
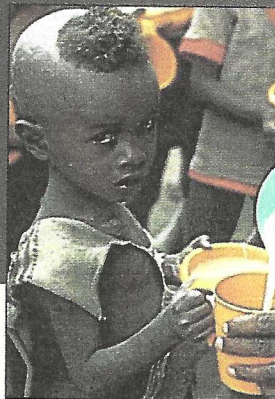


World Relief 



A SPECIAL 50TH ANNUAL REPORT  
*Relief & Hope*  
IN THE DARKEST HOURS

**The Mission of World Relief,  
as commissioned by the  
National Association of  
Evangelicals, is to work with  
the church in alleviating  
human suffering worldwide  
in the name of Christ.**

Dear partner in ministry:

You hold in your hands a very special annual report. Nineteen-ninety-four marks the 50th year of World Relief's ministry. What began in 1944 as the National Association of Evangelicals' War Relief Commission has blossomed into the World Relief of today, with ministries in 30 countries.

As World Relief's executive director, I have met many wonderful people. Recently, I was asked to name the one person who best exemplifies all that World Relief represents. Without hesitating, I answered, "Rev. Jasper Ndaborlor."

### **In the darkness of Liberia . . . a prayer for peace**

Rev. Jasper Ndaborlor is an elegant, godly pastor in war-torn Liberia. He has survived life-threatening terrorist attacks against himself and his family. He has witnessed a war that has cost 150,000 lives and left more than 1 million people homeless.

My wife, Joann, and I had the opportunity to meet Jasper last year. When Joann asked him how he made it through the dark days of the war, Jasper answered, "We prayed for endurance, and God gave it to us." Then he explained that there is a Liberian expression that says, "Hold on to your heart."

"What if your heart is broken?" Joann asked Jasper.

He replied, "Hold onto Jesus!"

Armed with this undying faith, Jasper sought to bring Christ's peace to his war-torn land. He envisioned a National Day of Prayer and a Conference on Reconciliation. "There will be no hope for this nation until there is peace, and there will be no peace without Jesus," Jasper told us.

And so, this past summer, Liberians from many warring factions, tribes, and religions attended the reconciliation conference. Former enemies, who had seen family members murdered, talked frankly of their thirst for revenge — and also asked for forgiveness.

The result? Liberia's cease-fire is still holding — something few thought possible a year or two ago.

### **Relief and hope in the darkest hours . . . let's be there**

To celebrate our anniversary, we need our partners — now more than ever before — to help us stand with people like Jasper who have a vision for bringing Christ's love to suffering and hurting people.

Our goal at World Relief is to be ready . . . to lend a hand to any church in need, anywhere and anytime . . . to never say "no" when a church says "help us."

Together, we can work toward the ultimate goal: That Christ may be glorified. As Luke 21:13 tells us, our endurance "will result in your being witnesses to them."

Thank you for being a part of this half century of ministry!



Art Gay

Executive Director





# 1940s

Relief and hope in the darkest hours

## War Relief unifies evangelicals

The World Relief ministry began in 1944, when leading American denominations realized they had a unique means of addressing the needs of war-torn Europe. Many had sister churches located in some of the hardest-hit regions of the continent.

"There was just a host of displaced people in Germany, France, Belgium," recalled the National Association of Evangelicals' Dr. Clyde Taylor in a 1984 interview. "The Free Church, Pentecostals, Baptists all found their own people there as refugees who needed food and clothing."

At their 1944 annual convention in Columbus, Ohio, the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) established the War Relief Commission to send clothing to victims of

the war. In September of that year, United Evangelical Action magazine carried the headline: "Nationwide Call for Clothing as NAE Opens War Relief Campaign." War Relief leaders issued the straightforward call: "Our assistance is desired and most urgently needed."

In 1946, War Relief began to collect food along with clothing. By the end of the decade, more than \$5 million in food, clothing and other aid had been collected and delivered to churches in Europe.

## 'Food for the body and food for the soul'

In the early years, World Relief's ministry goals were summed up by the motto: "Food for the body and food for the soul." Leaders and supporters alike insisted on providing spiritual help along with material aid. Along with clothing and food, local European churches handed out gospel tracts to every recipient.

This method of working through sister churches overseas laid the groundwork for all of World Relief's future ministry: providing relief in the name of Christ through local churches on the front lines of suffering.

U.S. churches also caught the spirit of this inter-denominational ministry. "I can report that interest in relief work in all areas of the country is far greater than I had anticipated," wrote War Relief Executive Director Frank Lombar, after a cross-country tour of evangelical churches in 1948.







