

Mission Statement

The mission of Neighbors is to inform and educate readers in an effort to foster and develop existing relationships with constituents, recognize donors, provide organizational accountability and promote involvement opportunities.

Dear subscriber,

Welcome to the new look of *Neighbors* magazine! For the last 20 years World Neighbors has produced this quarterly magazine full of great stories and information about our life changing programs across the globe and that isn't going to change. The new look and format is intended to give you more insight into the work we do and how you can get involved and make a difference. This introductory issue is intended to familiarize you with the new appearance. You can look forward to receiving a full length version in your home this summer!

We are excited about the future of *Neighbors* magazine and as always I welcome your comments, email me any time at neighbors@wn.org to share your thoughts.

I hope you enjoy the magazine, check out the feature on page 7 about my recent trip to Ecuador and find out how you can also visit World Neighbors programs.

Happy reading,

L. Sparks

Lindsay Sparks
Editor, *Neighbors* Magazine



Neighbors magazine in 1988



World Neighbors
Crown Majesty Roses

ORGANIC BOUQUET
beautiful flowers, naturally

Sorry I forgot our anniversary.
Thanks for driving last night!
Our thoughts are with you.
Good luck today!
Congratulations on your new little one!
Happy Birthday!
Feel better soon.

Whatever your message, show you really care with organic flowers!

Visit www.organicbouquet.com/worldneighbors to send our new World Neighbors bouquet of Crown Majesty Roses! Regardless of what you buy, **10% of your purchase will be donated to World Neighbors!**



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"This year I will plant carrots and the next year cabbage"

In Opelia's Garden:

Passionfruit, radishes, cauliflower, alfalfa, beets, carrots, cabbage, zucchini, artichoke, cilantro, lemongrass, fava beans, apples, beets, strawberries, kumquats and much, much more!

ECUADOR

World Neighbors programs in the Ecuadorian Andes, across central and northern Ecuador.



Ophelia with other program participants from her village. The group gathered to show off the impressive variety of crops and agriculture techniques being used in Ophelia's garden.

Thriving Ecuadorian Family Farm

Teaching soil health and seasonal growing practices

By Lindsay Sparks

This February I traveled on a World Neighbors Journey to visit our programs in the Ecuadorian Andes. My U.S. based group consisted of five John L. Peters Society members, another staff person and myself. We were lucky enough to spend six days visiting World Neighbors programs and partners across central and northern Ecuador.

I was amazed at the results of our work beginning on day one, as we visited the home of a woman in the central highlands who farms to support her family and extended family.

Ophelia Palamino welcomed our group to her "humble home" with an open hand and many words of thanks for supporting the programs that have helped her community so much. Ophelia lives on the farm and although the land belongs to her entire family she is responsible for the field crops and the vegetable garden that supplies nutritious food for the family.

Ophelia had neatly labeled each of the patches in her small vegetable garden before we arrived; giving us an amazing visual of how many different varieties she was growing. Showing off her plot is something she does often, as an agriculture promoter in her community she leads by example and uses her successes to promote learning. Many local farmers visit to see her crops and discuss the methods she has learned from World Neighbors.

While roaming among the rows of neatly planted carrots, fava beans and zucchini she shows us the fence she "planted" nearly 10 years ago when she began her garden. This was when I noticed the trees and vines surrounding the garden were each planted with a purpose in

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mind. She explained that the fence uses trees, bushes and plants with small root systems (so that the moisture stays in the garden) to protect her crops from the elements.

"It is a windblock and brings in moisture," said Ophelia. "Many of the trees are passion fruit so they serve a dual purpose, giving us shade in the garden and fruit to eat."

The garden was full of medicinal plants that can do everything from help toothaches to stop bleeding. Ophelia is an herbalist in her community and because doctors are expensive and used only for severe illness and injury, many people visit her to gather the herbs they need to treat their ailments.

Ophelia's latest project is producing her own compost. She is experimenting with the compost she produces from extra plant matter, manure, egg shells, peanuts and other everyday waste. She spends five weeks producing the compost, turning it over up to three times a day to break down the organic materials. Currently, she is trying the compost with various plants to find out which varieties benefit most from the mixture. She also sells her nutrient rich compost at the market for additional income.

Through World Neighbors agriculture training courses she has learned the importance of keeping her soil healthy and she no longer plants the same crops season after season. She has learned to plant a leafy variety and then a rooty variety to nourish the soil.

"This year I will plant carrots and the next year cabbage," she explained.

The garden provides a lot more for her family than just healthy fruits and vegetables. "This food is for my family and what we have extra we exchange for what we need at market," Ophelia noted.

