of the staff." Training in Biblical Empowered Worldview taught Maria to dream big and use her gifts to benefit the community.

By mid-morning, the aroma of baked goods wafts next door to the grocery store and the hair salon and around the corner to Maria's house, a heavenly fragrance and a gentle reminder.

No one in Maria's community will ever have to eat moldy bread again.



1998 □ ► Rich Stearns becomes president of World Vision. He travels to Uganda and meets Richard, a boy orphaned by AIDS. Impacted by his story, Rich calls for the American church to respond to



- ▶ World Vision responds to Hurricane Mitch. which killed thousands of people across Central America.
- ▶ A group of children in Colombia, led by sponsored child Mayerly Sanchez, is nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.
- ▶ World Vision responds to ethnic violence in Kosovo.
- 2000 ▶ World Vision launches the Hope Initiative on World AIDS Day, engaging U.S. churches to address the AIDS pandemic.
- ▶ To mark World Vision's 50th anniversary, Christian music artists create a special CD, "Hope Changes Everything."

WORLD VISION'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

- △ ► Hope Child Sponsorship launches to address the unique needs of children in AIDS-ravaged communities where World Vision already works.
- ▶ World Vision responds to the 9/11 attacks through New York City churches.



2002

▶ Through "Share the Light," World Vision partners with the International Bible Society and Zondervan to provide Bibles for children and families in programs around the world.

▶ Ken Casey, director of World Vision's newly launched AIDS response, is attacked by a 100-pound baboon in South Africa the night before a critical World Vision conference aimed at raising more funds for the AIDS crisis. With 135 stitches and 27 staples in his

back, he returns the next day to lead the conference, which is a turning point in our AIDS response.



Maria posts letters from Hanny's sponsor family on a refrigerator she purchased at a thrift shop—the first she's ever owned.

The gift of Hanny

Five years ago, a young pregnant woman stopped by and asked Maria a life-altering question. Would she take her unborn child? Maria said yes. That answer may have saved Hanny's life. "I found out later that this lady was going to pay for a car to take her there by a big river so that no one would know that the baby was hers," she says.

The family was surprised when Maria brought Hanny home. "At first, I didn't believe she was going to bring a girl home," says Beverlyn. "When I saw her, I thought my mom was going to love her more than us. But she stole our hearts. She is everything to us. She had no one. But now she has us."

In 2022, Hanny also became a spon-

sored child through World Vision. The family who sponsors Hanny sends letters and pictures. Many sponsors keep pictures of their sponsored children on their refrigerators so they can remember to pray for them. Maria does the same, keeping letters from Hanny's sponsors on the refrigerator door. "I want Hanny to always remember her sponsors," she says.

The letters help remind Hanny of how much she is loved. "I want her to be loved by many people. I want her to be loved by people abroad," she says. "There is going to be a moment when she finds out her reality. I don't want her to be hurt. I want her to feel loved by everyone."

Hanny's sponsors also send Special Gifts, which Maria can use to buy her clothes and things that bring her joy, like stuffed animals. Maria is grateful. "I have no words to thank them," she says. "They are doing a lot for my child.

I am speechless. I would have nothing but to bless their lives. They are sowing in my child's life."

Maria knows that child sponsorship is foundational to her community, that there are now health centers, latrines, and handwashing stations, and that other children are loved like Hanny. "There are many other children that are being supported through sponsorship," she says. "I want to thank them for sowing and planting in my community."

Of all the miracles Maria has experienced in the last five years, Hanny is the ultimate.

Christ at the center

Another miracle is on the way, and Josselyn is grateful to God. "He protected us. He took care

of us," she says, her hands resting on the bulge beneath her sweater. Josselyn's baby is coming soon, and she is nervous and excited. She will be a single mother like Maria. Her husband recently left her, and the thought of him brings her to tears. Now, she depends on her family even more, especially her mother. "She has been my inspiration, my admiration, and my example," she says. "She is a loving mother, and in the situation I am in, she has not left me. On the contrary, she is teaching me to overcome it and to become

independent, especially with my baby on the way."

Josselyn had been going to nursing school but dropped out when she became pregnant. "It was during COVID when I saw the families and what they'd gone through that I was inspired to become a nurse," she says. "I wanted to support them when they were passing through these problems. Many of them were alone when they were sick or when they lost a family member. I wanted to be there for them." Because strong women surround



Hanny shows treasured letters from her sponsors to Irma Reynosa Matzar, who works with World Vision's Strong Women Strong World® program.