PHOTO COURTESY OF RELIGIOUS NEWS SERVICE



### **Post-war darkness: A world in desperate need**

Immediately after World War II, evangelical leaders decided that the ministry of the War Relief Commission should continue into the future; human need was still great in post-war Europe. “No single report can accurately convey conditions in Europe today,” wrote Frank Lombar in 1948. “There are thousands of ragged and hungry men, women and children in Europe at this time. . . . They are undernourished, their homes in ruins and they have no means of earning a living.”

In 1949, Lombar repeated his observations of dire conditions: “Our brethren are still too poor to buy, too proud to beg and too honest to steal. How else can they get the bare necessities of life unless we, who have so much, share God’s plenty with them?”



# 1950s

## Relief and hope in the darkest hours

### From 'War Relief' to 'World Relief'



War does not end with a declaration of peace, but leaves in its bloody path broken bodies and discouraged souls," wrote World Relief's Executive Director, Frank Lombar, in 1952. "Germany, Japan, Korea and the Philippines; Greece, Trans-Jordan and Palestine are all calling to us for help, and if we are to prove worthy of our new world-wide mission, then there is but one answer: 'Here am I — Send me.'"

What began as an effort to clothe and feed European survivors of World War II rapidly became an effective, evangelical ministry to other regions of the world as well. Signalling their renewed focus on the entire "world" after the war, evangelical leaders chose a new name — World Relief — on April 27, 1950.

This new name and mission reflected the evolving nature of the ministry and the optimism and ambitious nature of post-war evangelical churches.

World Relief sought to provide aid in Christ's name to people in every part of the globe, continuing aid to Europe and expanding ministries in Asia.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RELIGIOUS NEWS SERVICE



## Christian compassion produces 'a new joy of worship'

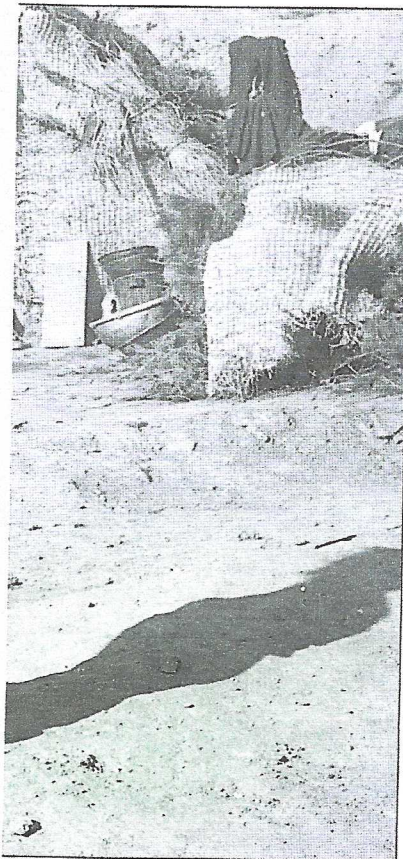
World Relief's ministry grew out of an increasing awareness by evangelical leaders that the Gospel message included meeting the physical needs of people. "Evangelicals wanted more of an emphasis on Christian compassion," said Dr. Hudson Armerding, former Wheaton College president and a member of World Relief's board of directors after World War II. "What was needed was compassion that was closer to the biblical balance of spiritual ministry and physical care, and a more biblical emphasis on how Christians should use their resources to help the poor."

As more and more churches in the U.S. supported the ministry of World Relief, they were discovering "a new joy of worship as they have shared their blessings in the relief of hunger and misery," wrote World Relief Executive Director, Wendell Rockey, in 1957. "Compared with many other voluntary relief agencies, we are a small operation," Rockey continued. "However, we are one of the few combining material relief with the Gospel message through sound Christian agencies and representatives abroad. With our abundance, we are compelled as Christians, and even more as evangelicals, to go where the need exists to help others."

## Another war — and new challenges — in Korea

In 1950, only five years after the end of World War II, most Americans were shocked to find themselves embroiled in the Korean War. They were also shocked by the extent of the suffering of the people of Korea. (A World Relief leader called it "a tragically distressed country.")

In response to the needs of innocent civilians, World Relief and evangelical partners designed a variety of ministries, such as: providing 31,000 hot meals a day at 140 feeding stations, setting up TB clinics, supporting orphanages, planting churches, beginning land reclamation projects, sponsoring church clothing drives, and shipping tons of U.S. surplus food to hungry families. World Relief also began to explore the ministry of economic development, providing sewing machines and training so war widows could earn a living for their families.