Before World Neighbors began working in this community a barter system was not possible because no one in the community had extra food to trade or share. Now families can get the nutritious foods that they need to keep their families healthy. ▲

Take a World Neighbors Eco-Tourism Journey

Social and eco-tourism is a growing industry focusing on responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and improves the welfare of the local people. According to The International Ecotourism Society, tourism is the second most important source of foreign income, after oil in the world's 40 poorest countries. Social tourism addresses trends that show more and more people are traveling internationally and they are having a negative impact on natural resources and indigenous peoples.

World Neighbors Journeys are a travel experiences that focus on respecting people and environments while providing travelers an opportunity to experience amazing cultures and natural environments in countries benefiting from World Neighbors work. Traveling

continued ►



(Left) Nancy Barrows with an infant she met during her World Neighbors Journey to Kenya. Upcoming trips include Nepal, Guatemala and Ecuador, call 1-800-242-6387 for more information. (Right) One of the Barrows' photographs, A beautiful Kenyan woman who is working with World Neighbors to improve her life and her community.

using locally owned overnight facilities, guides and drivers puts money back into the economies of resource-poor communities. Unfortunately, 80 percent of money for commercial all-inclusive package tours goes to airlines, hotels, and other international companies resulting in very little economic income for resource poor countries.

Tommy and Nancy Barrows had been supporting World Neighbors work for a few years when they decided to take a Journey. The Barrows decided on a 15 day Journey to Kenya where they were briefed on World Neighbors East Africa programs and taken into rural areas where they visited small towns and villages benefiting from water and agriculture programs, made possible by the dollars given to World Neighbors, from people like them across the United States.

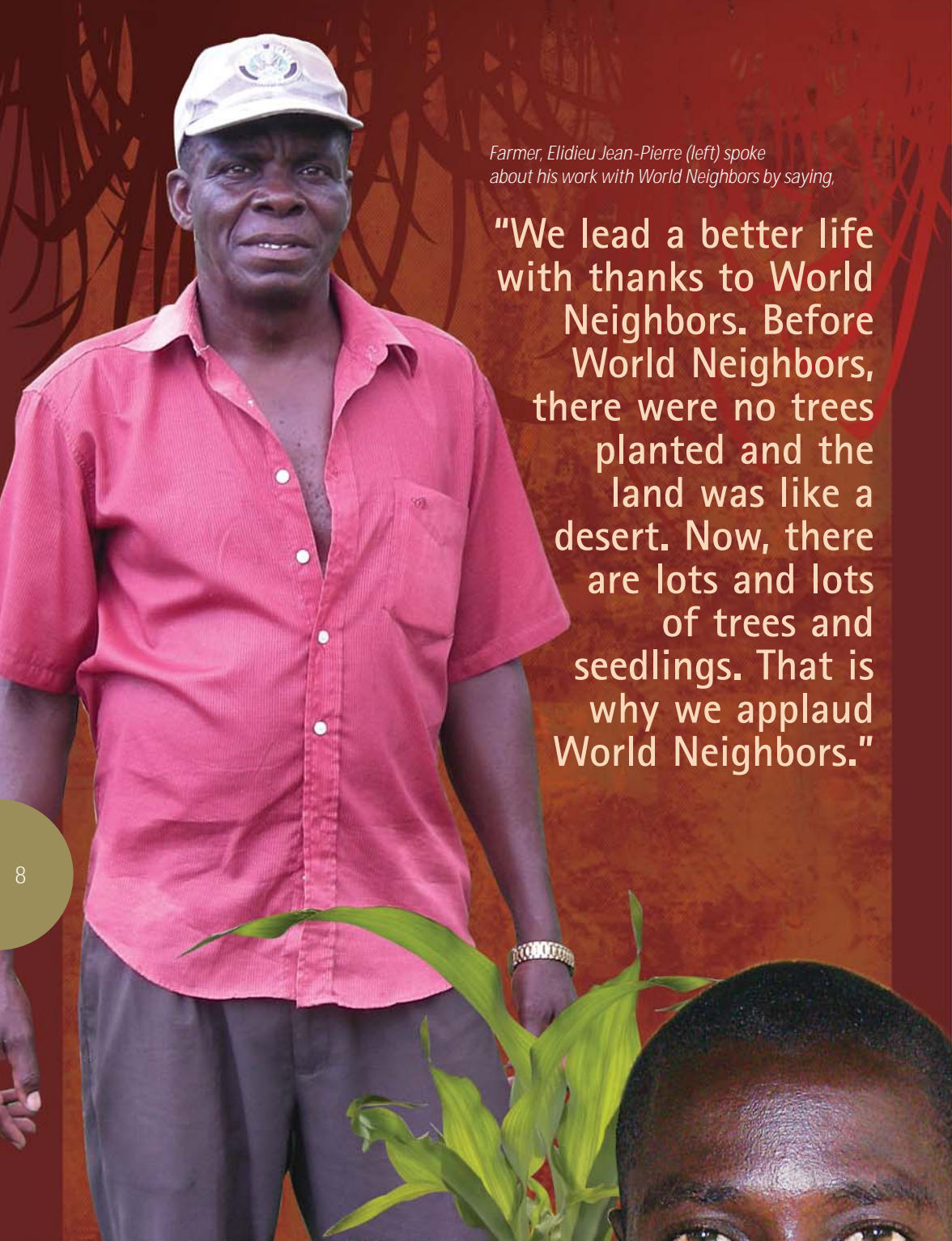
"The chance to see the actual programs areas and to meet the people both running and benefiting from the programs was what led us to call"