2003

▶ After lobbying from World Vision and other faith-based organizations, the bipartisan U.S. initiative PEPFAR (President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief) is signed into law. It will go on to become

the most successful

development initiative in history, saving 25 million lives over the next 20 years.

global health and

▶ The Clean
Diamonds Act,
supported by World
Vision, is signed
into law, stopping
the U.S. import of

"blood diamonds" from rebel-controlled African mines.

2004

A massive earthquake in the Indian Ocean triggers a tsunami on the day after Christmas, killing approximately 230,000 people.



World Vision responds in multiple countries.

▶ Partnering with U.S. pastors, World Vision launches Hope Tours to raise awareness and funding for HIV and AIDS.

2005

Faith in Action
Study Bible
published in a
partnership between
World Vision and
Zondervan.

► In the U.S., World Vision responds to Hurricane Katrina



► The Child Ambassador volunteer program begins, inviting American sponsors to promote sponsorship in their communities and networks.

WORLD VISION

BECOMES THE
WORLD FOOD
PROGRAMME'S
LARGEST NGO
PARTNER.

2006

Team World Vision officially launches, engaging runners, walkers, and other athletes to fundraise for poverty eradication.

► Menlo Park Church begins assembling hygiene kits for AIDS caregivers.



2007

▶ Faith in Action campaign kit equips U.S. churches, an experiential AIDS exhibit travels throughout the U.S., and a youth Bible curriculum is provided to former Eastern Bloc countries.

her, Josselyn knows nursing isn't just a dream. She will make it happen.

Beverlyn wants to become a lawyer. "I want to be a lawyer because I have seen in our country there are many older people. Many times, their own children take everything away from them," she says. "I want justice for the elders. I want to help older people to have a good life." Beverlyn would be the first lawyer in the community.

Maria's firstborn, Carlos, 25, is married with a daughter. He's a dentist in Quetzaltenango. Kimberly is following in his footsteps at a dental school in the same city as her brother. Only she won't stay there. She'll come back home. "There are no dentists here," says Kimberly. "My dream is to be the first dentist here and help people who really need it."

Borrowing money from her savings group, Maria has recently finished a three-floor, five-bedroom, three-bathroom home for the family. She easily pays on a loan of 4,000 Guatemalan quetzals, about \$519 per month, with the profits from her businesses. Remarkably, she can do so when the average income for Guatemalans is \$6.85 per day, about \$200 per month. The house is quite a departure from the dirt floor on which they used to live, with an indoor courtyard where the family can set up long tables for meals. The downstairs kitchen is big but still cozy when the stove is lit with firewood. There's an electric stove as well. Each bedroom has a double bed and tall wardrobes for clothes. There are bathrooms with



Hanny, Beverlyn, Maria, and Josselyn have so much to celebrate. With the help of God, this family is breaking the cycle of poverty.

showers on each floor. When Kimberly finishes dental school in three years, the room in the front will be converted into a dentist's office.

And Hanny? A life replete with love and laughter, with more stuffed animals to come. As she rests in her mother's arms, there is nothing for her to fear, and that's how childhood should be.

"At breakfast, we talk about what we dream of, what we want to do, and how it's been going," says Maria. Kimberly talks about life at university, and Beverlyn tells them what's happening at the grocery store, the beauty salon, and the bakery. Josselyn talks about her pregnancy and possible names for the baby-Moses or David for a boy, Madisson for a girl. Maria reminds the girls what matters most: keeping Christ at the center. "I always tell them to put God first because without God, we are nothing," she says. Maria's daughters listen. They know she is extraordinary. You can see it in their eyes and hear it in their laughter.

Maria is a good mother. •



Empower families like Maria's to leave poverty in the past through your gift of chickens. See the insert between pages 18 and 19, call 1.888.852.4453, or visit wwmag.org/chickens25.

2010s

Communications Officer Margaret Alerotek, a former sponsored child from Gulu, petitions the Lord's Resistance Army to resume peace talks. They agree, but a few months later Margaret is poisoned to death.

▶ World Vision
hosts the first Youth
Empowerment
Summit in
Washington,
D.C., empowering
dozens of young
Americans to speak
out on behalf of their
communities' needs.



2009

in need.