# 1960s

## Relief and hope in the darkest hours

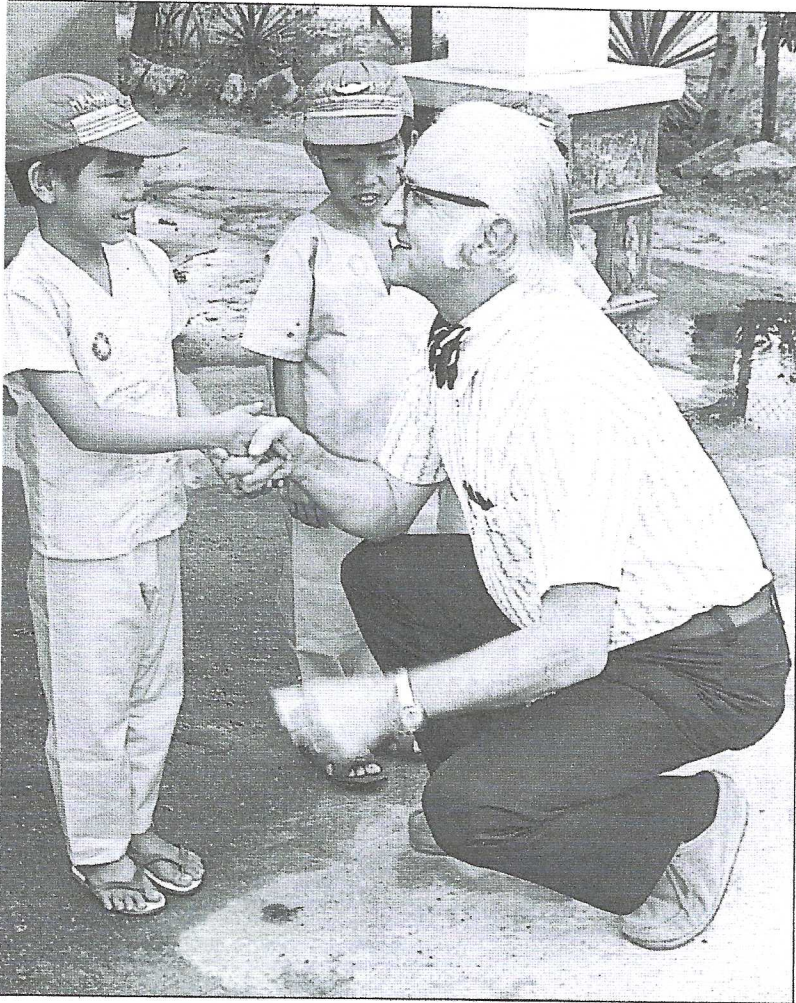
### A ministry matures in the midst of Vietnam's agony

The Vietnam War may have divided Americans, but World Relief's ministries helped unite evangelicals. Christians from many evangelical denominations (some opposed to the war, others who believed in the "just war" theory) worked side-by-side for a common cause: To bring health, food and life to the suffering. By the middle of the decade, World Relief was providing shipments of clothing, education, agricultural and job training, as well as, health and medical aid.

In 1969, prior to pulling out of Danang, the U.S. Marines turned their Hoa Khanh Children's Hospital over to World Relief. "When the Marine General was looking for a top-flight group to take over a newly-completed, fully-equipped, 120-bed hospital for children in Danang," World Relief was the ultimate choice, Executive Director, Everett Graffam, proudly reported. Hoa Khanh Hospital soon became World Relief's largest project in Vietnam. From 1969 to 1975 — when World Relief was forced to evacuate — the hospital provided care for more than 125,000 patients.







*World Relief's  
Everett Graffam  
always stopped to share  
God's love with those  
receiving help.*

### **Korea: Rebuilding a nation in the name of Christ**

Also in the 1960s, World Relief's ministry in Korea grew. By 1963, World Relief's feeding stations were

serving hot meals to more than 57,000 people a day.

Just as World Relief was beginning to wind down its involvement in Korea in 1968, the Honam land reclamation project began. This food-for-work project employed 87,000 refugees and struggling farmers who planted 22 1/2 million mulberry seedlings on 35,000 acres of land. Workers cultivated silk worms and spun silk cloth, providing more than \$100 million in assistance to hundreds of thousands of needy families.





# 1970s

## Relief and hope in the darkest hours

### Natural, man-made disasters plague Asia, Africa

In the 1970s, disasters claimed ever-larger numbers of innocent victims. In response, World Relief assisted local churches as they stood in the gap in the world's hot spots.

### Paul Munshi: Man of God, man of vision in Bangladesh

Bangladesh's bloody war for independence produced 1 million casualties and 10 million refugees. In response, World Relief provided emergency supplies to millions of these refugees in India and other neighboring nations. After independence in 1972, World Relief expanded its ministries there through the Christian Service Society (CSS).