"Groups weren't just learning how to bring water closer to the citizens. They were learning how to organize themselves, identify problems, prioritize, weigh solutions, and implement the best ideas," Tommy reflected.

When asked if she would recommend a trip focused on eco/social tourism to others Nancy responded, "I would recommend this kind of trip. If you want to see what World Neighbors does, this will do it."

According to the USA Geo-tourism survey, 53 percent of American travelers say their travel experience is enhanced when they learn as much as possible about local customs and culture. World Neighbors Journeys offer the opportunity for members of the John L. Peters Society to meet the people with whom we work and gain a deeper understanding of their challenges, dreams and successes. Journeys groups are deliberately kept small in size so that experiences are intimate and meaningful. These are trips you will never forget – for many they are life-changing and result in a long passion for global change, "When people hear we have been to Africa, all they have to do is ask one question. I can go on for 20 minutes!" said Tommy. ▲





Farmer, Elidieu Jean-Pierre (left) spoke about his work with World Neighbors by saying,

"We lead a better life with thanks to World Neighbors. Before World Neighbors, there were no trees planted and the land was like a desert. Now, there are lots and lots of trees and seedlings. That is why we applaud World Neighbors."

The drastic changes in World Neighbors eight program areas in Haiti can be summed up through Jonas Paul,

"World Neighbors has helped me to have more food for my family and has helped me to send my kids to school. The community has now advanced in agricultural practice. Agriculture is our economic foundation."



"Since World Neighbors came, we have participated in savings and credit and other programs. We have learned how to cultivate. We have more food. We have more money for food and clothing. The kids are now in school." Mrs. Jean-Claude Nelson, mother of four children also said, "We now feel better in our family, in our house and have more love for each other and for our children."

Simple Changes in Haiti Create Big Results

Haiti, a country just slightly smaller than the state of Maryland, has experienced severe suffering for decades as a result of poverty, hunger, political unrest and natural disasters. Experiencing only a 1.1 percent economic growth in the last ten years, Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. In September 2004, tropical storm Jeanne took the lives of 3,006 Haitians from flooding and mudslides. Earlier that same year, other floods killed over 3,000 people on Haiti's border with the Dominican Republic.

Haiti's mountainous terrain was once lush and beautiful, with 60 percent of its original forest covering this small Caribbean country. Today, only an estimated 2 percent of its original forest remains and the fertile farmland soils are destroyed. Another devastating issue is that most of the water in Haiti is polluted, making it dangerous for humans to drink.

But, traveling away from the cities and into the rural, mountainous areas, a distinct line is drawn with towering trees, rich farmlands and happy faces letting visitors know they've entered into a community supported by World Neighbors programs and partner organizations. Read how people's lives have changed, in their own words.

With 80 percent of the people living below the poverty line and with just under half of Haiti's population illiterate, it is easy to understand Mrs. Jean-Claude Nelson's excitement about her family's new way of life. ▲



This Issue's Feature Country

Nepal is a landlocked country approximately the size of Arkansas located between China and India. Nepal contains eight of world's 10 highest peaks, including Mount Everest and Kanchenjunga.