Guideposts
magazine turns
its Knit for Kids
program over
to World Vision
to expand the
program's reach.
Participants knit
blankets and warmweather clothes for
World Vision to
distribute to children

▶ Rich Stearns's book *The Hole in* Our Gospel is a call

communities.

Day Obsper is a can to action for the U.S. church.

▶ Pastor and author Max Lucado travels to Ethiopia to see how child sponsorship helps provide clean water to

2010

When a magnitude 7.0 earthquake strikes Haiti and kills an estimated 220,000 people, World Vision responds and helps communities recover.

► Church Partnership for Child Well-Being project launches.

2011

IN THE MIDDLE OF THE

GREAT RECESSION,

WORLD VISION

LAUNCHES ITS FIRST

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN,

FOR EVERY CHILD,

AIMING TO EMPOWER

20 MILLION PEOPLE

WORLDWIDE WITH

LIFE-CHANGING

RESOURCES.

"Journey to Jamaa" film deepens congregations' understanding of the impact of AIDS.

My World Vision launches, providing sponsors information, photos, and videos online and enabling email communication for sponsors.



- ✓ World Vision responds after a tornado tears through Joplin, Missouri.
- ➤ World Vision responds to the earthquake and tsunami in Japan.
- ➤ Purifier of Water packets, developed by Dr. Philip Souter and produced by

Procter & Gamble, are employed by World Vision during cholera epidemics in Haiti and Zimbabwe, enabling hundreds of thousands of people to get safe drinking water.

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BY KARI COSTANZA

World Vision believes in communities.

In Matthew 18, Jesus tells the disciples the story of the man who has lost a sheep. "And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish" (verses 13–14).

The story illustrates one of the reasons World Vision works with communities to keep children safe. This may seem paradoxical because it's a story that reflects God's deep investment in individuals. But in our work to help ensure that every child can experience the fullness of life God offers, it's often the local community—the 99—that are best equipped to identify those individuals who are "lost"—whose needs, whether physical or spiritual, aren't being met.

In Monrovia, California, World Vision volunteers distribute relief supplies to families impacted by wildfires that swept across the Los Angeles metropolitan area, destroying more than 17,000 homes. To date, World Vision has supported at least 45,000 people with emergency supplies.

Partnering with communities, through their churches, leaders, and local governments, is one of our most effective strategies.

Since 2011, we've reached 37.5 million people in communities

with clean water, equipped 30 million with household sanitation, and empowered 45 million to improve their hygiene. Our water points last because World Vision equips community members to maintain them.

Through our work in nearly 1,000 communities around the world, we help people prepare for and respond quickly to emergencies that threaten children's lives. We also equip community members, through programs such as Citizen Voice and Action, to advocate for themselves and to recognize problems that need solving, especially issues involving children.

As the World Food Programme's largest nongovernmental partner, we work with local communities and through global partnerships to make sure communities have food.

In the U.S, we partner with corporate donors, volunteers, churches, community organizations, and other faith-based organizations to send truckloads of relief supplies for distribution in emergencies. World Vision also sends pastors to pray with people.

To invest in a community is to invest in the life of a child. In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish. •



Women in Mbuyuni, Tanzania, winnow beans as part of their growing farming businesses. With support from World Vision's economic empowerment programs, families in the community are building sustainable incomes and brighter futures.

Bangladeshi teens meet at monthly child forum meetings where they can bring up issues facing the community and how they'd like to address them.

2012

▶ World Vision responds to Hurricane Sandy, ultimately reaching more than 49,000 people with nearly \$2.5 million worth of relief supplies.

▶ Strong Women Strong World® is established to raise awareness and resources for work aimed at overcoming hardships unique to women and girls.

▶ Bestselling author Debbie Macomber becomes the international spokesperson for Ŵorld Vison's Knit for Kids program.

2013

■ World Vision president Rich Stearns visits a Syrian refugee camp in Jordan and meets Haya, a 10-year-old girl who pours her feelings into a song and letter for Rich. He carries the letter and

quotes her for five

years, calling on the church to care about the people fleeing war-torn Syria. It will ultimately help raise \$50 million for our Syrian refugee response.



▶ World Vision helps survivors of the Oklahoma tornadoes, reaching more than 15,500 people.

▶ Former President Bill Clinton and his daughter, Chelsea, tour a World Vision water project in Rwanda, where our partnership with Procter &

Gamble has helped communities get clean water.