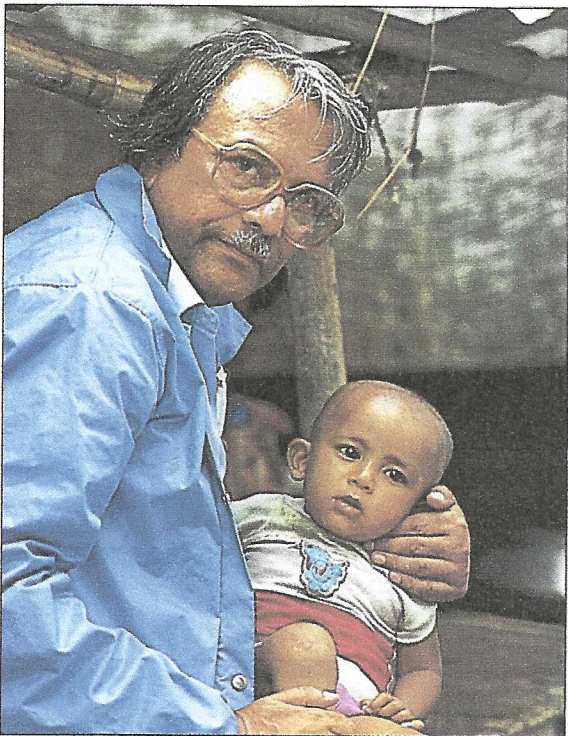
CSS was founded by Paul Munshi, a dedicated Christian and agriculturalist, to combat the widespread poverty and human suffering that had gripped Bangladesh — a bold step in a predominantly Muslim nation. Munshi discusses his first realization of the depths of the

needs of his countrymen: "I started pastoring an Assemblies of God church after I graduated from seminary. But not too many people attended the church. When I asked why, they said: 'If we go to church, then we cannot eat today. Every day we have to earn something.'"

Tragic events further strengthened his commitment to begin a ministry to his countrymen: "In 1971, we had to flee our home when war broke out. The soldiers killed thousands of people. For a time, I was hiding in a village and I saw that the dead bodies were all lined up. It was really hard to stand that kind of situation. Our hearts were completely broken and I just prayed, 'Lord, if somehow we survive through these things, I will come here and do something for these people.'"

Munshi started experimental farms which grew into agricultural co-operatives, and was awarded the silver medal Presidential Award for his efforts. "Ours was the only national Christian organization which received this award, the highest honor of our country," Munshi said.

Despite receiving numerous national awards over the years and helping hundreds of thousands of people to improve their lives, Munshi is still not satisfied: "Unless I see that the whole of Bangladesh receives the Lord as personal Savior, I will not be satisfied. My last prayer will be that."



JIM WHITMER/WORLD RELIEF PHOTO

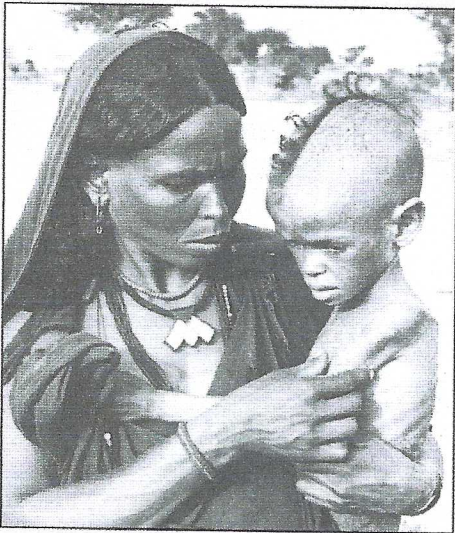
*Paul Munshi holds a child survivor of a devastating flood.*



## Africa's dark years of famine

"Will enough food arrive in time?" read the headline of a World Relief story on Africa in 1973. An article one year later continued the theme: "In the absence of grass and trees, the unrelenting sun colors everything in brassy hues, and hot air sings your lungs . . . . The people in the refugee camp look hopeless. They wait for daily food rations. Gaunt women try to quiet whimpering babies. Children don't play — they just cough and sit."

It was the beginning of a common theme in Africa for the next 20 years: famine, drought and starvation in a once-fertile continent. In Upper Volta (now Burkina Faso), Niger, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal, Ethiopia and Sudan, World Relief provided food and other aid to



the hungry through evangelical partners, including Sudan Interior Mission, Christian & Missionary Alliance, Assemblies of God, Worldwide Evangelization Crusade, The Evangelical Alliance Mission, Conservative Baptist Foreign Mission Society, Orthodox Presbyterian Church and others.

World Relief's other ministries in Africa included mobile medical teams, literacy classes, well-digging, irrigation and agricultural assistance. Africa remains one of World Relief's primary centers for ministry today.





