

Canada

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WorldVision.ca

November 6, 2008

Mr. Malcolm MacKillop
Lawyers International Food Enterprise (LIFE)
Toronto, Ontario

Dear Mr. MacKillop:

World Vision is a relief, development and advocacy organization dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. We are part of an international partnership united by a common mission, vision, and core values. Together, we are committed to serving the world's most vulnerable people.

World Vision is faith-based, but our staff and programs serve all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gender. Our assistance is offered to all with no strings attached.

To be more specific, World Vision does not proselytize--our policies are clear. We do not coerce nor demand that people hear any religious message or convert to Christianity before, during or after receiving assistance. Educational activities based on Christian values are included in our projects if appropriate and desired by the community. Sometimes we work in partnership with local churches and other faith-based organizations in an effort to work inclusively and collaboratively within existing community structures. We know that religious groups are often important change agents within their communities during the development process.

We profoundly respect the religious beliefs and practices in countries where we operate, and seek mutual understanding with people of all faiths. World Vision works in nearly 100 countries and Christianity is not the majority faith in many places. We have programs in communities that are Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu or express other faiths. We are present at the invitation of the community and with the permission and support of the government. Our national staff members are often from the community and understand best how to partner with and assist children and families in a respectful, culturally-sensitive way. Our focus is on responding to human need; of course, we hope that our dedication to professionalism and compassion for all people reflects our Christian faith.

We welcome questions about our work, our partners and our motivation to serve the poor. More information about who we are, including our history, our programs, our core values, our leadership and our commitment to careful stewardship of donations is available at our website at *WorldVision.ca*. We look forward to continued partnership with you as together we seek to make a difference in the lives of children, their families and communities. Thank you for your support.

Yours truly,



Michael Messenger
Vice President, Public Affairs

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