2014

▶ When tens of thousands of children arrive at the U.S. border unaccompanied by their parents, World Vision partners with U.S. churches to ensure children's basic needs are met.

▶ Team World Vision hosts its first annual Global 6K for Water® event.

▶ World Vision and Procter & Gamble celebrate the billionth liter of clean water delivered through their partnership.

2015

▶ World Vision's For Every Child campaign surpasses its initial goal and reaches more than 25 million people, half of them children, in just five years.

▶ World Vision achieves the distinction of being the largest MORE THAN 4 MILLION CHILDREN

HAVE BEEN SPONSORED. provider of clean water in the developing world. ▶ World Vision

nongovernmental

and Sesame Street (Sesame Workshop) begin a partnership for the WASH UP! initiative to empower children with lifesaving sanitation and hygiene habits.

We believe in communities

How food multiplies hope Women carry 50-kilogram (110-pound) sacks of sorghum and pulses during a World Food Programme-

BY SEVIL OMER

FATIOTA BEULA HAD EVERY REASON TO FEEL that life had turned against her.

It was 1984, and the relentless drought devastating northern Mozambique's Tete province had driven her from her home and taken the life of her malnourished baby, the youngest of her three children. She'd also lost her husband, who left in the midst of the crisis, unable to bear the hunger closing in on their family.

"All that is left for us to do is cry," she said. Stories like Fatiota's are heartbreakingly common, Years of conflict and failed rains pushed millions of people to the edge of starvation in Mozambique, especially in the provinces of Tete, Sofala, and Manica. Food was scarce in nearly every corner of this long, narrow nation along southeastern Africa's coast.

To much of the world, reaching the most vulnerable felt nearly impossible.

As the crisis deepened, World Vision and the World Food Programme joined forces to deliver lifesaving food assistance.

That's how World Vision staff met Fatiota, She had been invited to Matundo.

a small camp near the city of Tete.

"I accepted their offer because we were terribly hungry and had nowhere to go."

Food Programme– supported food distribution organized by World Vision in

drought-affected Turkana, Kenya.

At Matundo, she and her two daughters received shelter and warm massa, a thick porridge made of maize, prepared from World Vision's first 11-ton food delivery.

For Fatiota, the massa did more than fill her stomach. It restored a measure of peace.

"We were suffering and dying for lack of food," she told World Vision's John Hatton, who reported her story back in 1984. "Now you are helping us. I want you



to tell your people that we are thankful."

That delivery would usher in something greater—a legacy of exponential impact in the fight against hunger.

A story of multiplication

"How many loaves do you have?"

Faced with thousands of hungry and tired people, Jesus asked His disciples that very question. The answer—a handful of loaves and a few small fish—became more than enough.

At World Vision, we have witnessed something similar unfold again and again



World Food Programme Executive Director Cindy McCain visits the Jewi Refugee Camp in Ethiopia's Gambella region, where World Vision, with World Food Programme support, delivers monthly food aid to South Sudanese refugees, most of whom are children. The partnership ensures food security and stability for some of the most vulnerable families.

for millions of people in places affected by disasters. What begins as a donor's generous gift multiplies into something far greater: a partnership that not only feeds the hungry for a day but builds the capacities of communities to feed themselves for generations.

For more than 30 years, World Vision and the World Food Programme have worked side by side to end hunger. Together, we have reached tens of millions of children, distributing meals, restoring dignity, and creating opportunities.

From remote, isolated towns to

communities scarred by conflict and disaster, this collaboration has brought hope in the form of warm school lunches, nutrition for malnourished children, and tools to help families prepare for the next crisis—and the one after that.

"This partnership goes beyond delivering food—it's about survival, protection, and the right of every child to live a life of dignity and hope," says Margaret Schuler, senior vice president and chief impact officer for World Vision.

A legacy of impact

Mozambique was not the only country to experience a food crisis in the 1980s. Ethiopia faced a devastating

famine that shocked the world. World Vision, present in the country since 1971, responded before the global community fully grasped the scale of the emergency. Alongside the World Food Programme, we airdropped food supplies to remote communities and opened emergency feeding centers to help save the lives of starving children. We also supported families through the long road to recovery: planting seedlings, building nurseries, constructing schools and clinics, creating jobs, and laying water pipelines. These efforts combined to meet emergency needs and set the foundation for long-term food security.