# 1980s

## Relief and hope in the darkest hours

### Equipping, serving churches on the front lines of suffering

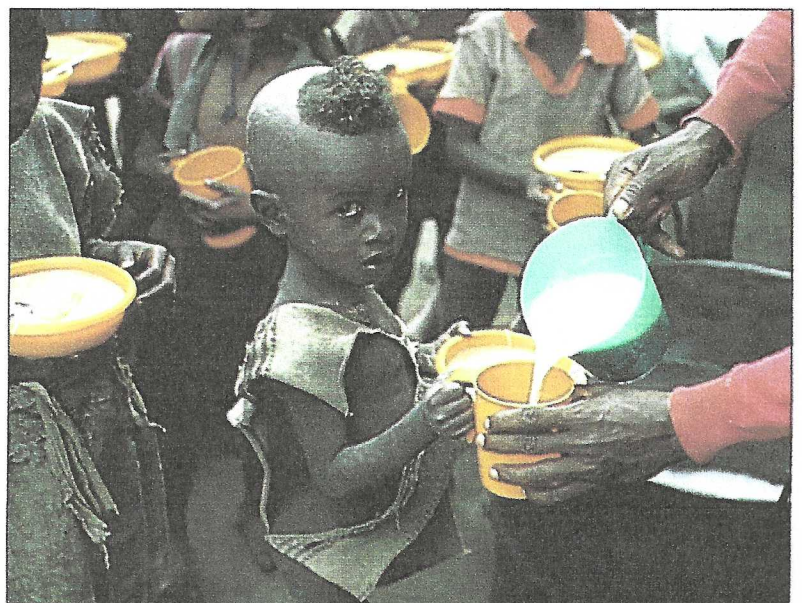
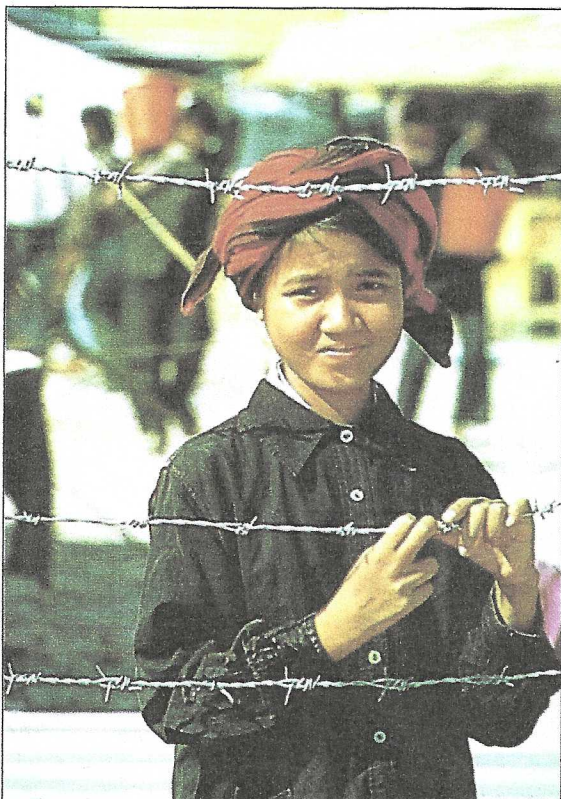
The 1980s presented numerous large-scale problems: a growing world refugee population, famine in Ethiopia, earthquakes, political upheaval. In response, World Relief renewed its commitment to supporting local churches on the scene. Under the leadership of Executive Director Jerry Ballard, World Relief worked in a servant role, helping “the church to be the church.”

### Relief and hope in the world’s crowded refugee camps

In 1979, World Relief began ministry to refugees, assisting the first wave of Vietnamese “boat people” and families in crowded refugee camps in Thailand. That same year, Grady Mangham, World Relief’s director of refugee resettlement, signed a contract with the U.S.

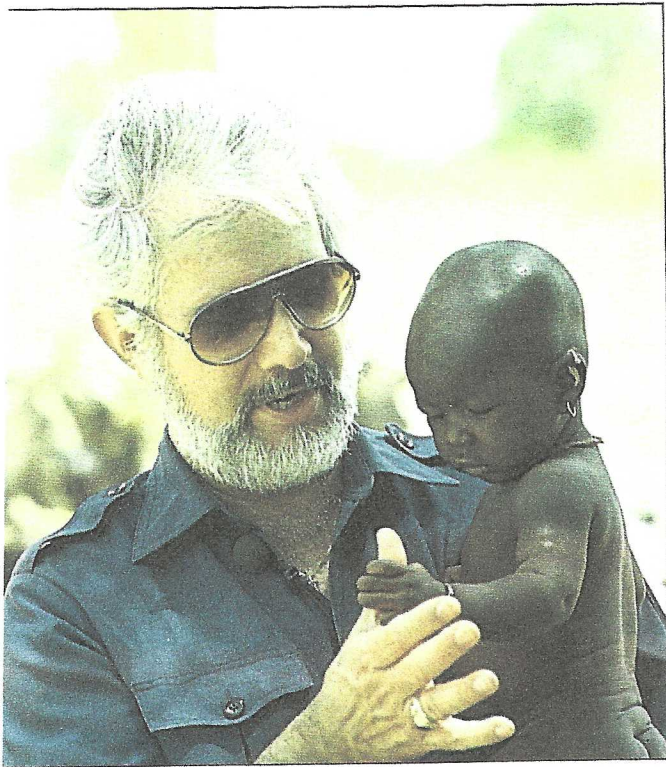
State Department, making World Relief the only evangelical agency authorized to resettle refugees.

