

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF WORLD VISION NEW ZEALAND

Impact

worldvision.org.nz SUMMMER '10

World Vision

FIND OUT WHY OSCAR IS ALL SMILES

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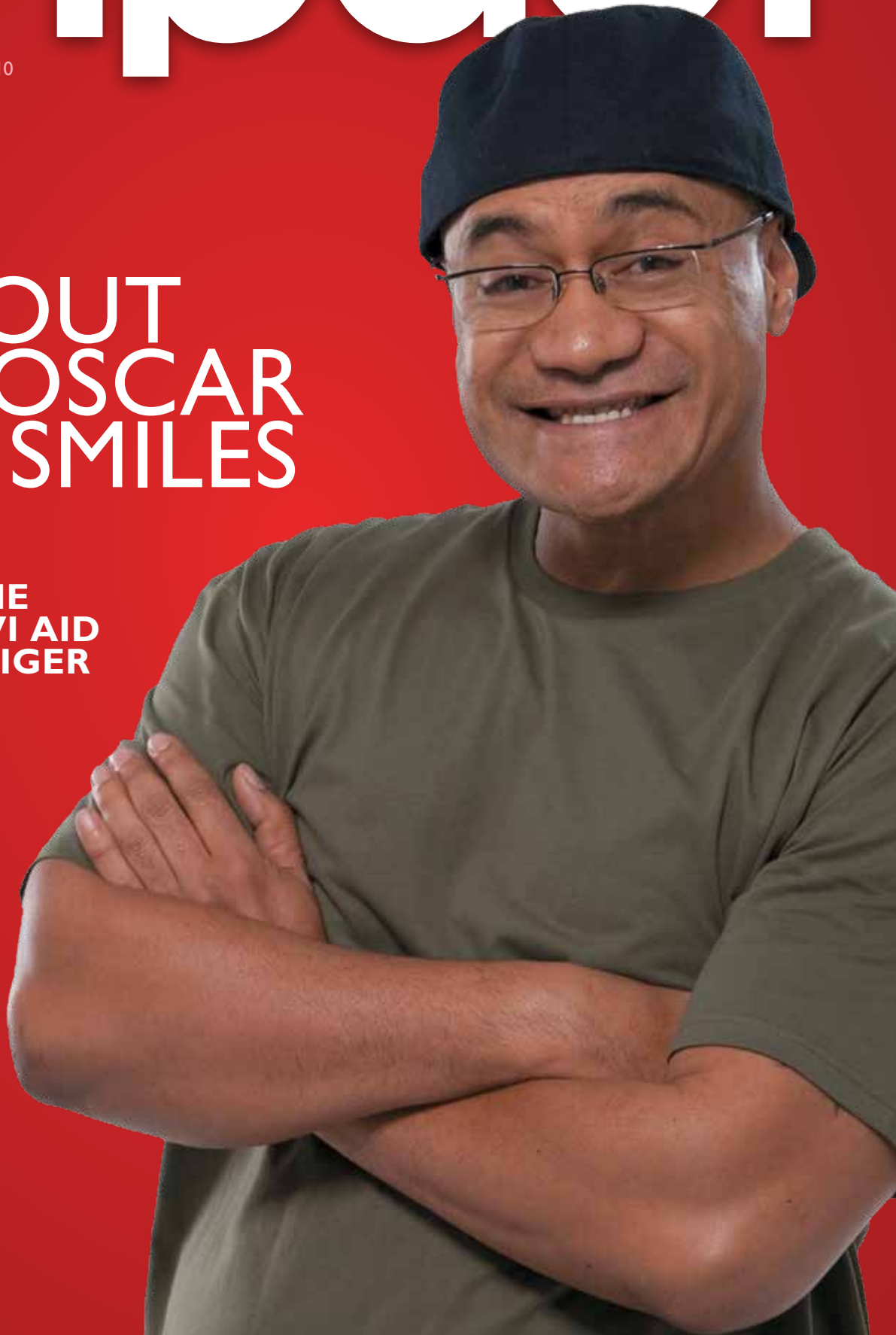




Photo: Stephen Langdon

*"Our vision for every child, life in all its fullness;
 Our prayer for every heart, the will to make it so."*

World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organisation dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome extreme poverty and injustice. Motivated by our faith in Jesus Christ, we serve alongside the poor and oppressed as a demonstration of God's unconditional love for all people. World Vision serves all people regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gender.