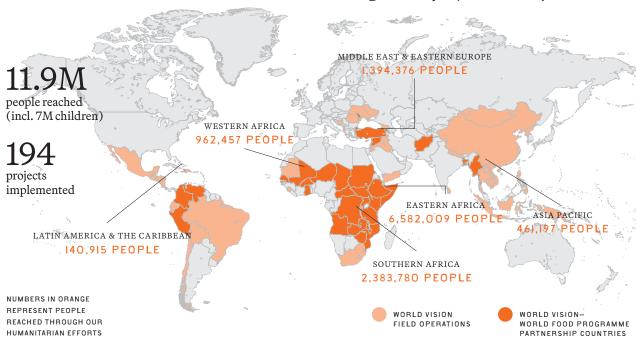
In the early 1990s, as humanitarian needs again surged, World Vision and the World Food Programme formalized their collaboration around a shared goal: ending hunger in all its forms.

That commitment has since been tested repeatedly by some of the world's most devastating crises—and still endures.

In 1998, Hurricane Mitch tore through Central America, striking Honduras and Nicaragua with deadly force. In 2001, a massive earthquake rocked India's Gujarat state, killing more than 20,000 people. Then, in 2004, an earthquake in the Indian Ocean triggered a catastrophic tsunami that swept across 14 countries, including Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and Thailand, claiming nearly 230,000 lives and leaving countless people in need of food, shelter, and water.

But hunger's grip extends beyond nat-

World Vision and World Food Programme projects in 2024



ural disasters. Across Africa, the Middle East, and parts of Asia and Latin America, conflict and prolonged droughts have been frequent drivers of hunger crises, slowly creating conditions that rob families of their food, income, and stability.

In 2002, drought plunged Zimbabwe, Malawi, and Mozambique into crisis, affecting 14 million people. In Darfur, conflict and mass displacement starting in 2003 created famine-like conditions. And today, tens of millions of people around the world continue to face the harsh realities of acute hunger, including many children at risk of starvation.

In each of these challenging chapters, World Vision and the World Food Programme stood side by side with communities in need—bringing food and helping restore communities.

Today, World Vision is the World Food Programme's largest nongovernmental partner, a position we've held since 2005.

"For more than 30 years, the World Food Programme and World Vision have shared a deep commitment to ending global hunger. Our enduring partnership, which spans more than 30 countries, has enabled us to provide lifesaving food assistance to millions of people

in desperate need while supporting longer-term food security with joint school feeding and food for assets programs," says Cindy McCain, executive director of the World Food Programme. "World Vision's teams on the ground are often the local experts, with the knowledge and relationships that enable us to be effective together. United by our belief in a future free from hunger, we will continue standing shoulder to shoulder with the world's most vulnerable people."

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In 2024 alone, our partnership supported over 11.9 million people. Over half of them—7 million—were children.

2016 WORLD VISION LAUNCHES THE EVERY LAST ONE CAMPAIGN, AN 8-YEAR, \$1 BILLION CAMPAIGN TO EQUIP 60 MILLION PEOPLE WITH RESOURCES TO LIFT THEMSELVES OUT OF POVERTY.

2017

- World Vision responds to multiple massive hurricanes, including Harvey in Texas, Irma in Florida, and Maria in Puerto Rico.
- ▶ World Vision responds to mass displacement of the Rohingya people from Myanmar to Bangladesh.
- ▶ World Vision's U.S. office develops the Matthew 25 Challenge, a weeklong discipleship tool for churches.

WORLD VISION IS
REACHING ONE
NEW PERSON EVERY
IO SECONDS
WITH CLEAN WATER.



<u>2018</u>

- Menlo Park Church celebrates assembling the millionth kit marking 13 years of partnership with World Vision.
- Edgar Sandoval Sr. becomes president of World Vision.



2019

- world Vision flips the script on child sponsorship and launches Chosen*, where for the first time, children get to select their sponsor.
- World Vision convenes a Pastors Gathering in the U.S., which becomes an annual event.



As World Vision responds to the current global hunger crisis, we continue to believe that with God, all things are possible.

"While the crisis is immense, the possibility of ending hunger and nutrition-related crises once and for all remains within reach," says Mary Njeri, director of World Vision's Global School Meals.

