

“A Good Man” in Congo

Cassava improves Samuel’s life. *by Kari Costanza*



Samuel enjoys a bountiful harvest.

JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

Samuel Ngabonziza’s name means “a good man.”

But it is his father, Daniel Buamungu, who really lives out the meaning of those words.

Samuel, 8, lives in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where 1,250 people die every day from what the war left behind—disease, malnutrition, poor water and sanitation, and sporadic conflict.

Three years ago, malaria and hunger claimed the lives of Samuel’s mother and 3-month-old sister. “It was a very difficult time,” Daniel says. But he knew he had to go on

for his son’s sake.

“Because I am a Christian, I believe in miracles,” he says. “Usually when I have problems there come solutions I cannot believe.”

One of the solutions grows as tall as Daniel himself. It is cassava—a new variety provided by World Vision.

“You can see the difference,” says Daniel. “This cassava is big. You can get more flour. You can use the leaves.”

World Vision focuses on food security for families like Samuel’s by training farmers to plant new seed varieties and to use agricultural innovations. ■

World Vision

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Blooming Success

Sponsorship helps Ilada flourish. *by Katrina Peach*



Ilada: happy and healthy.

KANNIKAR THREEPALAVISEKUL/WORLD VISION

Her name, Ilada, means “the scent of a flower,” and Ilada’s energy permeates a room just like a perfume. The 15-year-old girl from rural Thailand is blossoming, thanks to the support of World Vision and her sponsor.

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Poor nutrition contributes to 53 percent of deaths associated with infectious diseases among children under age 5 in the developing world. **WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION**

Alma Mater

*“Far above Cayuga’s waters,
With its waves of blue,
Stands our noble alma mater,
Glorious to view.”*

—Cornell University’s alma mater

In May, my family trekked to Ithaca, N.Y., to attend my daughter Hannah’s graduation from Cornell University. It was a big deal and a crowning achievement after her four years of hard work. Three weeks later, we celebrated my son Pete’s high school graduation and his plans to attend Wheaton College next fall.

As an alumnus, singing the Cornell alma mater at the end of Hannah’s graduation ceremony took me back to 1964, when at the age of 13 and I wrote to all eight Ivy League colleges, requesting their catalogs. Back

“Apply your heart to instruction and your ears to words of knowledge.”

—PROVERBS 23:12

then, I would lie awake at night, trying to imagine what it would be like to actually attend one of the schools. You see, my father never finished the eighth grade, and my mother never completed high school. My parents were divorced, and there was no money, so the possibility of this dream coming true seemed remote.

But 11 years later—through God’s grace, hard work, scholarships, and loans—I had graduated from both

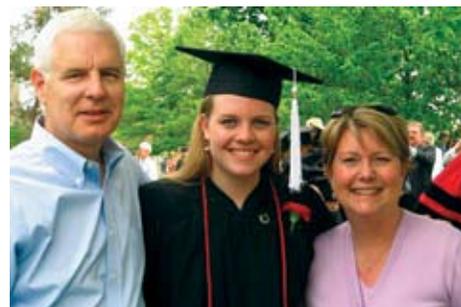
Cornell University and the University of Pennsylvania. That tremendous opportunity allowed me to pursue my dreams and give the same opportunity to my five children.

But for millions of the world’s children, dreams like mine don’t come true. During my recent trip to India, I met a young girl named Nagaveni who had been sold into bonded labor to pay back a family debt of just \$30. She told me that the most difficult part of her ordeal was watching the other children walk to and from school, knowing that she could never go. Fortunately, World Vision was able to work with the community to free Nagaveni, and she is now back in school.

Some children don’t go to school because they have to fetch water, walking many miles each day with heavy loads. Others have to work in the fields. In total, 115 million children worldwide are not able to go to school.

When World Vision looks at the most strategic and effective ways to address poverty, education comes very high on the list. The World Bank estimates that every year of schooling increases an individual’s earnings by 10 percent.

As we pray for those eager to get an education, we should also thank God that our country has been blessed with schools and universities that enable so many to see their dreams come true. ■

COURTESY STEARNS FAMILY

World Vision News

*A Quarterly Newsletter for
Friends of World Vision*

Volume 10 • Number 4 • Autumn 2007

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World Vision News, a free quarterly newsletter, informs donors and friends about World Vision’s ministry in nearly 100 countries. In an effort to be careful stewards of our resources, this publication costs less than 35 cents a copy to print and mail. If you have any questions or comments, or if you would like to send World Vision News to a friend, call toll-free: (866) 332-2484. Please send address changes at least 30 days before moving and enclose the address label clipped from a current copy or return envelope.