Thanks to the generosity of the many thousands of New Zealanders who partner World Vision, an average of 79.6 per cent of all funds raised by World Vision New Zealand has been allocated to relief, development and advocacy programming in some of the poorest parts of the world over the last five years. In the 2010 financial year the figure was 80.5 per cent.

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TWO THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

Two questions I am often asked are: *how much money goes on administration?* and *does our money really make a difference?* Great questions! I hope this edition of Impact will help you form your own answers.

For the financial year just finished 80.5 cents in the dollar went to fund our programmes overseas and our advocacy work here in New Zealand. It's the highest percentage in many years and compares favourably with comparable organisations. Most of the money spent on administration was for salaries and marketing costs, but it also includes the work we do in schools and our leadership development work with young people. From an accounting point of view this work appears as a 'cost' but, in my mind, it's an investment in our society.

Can we do better? I think so. Here are a few of the things we are doing this year to make sure our costs are kept as low as possible:

- Using new technologies to cut down air travel and our carbon footprint
 - Sharing resources with World Vision Australia
 - Benchmarking our costs with like-sized organisations to see where we can improve
 - Looking to partner with other development agencies in New Zealand and overseas so we can share costs and expertise
- Once the money gets there does it make a difference?

In the past year:

- 80 per cent of households in the Chata community in Malawi now have a nutritious food supply, up 30 per cent from 2007
- in the Ibuga community in Tanzania 600 pupils enrolled in high school compared to just 29 in 1997

Thanks to improvements like these both these communities, along with Yangasso in Mali, Bugabo in Tanzania and Panyimur in Uganda were able to graduate from World Vision programmes in 2010 and take ownership of their own future development goals.

But we must avoid the temptation to simplify, over romanticise or inflate the results. It's always hard work because we are working among

vulnerable, often fragile communities beset by problems such as poor infrastructure, sectarian violence, changeable climate and rudimentary communications. It means sometimes our projects don't deliver exactly as expected and/or take longer to achieve results than we would hope.

Over the coming year we intend sharing with you not only the great successes we see but also the heart wrenching challenges we face to improve children's lives.

The common theme linking the two questions – how much money gets there and does it make a difference is transparency. I am keen to accelerate World Vision's commitment to more fully-informed, external scrutiny. We are aiming to be best practice in financial reporting for the not-for-profit sector and also to move towards a focus on outcomes rather than just reporting activity.

Finally a big thank you to those of you who emailed, wrote and rang me with comments about the last issue of Impact and particularly the piece about the many faces of poverty. I was very touched that you would take the time to engage.