Loaves and fishes, multiplied

Just as Jesus multiplied the loaves and fish to feed the multitude, our collective efforts have grown beyond what seemed possible when we've worked together.

World Vision's deep local presence and comprehensive programming in communities all over the world, combined with the World Food Programme's expansive reach, have created a transformative impact—far greater than either could have achieved alone. With the World Food Programme, our private donors' contributions have often been multiplied tenfold—extending the reach of every gift.

We've linked school meals to longterm nutrition plans, implemented foodfor-assets projects that have restored lands, and provided emergency aid that is accompanied by access to clean water, health and nutrition, child protection, peacebuilding efforts, and more.

"I've served in World Vision since 1999 in multiple African countries where WFP has been one of our biggest and best donors," says Edward Brown, vice president of Humanitarian and Emergency Affairs for World Vision's U.S. office. "The food and global logistics capacity they provide combines with the resources we raise from the American people and 19 other fundraising offices in Australia, Canada, Asia, and Europe to make us the largest Christian direct distributor of food in the world. That has saved countless lives and is more important now than ever with so many governments cutting aid budgets."

More than daily bread

In 2023, at Bay Regional Hospital in Baidoa, Somalia, 2-year-old Fadumo lay in critical condition.

World Vision communicator Gwayi Patrick, who was based in Kenya at the time, wrote about Fadumo: "My heart broke as I looked at her wasted body."

The hospital was overcrowded. Pints of blood hung from poles. Machines beeped from every corner, and hunger filled the air.

"Hunger is cruel, manifesting so strongly that I saw it unfolding before my eyes," he wrote.

And yet, faced with the desperation, he also saw God's grace.

"Haunted by the memories of Somalia's 2011 famine that claimed 260,000 lives, I feared we were heading down the same path," Gwayi said. "But thanks to God, and the agile, lifesustaining partnership between WFP and World Vision, assistance came just in time for those in need. Together, we

pushed back hunger and brought hope where it was all but lost."

Transformational aid

Food aid today is more than distributing rations; it is about equipping families and communities for long-term resilience. With support from World Vision and the World Food Programme, communities are building lasting solutions—from irrigation systems to school gardens and public works.

In Burkina Faso and Myanmar, families access food and other assistance to prevent malnutrition and protect livelihoods. In Malawi, farmers have transformed dry land into fertile farmland through irrigation. In Somalia, sustainable practices and tools are helping farmers grow nutritious crops on larger plots.

In over 20 countries, school meals delivered in partnership with governments and the World Food Programme help nourish children while supporting their education.

Savings-and-loan groups are also embedded in many programs, enabling families to withstand future shocks, invest in businesses, and improve nutrition.

Beyond on-the-ground programs, World Vision and the World Food Programme also advocate for famine prevention and stronger food systems that address the root causes of hunger, enabling children not just to survive, but to thrive.

▶30 Hour Famine

and more than

▶ World Vision

local churches

and businesses in

people affected by

deadly tornadoes.

Kentucky to help

partners with

hungry.

celebrates 30 years

6 million students

fasting to raise money

for children who are



Smiles follow the distribution of essential food aid—rice and fortified blended food—by World Vision and the World Food Programme to earthquake-affected families in Mandalay, Myanmar, in 2025.

With food security, peace has a chance to take hold.

In 2020, the World Food Programme was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for its efforts to end hunger, promote peace in conflict-affected areas, and prevent the use of hunger as a weapon of war. It was a recognition of the critical link between food access and stability.

Belief in action

In 2024, World Vision President and CEO Edgar Sandoval Sr. traveled to Chad to meet families displaced by conflict in Sudan. There, he saw malnourished children clinging to life.

"In times of crisis and conflict, hunger is often one of the most immediate

and devastating consequences, especially for children. And it can have lifelong impacts on their future," Edgar says. "With refugee families at the Sudan–Chad border, I witnessed some of the worst conditions for children's survival that I have ever seen. It was heartbreaking to see that level of suffering, especially as we think of each of these children as precious in God's sight."

Moments like that raise deep questions for all of us who follow Jesus: questions about suffering, endurance, and where to find hope when the world's problems feel overwhelming. Edgar once shared one of those questions with former South Carolina Governor and World Food Programme Executive Director David

Beasley: "How do you keep hope alive when hunger seems endless?"

David's response was clear.

