

**VOLUME 2**

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**The Christian Children's Fund**

**Lead: From 1937 to 1940 as many as 2,000,000 Chinese children died of starvation in the wake of the Japanese invasion. Calvitt Clarke set out to do something about it.**

**Intro.: "A Moment in Time" with Dan Roberts.**

**Content: The twentieth century has borne witness to much progress in technology and at least in some fortunate parts of the world an advance in the standard of living, health and nutrition. But this era has also seen an unprecedented growth in**

**suffering and bloodshed. The specter of total war has at times engulfed the entire world. No longer was the civilian population spared when armies were on the move. Predator governments turned first on their own people then on neighboring nations in what at times seemed to be an endless round of ethnic and ideological conflict.**

**As can be imagined some of the most terrible misery was endured by children. If they were spared death in war many millions of children were separated from their parents and cast adrift to fend for themselves. In the late 1930s China was invaded by Imperial Japan. The news of atrocities, famine, bombings and, particularly**

**poignant, the stories of the suffering gripping the abandoned children of China caught the imagination of Calvitt Clarke, a veteran relief worker based in Richmond, Virginia.**

**Working with his wife Helen out of their home, Clarke began to circulate letters to people with whom he had contact over the years and within six months had an organization in place and had sent the first gift of \$2,000 for the relief of children in China. The China Children's Fund and its successor, the Christian Children's Fund have been extraordinarily successful by tapping the generosity of millions of people in a unique way. They were the first organization to offer donors the chance adopt or later**

**sponsor individual children. Each giver would be given a picture and the life story of a child whom they learn to know, support and love.**

**The results were phenomenal. In 1991 over 100 million dollars was given to relieve the suffering of many thousands of children throughout the world with over eighty percent of that total going directly from donor to child. Calvitt Clarke's dream of a cost effective way of helping the children of the world was a reality.**

**At the University of Richmond, this is Dan Roberts.**

**Resources**

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**Tise, Larry E. *A Book About Children: The World of the  
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