Chris Clarke
 CEO, World Vision New Zealand

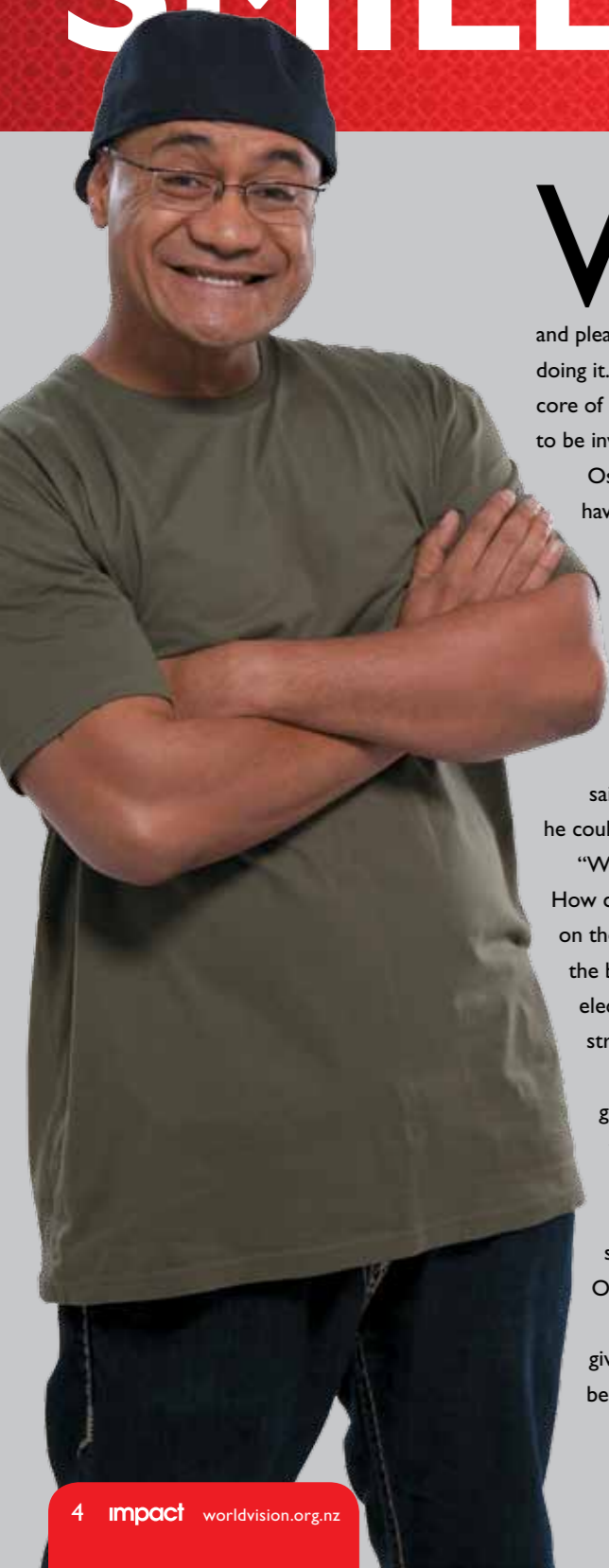


Write to the Editor

Impact and World Vision welcome your views and comments. Please write to The Editor, Impact Magazine, Private Bag 92078, Auckland 1142, New Zealand or email: nzcommunications@worldvision.org.nz We look forward to hearing from you.

A REASON TO SMILE...

OSCAR KIGHTLEY IS EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD AT BRINGING JOY AND SMILES TO THE FACES OF NEW ZEALANDERS. BEST KNOWN FOR HIS FEATURE FILM, SIONE'S WEDDING AND TELEVISION SERIES, BRO'TOWN, HE TALKS TO KELLY ZANDER AND ALTA VAN WYK ABOUT WHY HE IS SMILING THIS CHRISTMAS.



When I was 15, I flippantly wrote in a girl's friendship book at school that my ambition was to bring joy and pleasure to others, and to have fun while doing it. Freakily, that principle has been at the core of everything I have been lucky enough to be involved with, since," says Oscar.

Oscar is one of many Kiwis who have decided to shy away from empty commercialism this Christmas, and bring joy and smiles to the faces of less fortunate children and families in overseas developing communities. When World Vision approached Oscar to see if he would be involved with Smiles, he said he had "no reason to say no" and if he could help, he would.

"We are so lucky here in New Zealand. How can we allow fellow human beings on the other side of the world to lack the basics such as running water and electricity? If one can help, one should," stresses Oscar.

He hopes that people buying Smiles gifts will realise they're truly making the world an easier and more hopeful place to live for those in need.

"We all have to be a part of the solution instead of the problem," states Oscar.

What gift would Oscar consider giving this Christmas? Ducks, he says, because "they make me smile".

Oscar's dry sense of humour comes

to the fore when he mentions that he'd probably buy a duck for a friend who is a keen duck shooter – a pastime of which Oscar is not particularly fond.

CHILDHOOD CHRISTMASES

Oscar has happy memories of childhood Christmases.

"I used to love it back in the days when there were power cuts (always at Christmastime) and the neighbourhood would be plunged into darkness. Everyone would go for walks and greet each other."

He remembers how he wished that that specific festive mood and community feeling would remain all year round.

The most memorable Christmas gift Oscar has received, was a ring with the official seal of Samoa on it. He wears the ring on special occasions.

Samoa, his birthplace, is still held very close to Oscar's heart.

In a *New Zealand Herald* article at the time of the Pacific tsunami last year, Oscar wrote: "Samoa's biggest export really is Samoans. Though they make homes in new lands, though they are shaped by and become part of their adopted homelands, the ties back to Samoa are never broken. They are life-long. Some of us drift in and away from it but we can never get too far away," reflected Oscar.

GIVING BACK

Oscar emigrated from Apia, Samoa to New Zealand with his mother at a young age, after the death of his father. The youngest of eight

children, he was adopted by his aunt and uncle, who lived in West Auckland.

