

# MY NAME IS TODAY

An illustrated discussion of child health, society and poverty in less developed countries

David Morley

and

Hermione Lovel

Tropical Child Health Unit

Institute of Child Health

University of London

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The majority of the illustrations were prepared by, or adjusted by Mrs Gillian Oliver,  
M.M.A.A. A.I.M.B.I.

'We are guilty of many errors and many faults, but our worst crime is abandoning the children, neglecting the fountain of life. Many of the things we need can wait. The Child cannot. Right now is the time his bones are being formed, his blood is being made and his senses are being developed. To him we cannot answer "Tomorrow". His name is "Today".'

*Gabriela Mistral*  
Nobel Prize-winning poet from Chile

## Acknowledgements

The original draft of this book was prepared for a presentation to the Institute of Child Health given on the occasion when Professor Morley was presented with the King Faisal International Health Award for his work in primary health care. We are grateful to our colleague, Duncan Guthrie, for help in bringing that version out, and to a very large number of people who gave their comments on that first draft and the layout of the present draft. The redesign of many of the illustrations arose from these comments. This book, although finally written by two authors, is a team effort and many of the ideas that it contains have arisen from discussions with colleagues, students attending our courses, and many others. Within the Institute, our first thanks must go to Eleonora Giorgi who undertook the assembly of all our illustrations and their cataloguing. Colleagues whom we particularly must thank are Zef Ebrahim, Pam Zinkin, Pat Harman, John Ranken, Maureen Wimble, Daphne Olorenshaw and Sheila Berry. As in all such work, much falls upon secretaries, and here we are grateful for all the assistance given by Marcia Wickramasinghe within the Institute, and from Gill Brown, Sue Brooker, Elizabeth Swan, Barbara Calder, Lynda Campbell, Ann Gudgeon, Rosemary van der Does and Margaret Dawson.

The major work on the illustrations has been undertaken by Gillian Oliver, who has patiently redrawn and adjusted illustrations again and again. The illustrations themselves come from many sources: these are indicated with the references at the end of the book. Patricia Morley undertook the drawings of the authors on the back cover. The photographic work on all the illustrations was undertaken by Ray Lunnon's team, including Carole Reeves, Jill Almond and Roland Brooks. They undertook the production of the illustrations in the final form for the printers. For the illustrations on the front cover, we are grateful to John and Penny Hubley giving us access to their enormous collection of photographs of children.

We have received many useful comments, often in great detail, from colleagues outside the Institute, and here we would particularly like to thank Donald Court, Paul Snell, Felicity Savage, Sara Bhattacharji, Lesley and Peter Adamson and John Adams. We are also grateful to Barbara Harvey in the organisation Teaching Aids at Low Cost and all those who work with her in the assistance they have given.

Our determination has been to make this book as low cost as possible so that many in less developed countries can afford it. We are grateful for the assistance of the Swedish International Development Authority in achieving this and the co-operation we have received from the publishers, Macmillan. As other writers will appreciate, the assembly of a book such as this involves many hours of work, and we are particularly grateful to our families.

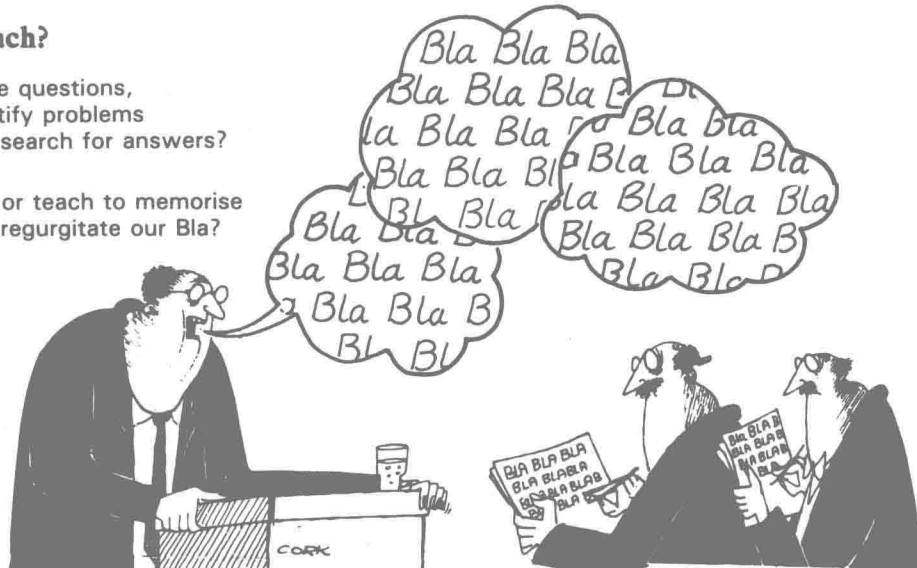
## INTRODUCTION

This book is about children and their families in the developing world shown through illustrations, cartoons, graphs and line drawings. The book is for the many people who have little time to keep abreast of the enormous and increasing literature on health care.

**Fig. 1 How do we try to teach?**

Raise questions,  
identify problems  
and search for answers?

... or teach to memorise  
and regurgitate our Bla?



For us, the telling illustration is of first importance. In this sense we are interested in the 'picturate' not just the 'literate'. Over the years we have gathered this selection of pictures and diagrams because we have found in our teaching at London University that drawings and pictures will raise questions, identify problems and stay in people's memories long after they forget the printed word. The cathedrals of Europe in the Middle Ages and the temples of India are full of pictures and images, and in a contemporary sense we are trying to follow that tradition of inspiration and teaching. Most illustrations are straightforward, others require discussion and are controversial. Many represent data from the field of 'social epidemiology', trying to find answers to such questions as Who gets ill and why? Where are the resources spent? Who is more likely to die? Illustrations are particularly important if we are to gain a better understanding of the social and epidemiological background to health, the multifactorial causation of disease and the opportunities we now have for preventing ill health rather than spending the larger part of available resources on its treatment.

UNICEF has called for a 'Child Survival Revolution'. This book is in line with that call. It does not evade the severe economic limitations of the present time. It emphasises that if the right steps are taken now, the resources necessary for increased survival and better growth and health during the rest of this century could be available.

*The views expressed in this book are those of the authors and in no way seek to represent the views of UNICEF or the Institute of Child Health.*

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CHAPTER ONE

# **Our children's world**