Since then, World Relief — and local evangelical churches who sponsor refugee families — have helped more than 100,000 refugees find peace, freedom and new life in the United States through World Relief’s Good Samaritan Network.



TONY NEEVES PHOTO





*Jerry Ballard believed that “the best way to help a hungry child was to give him a working parent” who could support the family.*

### **Emergency ministry sparks vibrant church**

In 1981, more than 17,000 refugees streamed out of war-torn Nicaragua into neighboring Honduras. In the midst of this crisis, World Relief provided emergency help to these refugees, all of whom were Miskito Indians — a minority group in Honduras and Nicaragua.

World Relief and UNHCR set up the Mocerón refugee camp, and provided emergency food, clothing and medical care. As quickly as possible, families were resettled in villages throughout the region, and given seeds and tools to help them grow their own crops on

parcels of land donated by the Honduran government.

As the villages grew and families planted and harvested crops, World Relief helped them get their goods to nearby markets to sell. These refugees not only regained their pride and dignity by becoming self-sufficient once again — they formed the nucleus of a growing Honduran church. “World Relief’s ministry here was truly an example of ‘food for the body’ opening the door to ‘food for the soul,’” said World Relief International Director Bas Vanderzalm. “The Miskito Indian churches are a vibrant witness for Christ today.”



JIM WITTMER/WORLD RELIEF PICTO



# 1990s

## Relief and hope in the darkest hours

### Timeless love in a changing world

The early years of this decade have taught us one very hard lesson: ours is truly a world of rapid change. In the final days of the 1980s, the Berlin Wall — a decades-old symbol of political and social division — fell, as did the governments of many nations.

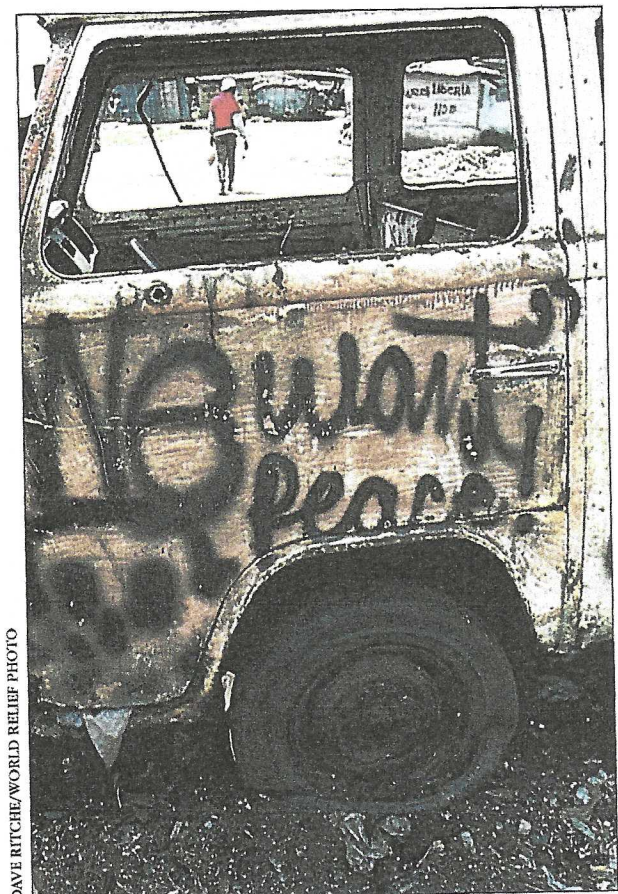
But the easy dichotomies of the Cold War — good vs. evil, East vs. West, Communism vs. Democracy — have been replaced by world problems that are larger in scale and more complex. Faced with more and more difficult questions, the world can no longer rely on easy answers.

- ◆ In the former republics of Yugoslavia, churches fight valiantly to feed and care for war-weary families.
- ◆ In Liberia, a bloody civil war plunges the country into misery, but Christians refuse to lose hope, testifying of God's faithfulness. "Everything I once had is now gone — my family, my home, my clothes," says one Christian. "But I praise God. I have nothing to offer Him now but my heart."
- ◆ Responding to the needs of 27 million Africans at risk of starvation, World Relief and evangelical churches organize one of the largest grain distributions in World Relief history.



