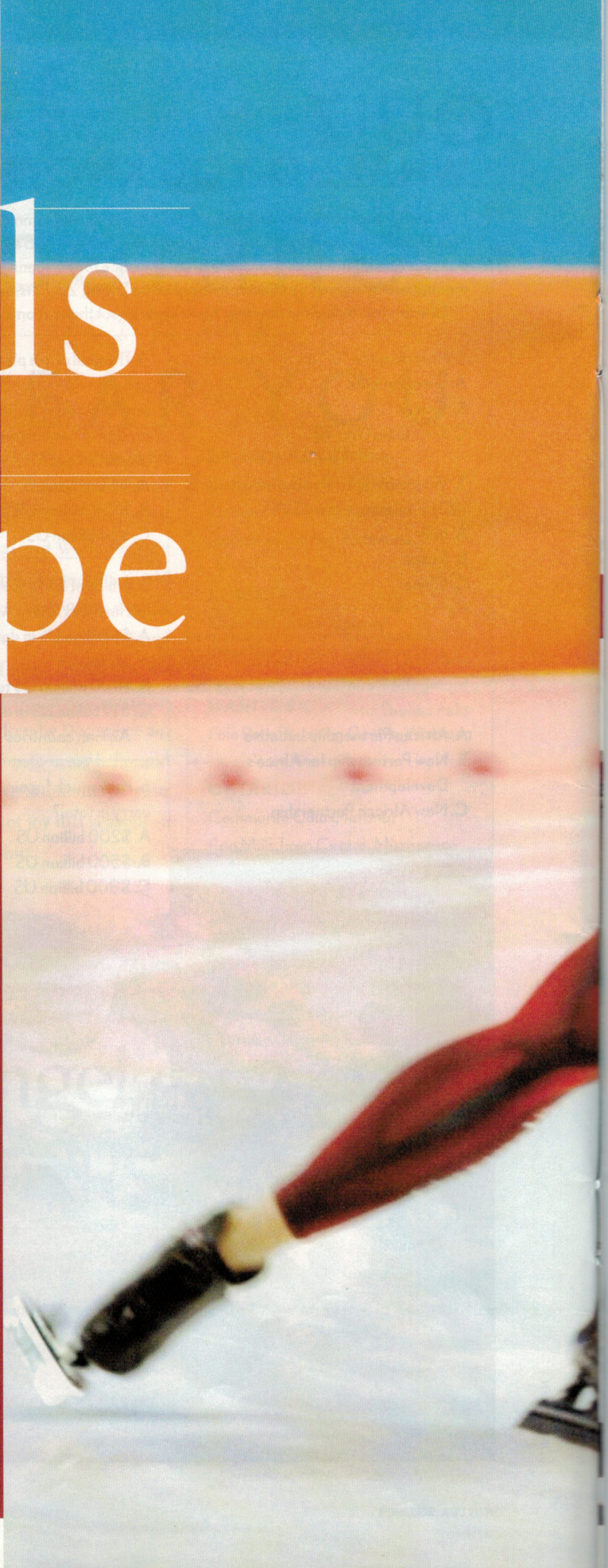


BY KAREN HOMER

Angels of Hope

AS PART OF WORLD VISION'S CHRISTMAS Angel of Hope campaign (see page 10), *Childview* editors invited staff members in Canada and around the world to tell us about local "angels"—people who have brought hope to others and made a difference in their communities. We received scores of e-mails from dozens of countries. Then we had the challenge of selecting 12 people from the outstanding nominees that included sponsors, donors, volunteers, community members, and staff. All of these humble, dedicated people were surprised to learn that others consider their quiet acts of service "angelic." We found their stories inspiring and encouraging. We hope you will, too.

FRANK GUNN/CANADIAN PRESS



Angels of Hope

INSURANCE BROKER GARY WHITE, 55, claims he doesn't even own any tools. But this volunteer has learned a lot about building both homes and partnerships. Since 1999, Gary has led five volunteer construction crews from Trinity Anglican Church in Mississauga, Ont., to Brisas del Valle, Honduras, a community near the capital, Tegucigalpa. These teams of church members erected four homes for the families of World Vision sponsored children whose dwellings were destroyed by Hurricane Mitch. The church also raised funds to build another nine houses.

The volunteers went to serve and encourage. They came away blessed themselves. "The Hondurans are wonderful, kind, loving people," says Gary. "Despite their circumstances, their faces display great hope for a better day to come."

Hope is what the Trinity volunteers carried to Brisas del Valle, says Jose Figueroa, a director with World Vision in Honduras. "The congregation built houses for Hurricane Mitch victims although they needed those funds after their 150-year-old building burned to the ground in an arson fire in 1998.

Their commitment to the poor is strong and has been repeatedly proven. Trinity's goodwill and hard work have benefited a great number of families."

Today, more than 50 Trinity members have helped build houses in Honduras. "When they come back, you can see that something significant has happened," observes Canon Harold Percy, rector of the parish. "They sense that they have made a difference. There is a fire in their eyes, a passion."

Gary agrees. He has experienced the "joy of servanthood" firsthand. "It's contagious," he laughs. "Jesus came to serve, and each of us is also called to serve the world's POWs: the poor, the oppressed, and the widows. Our trips are not about being successful in construction, but about being faithful to the one we serve. Our destination is Honduras but our goal is to change lives—theirs and ours."

BELOW: Gary White (right), with Jose Figueroa of World Vision Honduras, has led 50 volunteer builders from Trinity Anglican Church on trips to Honduras.

RECONSTRUCTING LIVES OVERSEAS

Gary White and the congregation of Trinity Anglican Church

MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO