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Dreaming of a Better Future

Land restoration helps children stay in school. *by Wadi Razzouk*

Both Yusef, 10, and his sister, Rudaynah, 15, children living in the village of Nahhalin, near Bethlehem, are good students. Yusef dreams of becoming an engineer just like his father, while Rudaynah dreams of becoming a physician.

“I want to help poor people,” she says, “and I will not charge them if they cannot pay.” Her mother, Insaf, smiles proudly when she hears this. Insaf used to work as a nurse but had to quit her job more than 10 years ago to take care of the children.

Although her husband, Qasem, lost his job a few months ago, they try to provide their children with all they can.

“The land is not big enough to support us economically, and I have to work as an engineer, but the foods we grow help us very much,” he says. The family land has olive and almond trees planted next to a small vineyard.

It is very important for Qasem to teach his children farming, as it is a family tradition and a key to their livelihood.

This year, World Vision helped restore a half-acre piece of land for the family, turning it into rich agri-

cultural soil.

In all, World Vision restored more than 27 acres for the community. The project is helping improve food security for more than a thousand people in the village.

World Vision began working in Nahhalin only three years ago, but the impact of projects on the 6,500-strong community is already showing

results: local schools opened more classrooms, and a new library was furnished with books and furniture.

Yusef says that he wants to become an engineer and also farm the family land. He says, “It is important for me to learn farming, because one day part of this land will become mine, and I will have to take care of it.” ■



WADI RAZZOUK/WORLD VISION

Fertile soil helps feed children.

BULLETIN BOARD

WORLD AIDS DAY » December 1 provides many opportunities to learn, advocate, and spread the word about the global AIDS pandemic. See how you can get involved by visiting www.worldvision.org/worldaidsday.

WORLD VISION EXPERIENCE: AIDS » This 2,500-square-foot experiential exhibit invites you to take an intimate walk in the footsteps of a child scarred by Africa's



LAURA REINHARDT/WORLD VISION

most frightening disease. At the end of this life-changing journey, visitors can respond through prayer, advocacy, or giving. The exhibit is currently touring churches across the United States. For more information, visit www.worldvisionexperience.org.

Trees of Life

Moringa trees help fight malnutrition in Mali. *by Scott Lout*



SCOTT LOU/World Vision

Miracle trees provide nutrition.

A diverse diet, provided with the help of World Vision, is improving nutrition for infants and families in eastern Mali.

Jean-Calvin Diarra, a World Vision manager, has high hopes that children recovering from malnutrition will thrive with the supplemental vitamins found in goats' milk, papaya fruit, and the "miracle" moringa tree.

Leaves from moringa trees, dried and crushed to powder and added to meals, provide seven times the vitamin C of oranges, four times the calcium and two times the protein of cow's milk, three times the potassium of bananas, and four times the vitamin A of carrots.

Since its inception, the nutrition project has cut child malnutrition rates among infants from as high as 44 percent to about 12 percent in only seven months.

"When we began, we registered 116 infants into the program," explains Diarra. "Only three months

after this, 37 children were measuring healthy weights."

The nutrition project brings together mothers of malnourished infants to learn about malnutrition and how to prevent it. A nutrition specialist

provided by World Vision trains the mothers to prepare vitamin-enriched meals from locally available products.

Mamou Bouare says the efforts from World Vision may have saved her daughter's life. In just four months of proper nutrition, her daughter progressed from being severely malnourished to, at the time of her last check-up, fully recovered to her proper weight.

"We are so thankful for what we have learned about how to provide good nutrition for our children," she says. "These trees will help us continue with proper health." ■

YOU CAN HELP

See the attached envelope to find out how you can help provide seeds and tools so families can grow their own lifesaving food.

About World Vision

WHO WE ARE | World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to helping children, families, and their communities worldwide reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice.

WHOM WE SERVE | Motivated by our faith in Jesus Christ, we serve alongside the poor—regardless of a person's religion, race, ethnicity, or gender—as a demonstration of God's unconditional love for all people.

WHY WE SERVE | Our passion is for the world's poorest children whose suffering breaks the heart of God. To help secure a better future for each child, we focus on lasting, community-based transformation. We partner with individuals and communities, empowering them to develop sustainable access to clean water, food supplies, health care, education, and economic opportunities.

HOW WE SERVE | Since 1950, World Vision has helped millions of children and families by providing emergency assistance to those affected by natural disasters and civil conflict, developing long-term solutions within communities to alleviate poverty, and advocating for justice on behalf of the poor.

YOU CAN HELP | Partnering with World Vision provides tangible ways to honor God and put faith into action. By working together, we can make a lasting difference in the lives of children and families who are struggling to overcome poverty. To find out how you can help, refer to the back cover or the envelope attached here, or visit www.worldvision.org.

