

The text

1. I was excited and my agent had arranged for me to audition for a TV ad about the Olympics. Once the ad was laid down, I was on TV. I received a cheque. I bought a plane ticket and set off for Southeast Asia. For three weeks I relaxed on the beach, went sailing and enjoyed the culture. Then I looked around and a sign on the wall caught my attention. It said: "Congratulations, you've won your trip. That's an exploit." I said "I'd like to go there."

2. When I reached the exploit, the children put their arms around me. Then they grabbed my hands and before long I was blind. Each child had his own story. Some had lost their parents. Others had been changed by their families because they couldn't afford to look after them. Along with other volunteers, I played the guitar and sang songs. After two nights I had to leave. As the kids waved we all kept smiling, but once I climbed into a taxi I started to cry. Their lives are so sad. They don't even cry because there's no one to give them a smile. I started to think: I must do more. Help to. I can't change the world but I can change people.

3. I returned home to London. When I told my friends "I want to go to poor countries and receive help to exploit." Within a week more of my friends wanted to get involved and I managed to gather a small group together. We called ourselves the "Flying Doves Project". We decided to visit Somalia. I covered every penny I could from saving jobs. We needed to raise enough money to buy planes for the children and to fund our stay.

4. At the exploit the children were told that there was no one to give them affection. They showed some joy in their lives. They all gathered round the car that drove and the began to perform. Suddenly rows of little faces broke into big, bright grins.

Adapted from *Life is Good* magazine.

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