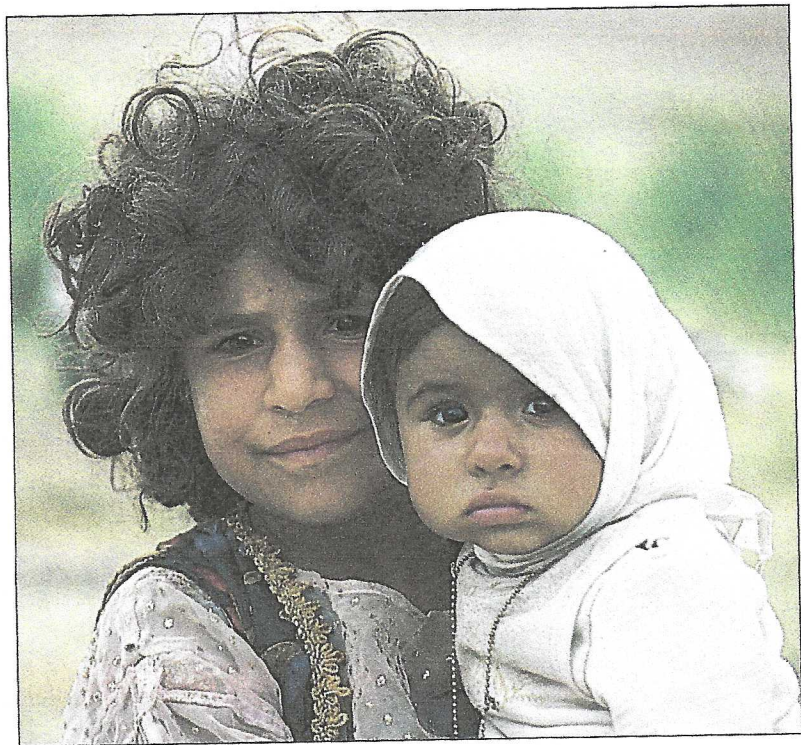
IM WHITMER/WORLD RELIEF PHOTO





DAVE RITCHE/WORLD RELIEF PHOTO

*Graffiti tells the tragic story of war in Liberia.*



*Hurricane Andrew survivors brace for the challenge of rebuilding in Miami, Florida.*



JIM WHITMER/WORLD RELIEF PHOTO



# 1993

Relief and hope in the darkest hours

## Helping churches fulfil Christ's mandate — today

In 1993, World Relief continued to help churches provide “food for the body and food for the soul.” While the goal of World Relief’s ministry has remained constant for 50 years, strategies and programs are continually evolving to meet the needs of suffering people more effectively and efficiently. This year, World Relief brought the love of Christ to people in 30 nations through ministries of disaster response, community development and refugee assistance.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SUCCESSFUL FARMING

*Father and son survey damage caused by the Midwest Flood of 1993.*



## Life loans: Breaking the cycle of poverty in West Africa

When it comes to helping people, according to World Relief West Africa Director, Moise Napon, smaller is better. For example, it costs \$2,000 to drill a well. While it may meet many needs in a community, that help doesn't allow individuals to move to the next stage: self-sufficiency.

"Look at that same \$2,000 invested in life loans," Moise continues. "Through loans, 20 or 30 people could use that money to earn a living. And perhaps these people will decide later that they need a well — they now have the funds to pay for it themselves."

Life loans are a low-cost, high-impact way for the poor to help themselves escape poverty. Small community banks provide loans of \$80, \$50, even \$20, so poor members of the community can buy the materials they need to put their skills to work. In Africa and other parts of the world, life loans are helping carpenters, bakers, rickshaw drivers, seamstresses and others earn an income to support their families — and regain hope.