Of his early years in his adopted country, Oscar says pensively: "It was a struggle, and a fight to be accepted. As a child, you don't realise how much of a struggle it was. But

World Vision New Zealand representative in a shopping mall about a year ago and asked if he would be interested in sponsoring a child, Oscar said he could not think of any reason to say no. So, he became the sponsor of 6-year-old Kasozi Paul from the Ngogwe, community

read lots of books! I also tell them to try hard and that things will get better."

Oscar's hard work over the years has paid off. He says one of his proudest moments in life came last year when he was made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit

"WE ARE SO LUCKY HERE IN NEW ZEALAND. HOW CAN WE ALLOW FELLOW HUMAN BEINGS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD TO LACK THE BASICS SUCH AS RUNNING WATER AND ELECTRICITY? IF ONE CAN HELP, ONE SHOULD."

– OSCAR KIGHTLEY

looking back at that time, I don't know how my mum and uncle and aunt did it. How they afforded to send me to school, buy me books... But they did it."

Nowadays, Kightley is in a position where he can give back. When approached by a

in Uganda, which is solely funded by New Zealand supporters.

Oscar regularly speaks to groups of Kiwi children, including at-risk youth. What does he tell them?

"Well, I just share my story and I tell them to

for services to television and theatre over the past 15 years.

And what does the future hold? Oscar says he will continue doing what he does best: bringing joy to others and making them smile.



Oscar loves to bring joy and make people like Zambian grandmother of four, Winfreda, smile. Winfreda (left) and her granddaughter (right) are smiling because the family can now afford to eat three meals a day after setting up a small pig breeding business, all thanks to a World Vision Smiles piglet.

DUCKS MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE!

by Minh Zaw Oo, World Vision Myanmar

Duck eggs mean that six year old Aye Chan (middle) can attend school.



Six-year-old Aye Chan from Myanmar loves duck eggs; they taste good and also pay for his education.

In 2008, Cyclone Nargis destroyed the livelihood of Aye Chan's family, leaving his parents in debt and unable to afford school fees for their five children. Consequently, the children dropped out of school.

World Vision was able to help out Aye Chan's family by providing them with a gift of 50 ducks. Today, Aye Chan's mother, Thin Thin, pays the school fees with eggs.

"The ducks are wonderful. At first, I got only one egg, but later, two, then ten, and now 25 eggs a day. They give me about US\$2 a day and we can cook or fry eggs for the children," says Thin Thin, who puts fried eggs in her children's lunchboxes.

"They are good. I eat one or two in a day," says the boisterous Aye Chan, who dreams of becoming a doctor.

Farm animals, such as ducks, are a vital asset to many developing communities. Not only do the livestock improve families' household income, but also children's nutrition.

A Smiles duck will definitely make a huge difference!

AN ENRICHED FAMILY LIFE

by Rowena Speirs



Bella with children in Cambodia.

Eleven-year-old Bella is dreaming of a digital camera for Christmas, this year.

Like many other children in New Zealand, she is already preparing her list for Santa, but even at her young age Bella knows the difference between wanting something and needing something – she has witnessed great need first hand during a visit to Cambodia.

The youngster, who is growing up in KauKapaka north of Auckland with the countryside as her playground, and access to free education, healthcare, a warm home and a loving family, understands how privileged she is and that this is not something to be taken for granted.

Her mum, Tui Award-winning musician Juliagrace, said: "One thing for which I will always be grateful is that Bella is growing up in a country where women's rights are valued. She will never be exploited and has every opportunity to fulfill her dreams."

Julia, who also has a 7-year-old son Jesse, performed at a World Vision event where she was confronted with the photographs of boys and girls living in poverty around the world and

facing a very different childhood from her kids.

"As a mum, my heart just went out to these children. So, I decided to sponsor a girl, Fiona, in Uganda who is the same age as Bella and a boy, Than, in Cambodia who is the same age as Jesse."

The popular singer-songwriter, who has just released a new album, *Beautiful Survivor*, hoped by sponsoring these two children, she would not only give them the chance of a better life through the work of World Vision, but also enrich the lives of Bella and Jesse.

"Like most parents, I want to instill in my children great values," she explained. "I want them to learn real empathy so that they know what it is to walk in someone else's shoes and respond with love."