- ▶ One of the poorest countries in the world, almost one-third of its 28 million people lives below the poverty line.
- ▶ Gross National Income (GNI) per capita is \$US260.
- ▶ Only 18.7 % of births are attended by skilled health staff.
- ▶ 45% of children under 5 are malnourished.
- ▶ Environmental issues of Nepal include deforestation, contaminated water, wildlife conservation and vehicle emissions.
- ▶ Infant mortality rate: 62 deaths per 1,000 births
- ▶ Life expectancy at birth: 60 years
- ▶ Religions:

Hindu 80%	Buddhist 10.7%
Muslim 4.2%	Kirant 3.6%
Other 0.9%	

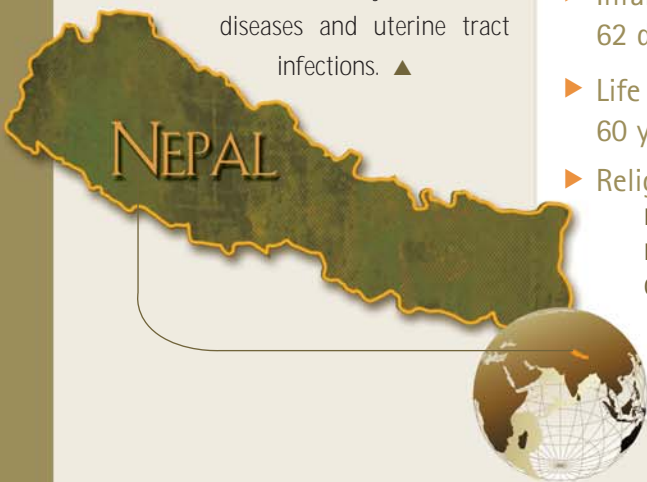
**The only official Hindu state in the world.*

Current Situation in Nepal

The government, a parliamentary democracy and constitutional monarchy, currently has many challenges on its plate: civil strife persists due to the ten-year long Maoist insurgency that has taken 13,000 lives; the small economy is difficult to grow; flooding, landslides, drought, and famine continue to disrupt and destroy livelihoods; border disputes with India are ongoing.

What World Neighbors is doing:

The World Neighbors program in Nepal works with 50 villages in five contiguous districts in the mid-hills and on the Terai Plain to combat extreme poverty, illiteracy, knowledge about health and access to basic health services. Some key objectives of our program in Nepal include reduced violence against women, the promotion of family planning and maternal health, and the prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases and uterine tract infections. ▲



Poverty and U.S. Security

"Since September 11, 2001, the United States and other governments have frequently asserted that threats to international peace and security often come from the world's weakest states. Such countries can fall prey to and spawn a host of transnational security threats, including terrorism, weapons proliferation, organized crime, infectious disease, environmental degradation and civil conflicts that spill over borders. Accordingly, the 2002 National Security Strategy of the United States maintains that weak and failing states "pose as great a danger to our national interest as strong states." – Index of State Weakness in the Developing World, released March 2008

The newly released Index of State Weakness in the Developing World ranks all 141 developing countries according to their performance in four critical dimensions: economic, political, security and social welfare. The Index combines the results of 20 separate studies on topics such as GDP, inflation, rule of law, control of corruption, conflict intensity, human rights abuses, undernourishment, child mortality, life expectancy and many more.

the 2002 National Security Strategy of the United States maintains that weak and failing states "pose as great a danger to our national interest as strong states."

Sixteen of the countries in which World Neighbors works are rated on the list. According to the Index, the weakest countries in which World Neighbors is currently working are Haiti, Niger, Nepal and Uganda.

According to Peter Gubbels, the Vice President of International Program, "World Neighbors specializes in fostering the emergence and strengthening of community based organizations in deprived rural areas. By strengthening grassroots democracy, and enabling the rural poor to have a voice in decisions affecting their livelihoods, the fabric of civil society is, in our experience, significantly improved, and the tendencies towards despair and radicalism diminished."

A few key policy implications from the report include:

- ▶ Poverty alleviation should be given higher priority in U.S. policy, because poorer countries tend to be weaker ones, and the consequences of state weakness can be significant for U.S. national security.
- ▶ Among failed and critically weak states, U.S. and international

efforts should focus on improving security and, in parallel, to the extent possible, on the other drivers of weakness.

To find a link to the full report, visit www.wn.org/neighbors or email neighbors@wn.org and request the Index of State Weakness in the Developing World.

▶ Sub-Saharan Africa is the region with the world's highest concentration of weak and failed states and requires increased U.S. attention and resources. ▲



World Neighbors Communities Faring Well During Food Crisis

A worldwide hunger crisis is spreading rapidly and millions of people are hungry with no access to affordable food. In Haiti, citizens are surviving on a diet of biscuits made of dirt, salt and shortening, just to keep their stomachs full. In Burkina Faso, thousands stand in line each day for a chance at a small ration of food which they will share with their entire families. This is why World Neighbors programs have been working to teach farmers how to produce their own food and build strong communities that can support villagers during the lean times.