World Vision



Nearly half of the world's underweight children live in South Asia. UNICEF

Call of the Country

A Mongolian street child returns to her roots. *by James Addis*

On the freezing streets of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, Shinedarav Batbaatar had only memories of the countryside where she was raised.

She had come to the city with her mother after her father was arrested for stealing sheep in an ill-fated attempt to feed the family. They had been nomadic herders, and the mother and daughter were unable to make a living. Shinedarav soon joined thousands of other homeless youngsters living on the freezing city streets.

Relief came when Shinedarav was accepted into a World Vision Lighthouse center for homeless street children. There she found food, shelter, and a friendly home. Shinedarav thrived at the center, but she felt something was missing.

Then Shinedarav got the opportunity to study at World Vision's Youth

Farm Center. The fully-functioning farm teaches animal husbandry, vegetable growing, and traditional arts such as yogurt making. The farm provides the necessary skills for country children to return to their roots.

Shinedarav, now 17, could not be happier. Her dream is to one day return to the nomadic lifestyle she once knew, managing her own animals, and living in a traditional round felt tent, known as a *ger*.

"Why would anybody want to live in Ulaanbaatar?" Shinedarav says, citing pollution and crime.

Watching her delight at herding goats in the spring sunshine, the scene framed by lightly snow-clad mountains, one can easily see her point. ■

» **To help children and families in Mongolia, call (866) 332-2484.**



Shinedarav is home again.

SIGNS OF SUCCESS



SIMON PETER ESAKU/WORLD VISION

Malnutrition affects 146 million children—one out of every four under age 5 in the developing world. Poor nutrition can lead to stunted growth, disease, and poor school performance.

Providing families with seeds, tools, and training can help break the cycle of malnutrition among children. Some highlights of World Vision's recent agricultural work:

- » In Ethiopia, World Vision recently distributed 250 pounds of vegetable seeds as well as chickens and livestock to farming families.
- » Last year, more than 3,000 farmers in Sierra Leone attended field schools where they learned new techniques. ■

Cash Crops

Cashew plantations introduce villagers to international commerce. *by Albert Yu*

Recently planted cashew trees are setting the stage for villages in Bachieng District, Laos, to participate in international commerce.

In response to the limited amount of land available for agriculture, selected villages were recently given land grants by the district government—two and a half acres per family. The land was provided for households to cultivate rice and other crops to supplement income or help ease the burden of annual food shortages during the dry season.

However, realizing that the rice crops would still be insufficient for families to survive, World Vision partnered with the district government to offer families an opportunity to grow cashew trees, which are resilient to the effects of dry season.

Each household received 400 cashew trees for their land. With proper care and cultivation, the trees will begin to yield cashew nuts in four years.

“There is a large market for cashews, especially in Vietnam, and we have plans for the villagers to export their cashews there,” says local official Sanaam Nhon.

“The sales from cashew nuts will be sufficient for us to buy all the rice we need,” says a village leader. “We are very happy and proud of our new cashew plantation.” ■



ALBERT YU/WORLD VISION

Young trees promise big changes.

IN THE NEWS

SOLOMON ISLANDS: TSUNAMI STRIKES »

Thousands were forced to flee and survive by eating scattered coconuts and fish left dead on dry land after several islands were hit by a major earthquake and tsunami in April. World Vision rushed tarpaulins, mosquito nets, and blankets to displaced people and provided safe water supplies.

UGANDA: PUSH FOR PEACE » World Vision organized a teleconference between government negotiators and representatives of the rebel Lord's Resistance Army to try to revive stalled peace talks. Talks were not resumed, but both parties promised to uphold a cessation of



WORLD VISION STAFF

SOLOMON ISLANDS

hostilities agreement. During the 20-year conflict the LRA has forcibly abducted thousands of children and forced them to serve as soldiers or sex slaves. ■



Blooming Success (continued from page 1)

When she's cooking the family breakfast before school each morning, Ilada has a great view of the family's garden and their water buffalo and calf.

But there wasn't always a flowering garden. In 1997, an economic downturn in Thailand hit her family very hard. They were poor, and like many in the village, they struggled to survive each day.

"About 10 years ago, my husband and I were laborers. I would take any job offered that was paying," says Ilada's mother, Pad Tamnau, 47.

Laboring in others' fields or working as porters gave them enough money to buy food and necessary supplies, Pad says, but it was a daily struggle to make ends meet.

When World Vision began sponsorship in the village, Ilada was registered, giving her and her family hope for the future.

Pad openly admits that without

the sponsors' support for her children's school fees, they would not be able to attend high school, which is her dream.

"My husband and I have had a hard time because we lacked education, and we don't want our children's lives to be like that," she says.

World Vision also provided agricultural training to Ilada's parents. They learned organic farming techniques that would increase their yield and enable them to save on fertilizer costs.

"After the training, we started organic farming. Now, we are not afraid that our soil will be destroyed, and we are not afraid to eat the vegetables," Pad explains as Ilada holds out a bunch of bright green, leafy, organic coriander.

Now the family's crops, along with their children, are growing and blooming. ■

» To sponsor a child, see the envelope between pages 4 and 5.



Organic farming helps Ilada's family.

KANNIKAR THREEPALAVISEKULU/WORLD VISION

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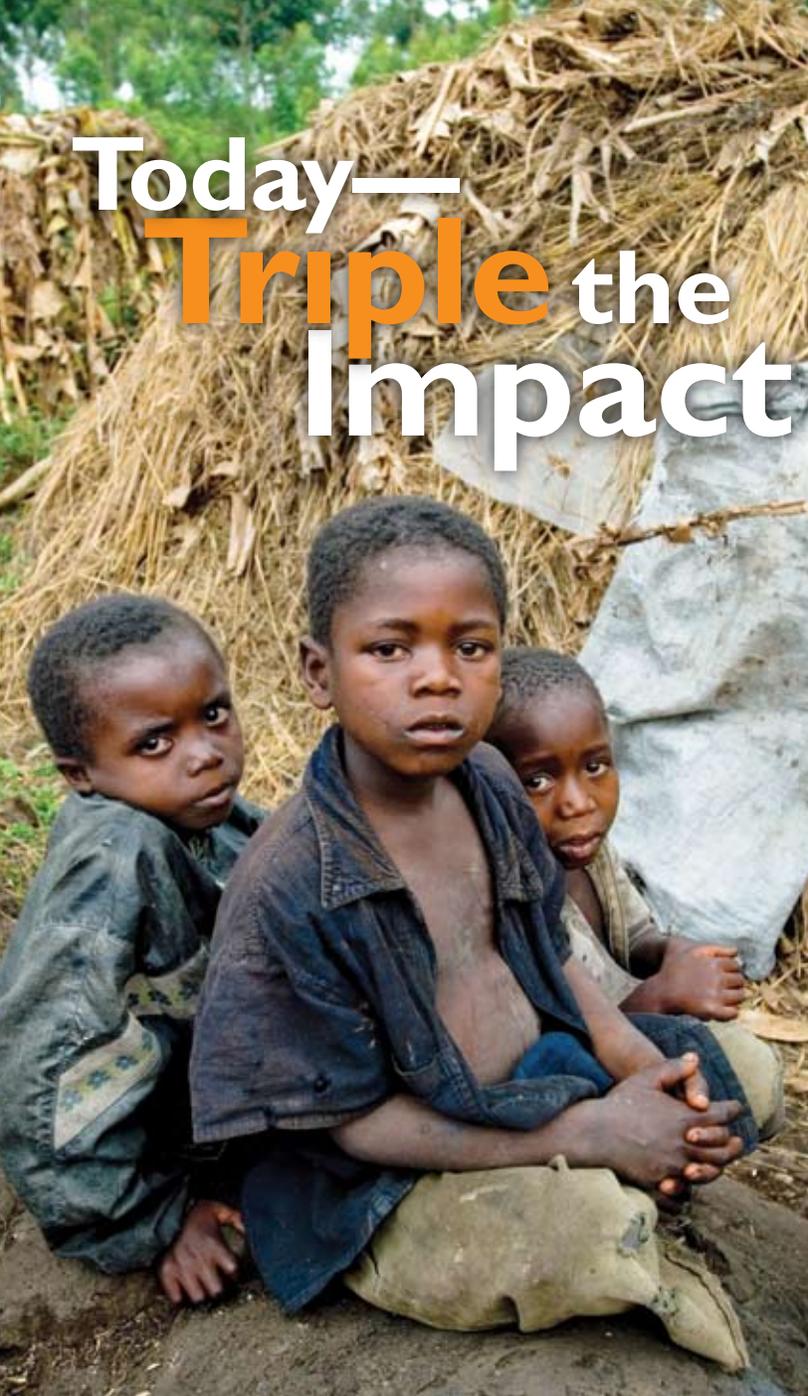
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70	6.5%
80	8.0%
90	11.3%

* Single-Life Rates effective July 2006 (subject to change)

To receive a no-obligation illustration of how a gift annuity can work for you, call **1.866.332.2484** or e-mail giftplanning@worldvision.org.



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Building a better world for children



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