Julia took this further when she and Bella, who was 9 years old at the time, travelled to Cambodia to visit Than and his community.

"I didn't want to burden Bella with the plight of the Cambodian community. However, kids can be so accepting of different situations and Bella just loved playing with the children we met; she would teach them games and they taught her their games."

"The stark difference between her life and the life of many children in Cambodia really hit home when we visited the dump in Phnom Penh where kids were living among the rubbish."

Today, Bella is looking forward to a traditional Kiwi Christmas, with extended family, barbeques and lots of fun, but she has not forgotten her experience in Cambodia.

"Bella often talks about the trip – it has been very formative for her and I hope to give Jesse the same experience one day," said Julia.

Bella and Jesse continue to send birthday cards and gifts to Fiona and Than, and Julia believes the sponsored children have very much become a wonderful part of their family life.

She added: "Child Sponsorship has helped us as a family to be more outwardly focused, generous with our resources and appreciative of how blessed we are."

Juliagrace's new album *Beautiful Survivor* is available from juliagrace.net



Juliagrace

"What do you get the person who has everything this Christmas?"

A piglet, of course.

Forget hankies, hand towels and potpourri this Christmas. Get the people you love a gift that will change lives – World Vision Smiles. 58 unique, life-changing gift ideas like fish farms, community water pumps and even goats that go to help those in need all around the world.

Visit worldvision.org.nz/smiles or call 0800 24 5000 and order your gifts now.



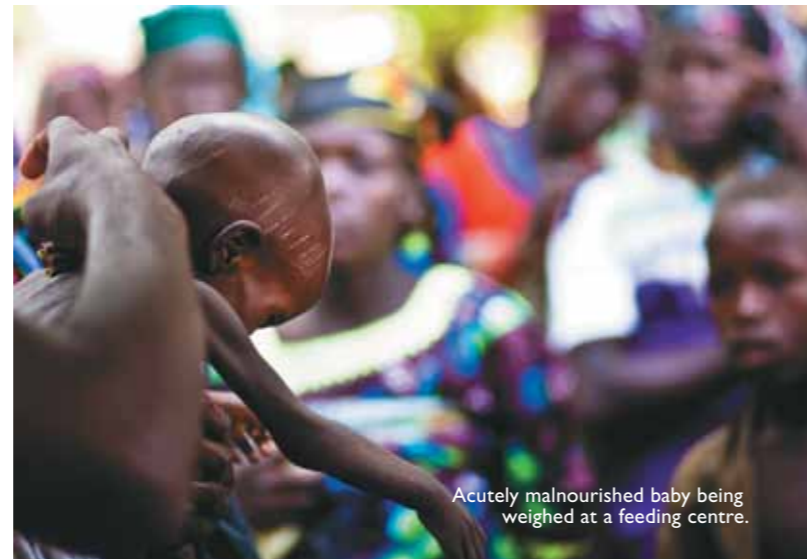
Smiles
Gifts that change lives

For gifts that change lives order online at worldvision.org.nz/smiles or call 0800 24 5000.

World Vision

If, like Juliagrace you would like to enrich the life of your family or a family you know by sponsoring a child please call 0800 800 776 or go to worldvision.org.nz.

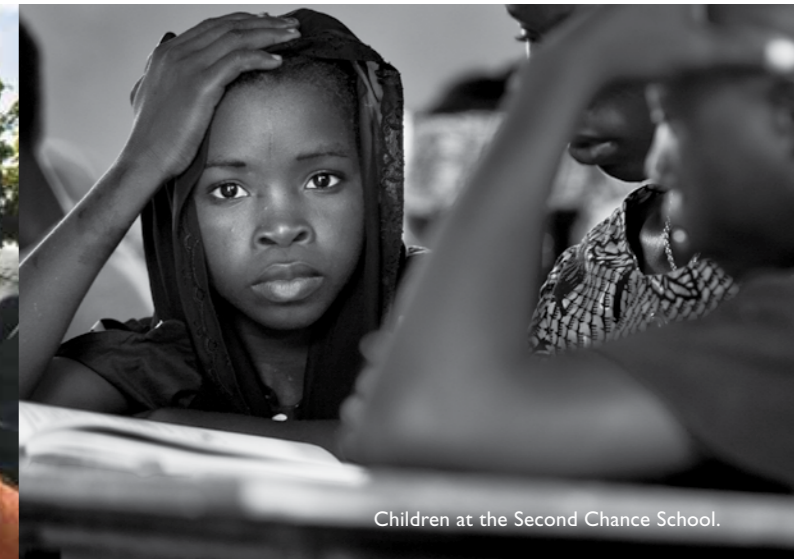
A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF A KIWI AID WORKER



Acutely malnourished baby being weighed at a feeding centre.



