



Michael Chitwood

Expert in motivational leadership, clean water, child sponsorship, and team building

Michael is the executive director of World Vision's Church Engagement team.

After having a transformational experience running his first marathon, Michael asked himself, "What if non-runners could train to run a marathon while raising money to end global poverty?" It was a new idea, since a majority of running charities were raising funds for medical research. He took the idea to World Vision.

Today, Team World Vision is the fastest-growing charity endurance program in the U.S., having grown from 100 team members in 2006 to over 7,000 team members per year and raising millions of dollars for World Vision's clean water projects.

Michael has a powerful personal story of losing his dad and two brothers, and says he's motivated daily by the legacy he wants to leave in honor of his father—to remember the poor and relieve their suffering.

In his years at World Vision, Michael has traveled to Africa over 20 times to introduce groups of runners and ministry leaders to World Vision's work. He has become an expert in how World Vision works with communities to deliver clean water access to children and families in need—and in helping these communities tell their stories.

He has also grown close to his sponsored child's family in Kenya and loves inviting other people into the experience of child sponsorship. A clear communicator and compelling storyteller, he speaks to groups across the U.S. about the need for clean water in the developing world, what World Vision is doing, and how churches, companies, and students can help end the global water crisis.

Michael loves helping people step through fear for the sake of others, and he continues to take on challenges to lead by example. He has completed countless full marathons, five Comrades Marathons (a 56-mile ultra-marathon in South Africa), seven full Ironman Triathlons, and one 100-mile run.

Michael lives in Chicago with his wife, Dani, and their son, Cruz.

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World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. Visit worldvision.org for more information.