"Jesus did not suggest loving our neighbor—He commanded it. If we believe in the Almighty, then loving our neighbor is how we love God.

"I've been to some of the world's hardest places. And even in war-torn rubble, a child can emerge—bright-eyed, full of life.

"Like a flower in the desert. That's who we're fighting for: to give that child hope, a future, and a relationship with the Almighty."

That is the message we carry forward, not just in times of disaster, but every day, in every place where hunger threatens a child's life and future.

Even in the hardest places to be a child, hope can bloom. Every gift, no matter how small, becomes part of a greater story. Together, we multiply hope. •

Lauren Zimmerman works for World Vision and contributed to this article.



Help provide food for people who are hungry. See the insert between pages 18 and 19, call 1.888.852.4453, or visit wwmag.org/hunger25.



2020

▶ World Vision responds to the COVID-19 pandemic in every country where we work around the world.



2021

OVER THE COURSE OF OUR
PARTNERSHIP WITH THE
WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME,
WORLD VISION HAS REACHED
OVER II.5 MILLION PEOPLE
WITH LIFESAVING FOOD AID IN
31 COUNTRIES.

<u>2022</u>

- ► World Vision responds to war in Ukraine through relief programs in Romania, Moldova, Georgia, and Ukraine.
- In response to a growing global hunger crisis, World Vision launches its largest

undertaking ever, with the initial aim of reaching 22 million people in 25 of the hardest-hit countries with food and other critical resources. In 2022 alone, more than 15.5 million people

humanitarian

are reached.

2023

THE EVERY LAST
ONE CAMPAIGN
SURPASSES ITS
GOAL, RAISING
MORE THAN
\$I BILLION AND
IMPACTING THE
LIVES OF MORE
THAN 70 MILLION
PEOPLE.

deadliest U.S. wildfire in more than a century devastates Maui, World Vision partners with local churches and organizations to provide relief to

people affected.

△ ► After the



launches the largest campaign in its history, Everyone Needs a Believer*, with a goal to equip 300 million people by 2030 with resources to lift themselves out of extreme poverty.

▶ World Vision

a future of being

BY KRISTY J. O'HARA-GLASPIE

Thank you for your faithfulness—even when you doubted you were making an impact, even when your finances seemed too tight to continue giving, even when you were overwhelmed with crises in your life, even when your faith wavered.

Thank you for believing in children, families, and communities alongside us and being part of this life-changing work.

God has used each and every single individual, church, organizational, government, and community partner to impact change for His glory.

We give thanks for all that God has done the past 75 years.

We look forward to all that He will continue to do in the lives of so many people around the world.

Just as Bob Pierce obeyed God's calling decades ago, as we move into this new era of World Vision's ministry, we're still responding in obedience.

We don't know what the next 75 years will hold, but for at least the next five, we are following His lead as we take a leap of faith to equip 300 million men, women, and children in more than 70 countries with life-changing resources to help them lift themselves out of poverty and experience fullness of life.

We look forward to continuing this bold adventure of belief alongside you. •



2024

IN ITS ONGOING RESPONSE TO
THE GLOBAL HUNGER CRISIS,
WORLD VISION REACHES
NEARLY 14.5 MILLION PEOPLE,
INCLUDING MORE THAN 8 MILLION
CHILDREN, WITH LIFESAVING
CARE AND SUPPORT FOR
LONG-TERM NEEDS.

► World Vision responds to Hurricanes Helene in North Carolina and Milton in Florida.

2025

► World Vision is certified as a Best Christian Workplace.



◆ ♥ World Vision works with church and community partners in Los Angeles to help people affected by devastating wildfires.

75 YEARS OF BELIEF WORLD VISION

CELEBRATES 75 YEARS

OF BELIEF IN GOD'S

POWER TO TRANSFORM

LIVES—ONE CHILD, ONE

FAMILY, ONE COMMUNITY

AT A TIME.



2030 AND BEYOND

2030

WE HOPE TO HAVE

EQUIPPED 300 MILLION

MEN, WOMEN, AND

CHILDREN IN MORE THAN

70 COUNTRIES

TO FREE THEMSELVES

FROM THE GRIP OF

EXTREME POVERTY.

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PAGES 18 AND 19 TO LEARN MORE! WORLD VISION GIFT CATALOG. SEE THE INSERT BETWEEN GIVE A UNIQUE AND LIFE-CHANGING GIFT FROM THE