Mike McRoberts filming in Niger.



Children at the Second Chance School.

TRISTAN CLEMENTS IS A NEW ZEALANDER MANAGING WORLD VISION'S RESPONSE TO NIGER'S CURRENT FOOD CRISIS. MIKE MCROBERTS AND THE 60 MINUTE FILM CREW FOLLOWED HIM TO DOCUMENT HIS IMPORTANT WORK. HERE, TRISTAN SHARES SOME SNIPPETS FROM HIS BLOG DURING THE WEEK OF FILMING.

DAY ONE: ARRIVALS

The potholes in the street on the way to the office are still in the same place. It's almost five years since I was last here. It was a hard time, one of intensity, where experiences were a bittersweet maelstrom of suffering and revelation.

Niger is a very safe country, but there are new concerns that were never here previously such as the presence of Al-Qaeda, a source of much gossip among panicky expats.

Tomorrow I head to the field for several days with presenter Mike McRoberts. It'll be interesting to see how my impressions and expectations hold up against the new realities of Niger in another food crisis.



Tristan Clements.

DAY TWO: IN THE FIELD

We pull up outside the health centre where the nutrition screening is taking place, and it's a bit daunting. There must be over a hundred mothers with children gathered beneath the shade of trees.

While the boys get their camera gear, I wander over to the main screening point. We screen the children who've been referred to us by the health centre as exhibiting likely malnutrition. They're measured and weighed, and then added to the programme, depending on their health status. They'll be given a weekly or fortnightly food ration, and their progress documented by health workers.

It's a set up I'm familiar with from five years ago. It's all eerily familiar except that there are far more women here than I ever saw in 2005. Plenty of sick kids too. One of the first on the scales is a visibly emaciated 8 month old who weighs 3.2kgs or what I did when I was born.

Mike has found some women who walked the better part of a marathon since 3am this morning with little water and carrying sick children. It's a triumph of perseverance and maternal care.



Weighing malnourished children at a World Vision feeding centre.

DAY THREE: SICK KIDS

The next day we travel to a second nutrition centre a couple of hours along sand tracks. The health centre is based out of a fair-sized bush town and the place is teeming with women.

It's more of the same. Much more.

Although the programme has been running for a little while, we're adding dozens of new cases of malnourished children to our roster today. The screening point is under a lean-to, a small patch of shade in the middle of the sand, and the women form a tight mob despite the best efforts of our staff to keep them in an orderly line.

I watch the proceedings where health workers are handing out rations of nutritious paste for the severely malnourished kids from a darkened room - oddly quiet after the cacophony of squawking voices and wailing babies.

Mike has found a sick child that visibly moves him. He is so emaciated that we all wince at the sight of him. He has spindly arms, so skinny that his bones stand out. His skull is round and bulbous, his lips drawn back over his teeth and there are vertical scars cut into the side of his scalp, a traditional talisman to hurry healing.

Days later, we'll still be talking about him.

Photos: Tristan Clements
To read Tristan's blog in full or to view the 60 Minutes documentary featuring Tristan and World Vision's work in Niger please go to: worldvision.org.nz/news/niger.aspx

DAY FOUR: SECOND CHANCE

Our next visit is a village with what is called a Second-Chance school. In Niger, children who don't enroll into primary school at the correct age are not allowed to enroll later and therefore they miss out.