Not all residents of the struggling countries are starving, because of World Neighbors programs in Haiti and Burkina Faso, farmers and their families are not forced to depend solely on food markets for their basic food needs. Instead, with World Neighbors support, they have developed strategies to store their seeds for the lean times, improve their crop productions to have enough food and generate income through savings and credit groups. This is powerful change for these families as they do not have to rely on their local or national governments, external markets or food aid for their daily survival.

Executive director of the World Food Programme Josette Sheeran, in discussing her agency's ability to deal with the current food crisis, recently noted, "Soaring food prices – up 55 per cent from June 2007 to February 2008, including an 87 percent hike for rice in March – and dwindling global food stocks due to more world food consumption than production were seriously threatening the WFP's ability to keep millions from starvation."

Why force millions to depend on food stores when farmers can learn how to grow enough food *themselves* to sustain their families? Join us in fighting the food crisis, learn more about how you can support World Neighbors long term approach today by visiting www.wn.org ▲



Goodbye Jagdish

In April, Jagdish Ghimire stepped down from his role as area representative in South Asia. Ghimire first became associated with World Neighbors in the mid 1970's, and assumed the role of area representative in 2000. He initiated new programs in Bihar, India, and in the Terai region of Nepal. Jagdish greatly bolstered the reproductive health, water supply and savings and credit dimensions of the South Asia program.

Joining World Neighbors as the new Area Representative is Shibesh Chandra Regmi. Regmi most recently worked as the Country Director for ActionAid in Nepal and has a PhD in Gender and Development, Master's Degree in Business Administration with specialization in Management, and another Master's Degree in Social Development/Rural Sociology. Regmi's areas of expertise are organizational management; participatory planning and program design; research and training; and rural development. ▲

Create Your Lasting Statement

Wills and bequests provide an opportunity to leave a well-planned legacy. World Neighbors understands that there are many important choices to be made. These are extremely important decisions and many people have one or more institutions that they would like to leave financial resources to further their work.

For many reasons, people put off dealing with wills. Statistics show that less than half of Americans have wills in effect at death. This often results in problems leading to unintended and misdirected distributions and additional expenses. However, having a will in place serves as a roadmap on how distributions will be made and there is important flexibility with a will, it can be modified at a later date. Remember to consult a competent legal advisor to assist you in the development of your will.

Have questions about your legacy? Please call us at 1 800 242-6387 and ask about planned giving opportunities, visit our Web site at www.wn.org or email jmorley@wn.org.

Eight Ways to Make a Bequest

Charitable bequests can be included in your will when first written or added later by means of a codicil to your will.

It is important to have the correct name and address of the charitable organization(s) you intend to benefit to ensure that your intentions are honored.

- 1 Specific bequest... of a certain item
- 2 General bequest...of a specific amount of money
- 3 Residuary bequest...of the remainder of your estate after all other distributions
- 4 Contingent bequest... based on a certain event or condition being met.
- 5 Unrestricted bequest... without conditions attached to the gift
- 6 Restricted bequest... for a certain use or specific purpose
- 7 Honorary or memorial bequest... in honor of or in memory of one or more persons
- 8 Endowed bequest... for on-going use of investment earnings on the donated principal

Honor a Woman You Admire!



Give her a gift membership in WOW!

The WOW! (Work of Women) program @ World Neighbors is a membership organization dedicated to mobilizing people in support of a better life for women and their families around the world. For a gift of at least \$35, we'll subscribe her to our monthly electronic issue briefs, send her a membership package and accompany it with a card letting her know that you made the gift.

For more information, visit the WOW! Web site at <http://www.workofwomen.org> and click "Get Involved," or call (405) 418-0484



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from October 1, 2007-March 31, 2008

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World Neighbors Service-Learning Project

The Art of Trash: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rethink!



This World Neighbors service-learning project allows children, teens and adults the opportunity to create artwork out of reused or recycled items in order to view trash differently. By having an enjoyable experience with trash we hope that individuals will consider becoming better global citizens by learning to reduce, reuse and recycle in their local community. These efforts assist World Neighbors as we work in partnership with villagers in Asia, Africa and Latin America to promote a healthy environment. By investing in the health of our local environment, we are also able to begin to save our global environment.

For more information on how to implement this service-learning project in your home, at your school, with your faith-based group or student organization, please contact April Millaway – Volunteer, Intern and Service-Learning Coordinator at amillaway@wn.org or Amber Freudenberger, Service-Learning Intern at a.freudenberger@yahoo.com.

Examples of artwork: bookmarks, greeting cards, collage, maracas, carnival masks, dolls, rugs, cloth grocery bags, earrings, necklaces, bracelets and more...

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