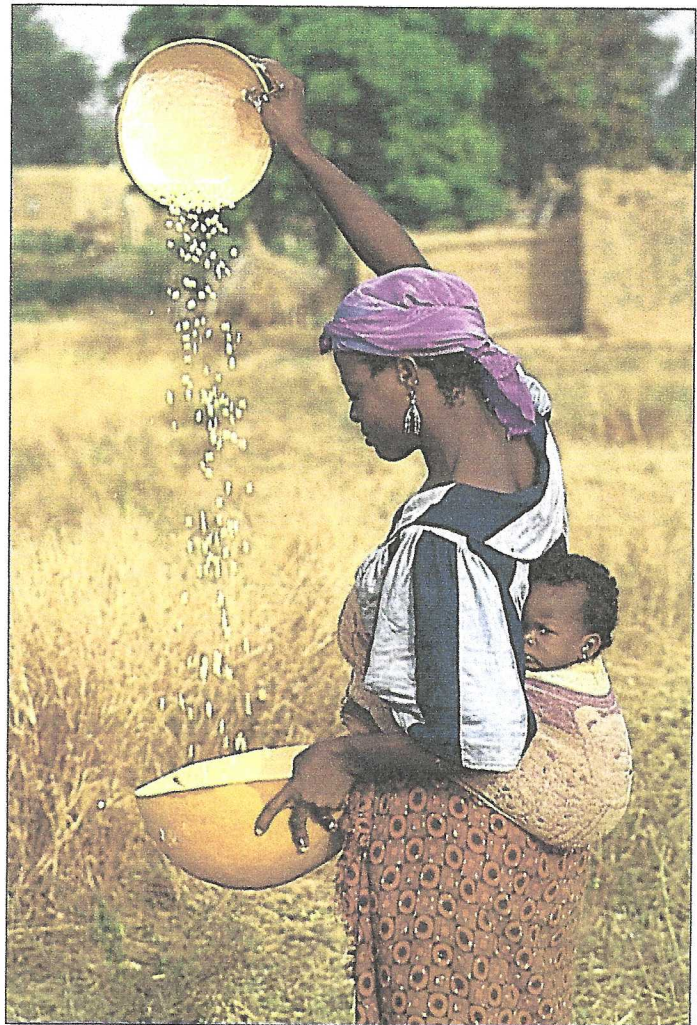
As Moise says, "Life loans take people out of the poverty cycle." He explains this cycle in simple terms: The poor can't produce, so they can't save; because they can't save, they have nothing to invest; because they can't invest in their communities, they remain poor.

After 15 years of ministry to the poor in his homeland, Burkina Faso, Moise is glad to see a renewed emphasis placed on such self-help ministries. It is only through the discipline of self-help, Moise insists, that the poor nations of Africa can move forward. "There is a constant emphasis on savings — people who can't save will never develop," says Moise. "We are not only doing a good program, we are taking people from one stage of development to another.

"Jesus said the poor will always be with you," Moise concludes. "He didn't mean that there is little you can do since they will always be with you. He was saying, 'I am with you now, but after I am gone the poor will always be with you, so it is your responsibility to take care of them.'"



*Moise Napon*



JON WARREN WORLDRELIEF PHOTO



# Financial Summary

Relief and hope in the darkest hours

## A history of stewardship

In the early years, World Relief's ministry goals were summed up by the motto: "Food for the body and food for the soul." The War Relief Commission, from the very beginning, insisted on providing help through local churches on the scene.

Because they volunteered their time and resources, these evangelical partners also helped set an important precedent of low-cost, high-impact care which has guided World Relief's ministry ever since.

"By sending its help through such experienced partners (as the Belgian Gospel Mission) in the field, World Relief compiled a remarkable record of keeping down overhead costs," writes Art Matthews in **Standing Up, Standing Together**. "Donor confidence soared as financial report after financial report showed how much of the contributed dollar went to help the needy."

## Fifty years of making every dollar count

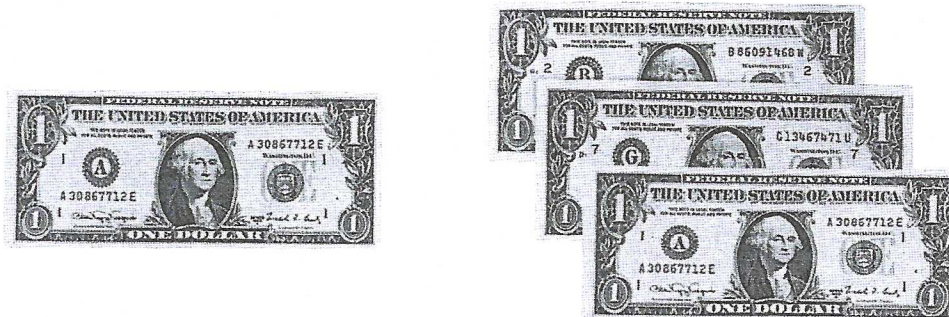
In 1993, World Relief's legacy of stewardship continued, as evangelical partners consistently provided efficient, low-cost ministries to the poor.

This year, World Relief:

- ◆ maintained an overhead rate of 15.1 percent;
- ◆ multiplied the value of donated dollars through matching grants;
- ◆ and relied on cost-effective channels such as churches, volunteers and partner organizations to deliver lifesaving help.

## Stretching dollars to save more lives


Thanks to matching funds, every dollar you gave to World Relief in 1993 delivered \$3.00 in assistance to the poor, hungry and suffering around the world.





**World Relief** 

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