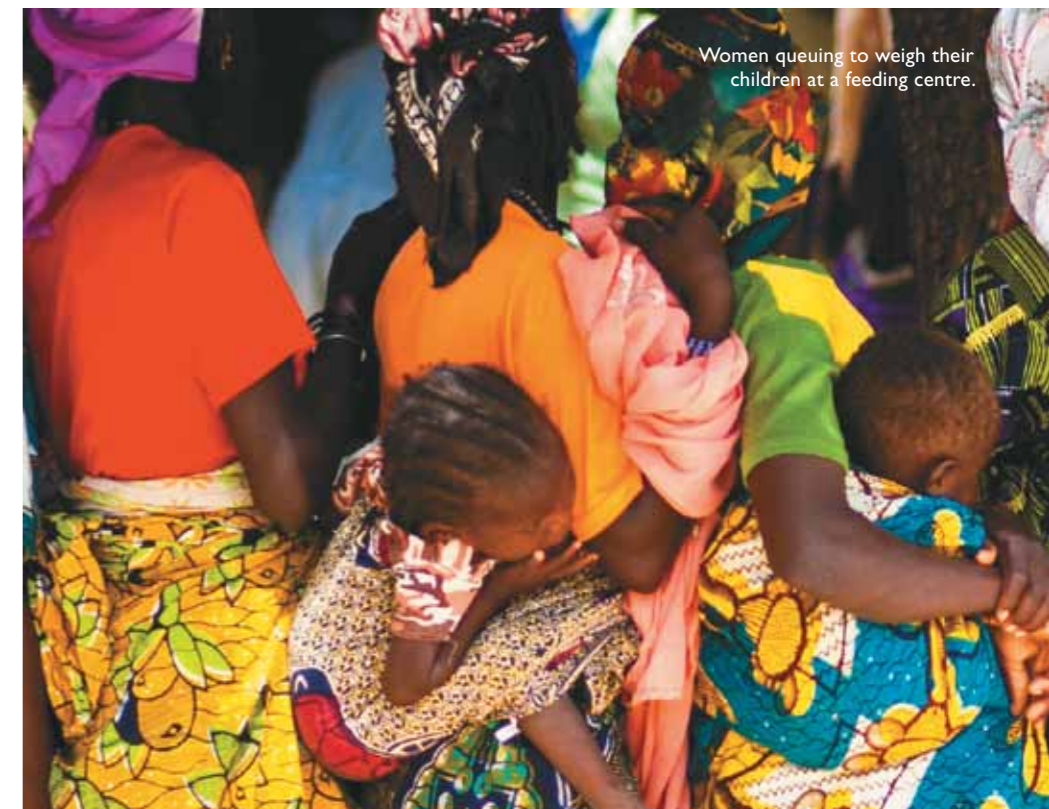
World Vision has set up schools as a safety net for kids who've missed out. They teach the curriculum, but at an accelerated rate. Here children understand the importance of education unlike so many in New Zealand.

DAY FIVE: HOME

The air-con is broken. We're halfway into the ten-hour journey back to the capital, and the day's still getting hotter.

I look back on the trip with mixed feelings. Sadness at the suffering, but proud at World Vision's response and the staff who work so tirelessly.

It's nice to be able to step back into a country many years after leaving and see a project that you've contributed to in some small way having made a difference to children's lives.



Women queuing to weigh their children at a feeding centre.

THRIVING ON THE CHALLENGES OF LIFE

LIVING WITH A DISABILITY IN NEW ZEALAND IS A WORLD REMOVED FROM DEALING WITH SIMILAR ISSUES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. HAVING FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCE OF THE STARK CONTRAST IS INTREPID TRAVELLER AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ROBBIE FRANCIS, 21, OF HAMILTON, WHO IS SPONSORING A CHILD IN BANGLADESH WITH A DISABILITY SIMILAR TO HERS. ROBBIE SHARES HER STORY WITH ALTA VAN WYK.

Keeping up with Robbie's hectic itinerary and inspiring plans for the future is leaving one quite breathless, and almost oblivious to the fact that this determined and compassionate young Hamiltonian and World Vision child sponsor has had to deal with an intrusive and painful disability since her birth.

"WORLD VISION HAS GIVEN AFSANA A PLACE IN THE COMMUNITY, THE OPPORTUNITY TO GO TO SCHOOL, AND THE CHANCE TO LIVE AN INDEPENDENT LIFE IN FUTURE."

— ROBBIE FRANCIS

"I prefer to think of myself as challenged, rather than disabled. I absolutely thrive on challenges," says Robbie.

Indeed. At the time of the interview, she was busy learning Hebrew and Arabic in preparation for post-graduate studies at the University of Tel Aviv in Israel, which she has

been attending since September this year.

Robbie has phocomelia syndrome, which means she was born without several bones in her legs. Ever since major reconstructive bone surgery at age 12, she has been wearing a prosthetic left limb (affectionately known as Lucy Left Leg) and lives knowing her other leg may also need to be amputated one day.

Having grown up in a house where her parents, Ken and Jackie, always supported children through World Vision New Zealand, Robbie decided to do the same at age 16. Since 2005, she has been sponsoring 11-year-old Afsana from the Kaliganj community in Bangladesh.

MEETING AFSANA

Robbie went to visit Afsana in 2007. Determined to pay her own way, Robbie worked her "butt off" to raise funds. She collected enough for a two-week visit to Bangladesh and for mum Jackie to accompany her.

"Afsana's disability is a condition similar to mine and her left arm has been amputated. However, she is a confident, capable young girl and as bright as a button," says Robbie.

Girls in Bangladesh often marry very young, and stigma or discrimination may surround those living with a disability.

"In Afsana's case, World Vision has given her a rightful place in the community, the opportunity to go to school and the chance to enjoy an independent life in future," explains Robbie.

In Bangladesh, Robbie noticed the disabled often going without corrective therapy or prosthesis.

"Access to services is limited, and people simply learn to cope with their condition. This is so different to New Zealand where someone, like I, would be able to obtain government funding and rehabilitation, enjoy all kinds of opportunities, and have heaps of encouragement and support," she stresses.

CREATING A BETTER WORLD

Meanwhile, Robbie has become somewhat of a world traveller, including a stint as a volunteer worker in the slums of Kolkata in India. She now finds herself in the melting-pot of the Middle East.



Robbie (right) and Afsana, her sponsored child.

With a Bachelor of Arts double major in World Religion and Human Development under her belt from the University of Waikato, this exceptional young woman is currently pursuing her masters degree in Conflict Resolution and Mediation at Tel Aviv University.

Robbie is on a year-long scholarship she received as the 2009 New Zealand Rotary Foundation's Ambassadorial Scholar in recognition of her academic and community achievements.

"MY ULTIMATE AIM IS TO GET GROUPS HOLDING OPPOSING BELIEFS TALKING TO AND UNDERSTANDING EACH OTHER."

— ROBBIE FRANCIS

"My passion is religion, specifically relations between Islam, Christianity and Judaism. I want to work with people caught up in extremism and conflict," explains Robbie.

"My ultimate aim is to get groups holding opposing beliefs talking to and understanding each other. I want to help facilitate opportunities for people who don't want to be involved in politics, but who have a desire for peace and for creating a better world," says Robbie in conclusion.



THE POVERTY AND JUSTICE BIBLE

PRACTICAL STEPS AGAINST POVERTY AND INJUSTICE IN THE NEW YEAR

Given up on humdrum New Year's resolutions that never last? Here's a great idea that definitely will inspire well into 2010.

Discover God's heart for the poor in *The Poverty and Justice Bible* and be moved to help change the world for the better.

Published by the Bible Society in conjunction with World Vision and other leading organisations, *The Poverty and Justice Bible* is the first to highlight more than 2000 passages that speak of God's concern for the marginalised, His compassion for the oppressed and His call for justice.

Groundbreaking and eye-opening, *The Poverty and Justice Bible* is based on the Contemporary English Version of the Bible. At its core is a unique 32-page study guide, containing in-depth studies and practical

suggestions on what we can do to tackle poverty and injustice in our world today.

Each of the 50 studies is based on scripture and brings to light how concern for the poor and the oppressed forms part of the DNA of the Christian faith.

The wide range of thought-provoking topics will spark a deeper level of understanding of God's passionate care about issues of poverty and justice – from equality to education, farming to fair trade, and wages to water.

Next time someone cries for help, respond straight away, and see where it leads you.

Visit www.povertyandjusticebible.org.au for more information. To order your copy of *The Poverty and Justice Bible*, email the New Zealand Bible Society at orders@biblesociety.org.nz



Robbie (centre) and two friends, Demalie from Italy (left) and Kseniya from Russia, on a visit to Nazareth, the largest Arab city in Israel.



Robbie Francis with the Attitude ACC Supreme Award trophy she won in 2009. (Photo: Attitude TV)

GIVEAWAY!

We have ten copies of *The Poverty and Justice Bible* and accompanying journal to give away.

To be in the draw, email your name and contact details to nz.reception@worldvision.org.nz before or on January 3, 2011.

Remember to write the words, *The Poverty and Justice Bible* in the subject line.

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